



Jehovah's Witnesses

This PASTOR'S GUIDE SHEET was developed by Dr. Joe K. Taylor, Senior Pastor, South Reno Baptist Church, Reno, NV

☐ Quotes and all primary sources are footnoted.

Very Important statement from Pastor Joe

This material is not meant to be personalized or insulting. Also, in no way is it meant to be demeaning of Jehovah Witnesses, in general. Jehovah Witnesses are wonderful people who believe they are doing the right thing by their god and beliefs. They are sincere in what they are doing. Even they would agree that there are some grave differences in the understanding between biblical Christianity and what the Witnesses teach. **The purpose of this PASTOR'S GUIDE SHEET is to bring a clear theological and historical understanding as to the differences between Traditional Christianity and Jehovah Witnesses.** This material is meant to be helpful to both Christians and Jehovah Witnesses. May the God of Scripture bless all who read this material.



Jehovah's Witnesses and their organization "in a nutshell"

The Organization of Jehovah's Witnesses is a religious organization that witnesses to others by distributing Watchtower publications door to door and by evangelizing with three primary messages:

- That Jehovah alone is God, not the Trinity.¹
- That governments and other organized religions are corrupt.²
- That the end of the world is imminent.³

Their organization began in 1872 (relatively late for a "religion") and achieved worldwide recognition and acceptance due to very aggressive door-to-door evangelic efforts. They have an extensive array of evangelistic printed material all published by their publishing arm—THE WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY. Their beliefs represent a significant departure front traditional biblical doctrine (that will be discussed later in this document).

In their meetings...no questions are allowed. According to The Watchtower, questions could be viewed as arousing suspicion, so each member is instructed to accept the teachings of Watchtower society as authoritative, definitive, and final.

- Bruce Beckel and Stan Jantz
Guide to Cults', Religions, and
Spiritual Beliefs, p. 137

Jehovah's Witnesses and Their Beliefs⁴

In short, Jehovah's Witnesses believe the following:

1. There is only one God but no trinity.
2. They also believe there is life after death (for the witnesses) but no hell (for everyone else).
3. There is salvation, but you have to work for it—it is not 'a gift'.
4. They also believe in only their documents—all published by THE WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY.



NEW WORLD TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES—this is their own proprietary bible that they believe is the only correct translation—all other bibles are in error.

THE WATCHTOWER—their primary magazine that is used for witnessing and doctrinal instructions. It is printed in over 200 languages and "print runs" of nearly 30 million per issue.

AWAKE—another witnessing and doctrinal magazine published in over 100 languages.

Miscellaneous book, brochures and study aids.

◀ The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society headquarters in Brooklyn, NY

¹ *Should You Believe in the Trinity?* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1989).

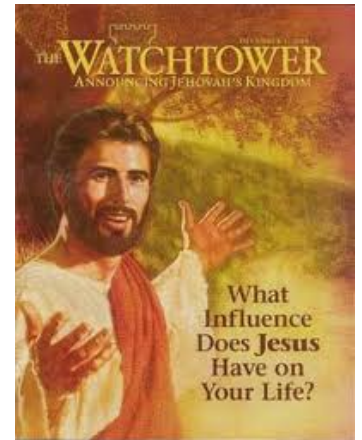
² "The 1914 Generation-Why?" *The Watchtower*, May 1, 1992, p. 7.

³ For an overview of the Society's Armageddon predictions and date-changing from 1914 through 1995, see James Walker and John Whaley, *Jehovah's Witnesses and the Dating Game* (Arlington, TX: Watchman Fellowship, 200fs0); Rick Branch, James Walker, and Timothy Oliver, "New Light on Watchtower History," *The Watchman Expositor* 14, no. 4 (1997), pp. 6–22.

⁴ www.Watchtower.org. This is the official website for Jehovah's Witnesses.

More about what the Jehovah's Witnesses teach (from their own documents) ⁵

1. There is one God in one person—no trinity. (*Make Sure of All Things*, p 188.)
2. There is no Trinity. (*Let God be True*, 2nd Ed., pp. 100-101; *Should You Believe in the Trinity?* p. 7; *Watchtower*, 2/1/1960, p. 94, *Why Do You Believe in the Trinity?*)
3. The Holy Spirit is a force, not alive. (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 406-407.)
4. The Holy Spirit is God's impersonal active force. (*The Watchtower*, June 1, 1952, p. 24.)
5. Jehovah's first creation was his 'only-begotten Son'. . . was used by Jehovah in creating all other things". (*Aid to Bible Understanding*, p. 390-391.)
6. Jesus was Michael the archangel who became a man. (*The Watchtower*, May 15, 1963, p. 307; *The New World*, 284.)
7. Jesus was only a perfect man, not God in flesh. (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, p. 306.)
8. Jesus did not rise from the dead in his physical body. (*Awake!* July 22, 1973, p. 4.)
9. Jesus was raised "not a human creature, but a spirit." (*Let God be True*, p. 276.)
10. Jesus was born again. (*The Watchtower*, Nov. 15, 1954, p. 682.)
11. Jesus did not die on a cross but on a stake. (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, p. 89-90.)
12. Jesus began his invisible rule over the earth in 1914 (*The Truth Shall Make You Free*, p. 300.)
13. Jesus' ransom sacrifice did not include Adam. (*Let God be True*, p. 119.)
14. Their church is the self-proclaimed prophet of God. (*The Watchtower*, April 1, 1972, p. 197.)
15. They claim to be the only channel of God's truth. (*The Watchtower*, Feb. 15, 1981, p. 19.)
16. Only their church members will be saved. (*The Watchtower*, Feb. 15, 1979, p. 30.)
17. Good works are necessary for salvation. (*Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 1, p. 150, 152.)
18. The soul ceases to exist after death. (*Let God be True*, p. 59, 60, 67.)
19. There is no hell of fire where the wicked are punished. (*Let God be True*, p. 79, 80.)
20. Only 144,000 Jehovah's Witness go to heaven. (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 166-167, 361; *Let God be True*, p. 121.)
21. Only the 144,000 Jehovah's Witness are born again in Heaven (Other JW's just achieve paradise on Earth). (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, p. 76.; *Watchtower* 11/15/54, p. 681.)
22. Only the 144,000 may take communion. (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 72-73.)
23. Blood transfusions are a sin. (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, pp. 72-73.)
24. The Cross is a pagan symbol and should not be used. (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, p. 90-92.)
25. Salvation is by faith and what you do. (*Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 1, p. 150,152.)
26. It is possible to lose your salvation. (*Reasoning from the Scriptures*, 1985, p. 358-359.)
27. The universe is billions of years old. (*Your will Be Done on Earth*, p. 43.)
28. Each of the 6 creative days of God in Genesis 1, was 7000 years long. Therefore, Man was created toward the end of 42,000 years of earth's preparation. (*Let God be True*, p. 168.)
29. They also refuse to vote, salute the flag, sing the "Star Spangled Banner," or celebrate Christmas or birthdays. They are not allowed to serve in the armed forces. (*The Watchtower*, Nov. 15, 1961, p. 382.)
30. Satan was entrusted with the obligation and charged with the duty of overseeing the creation of the earth. (*Children*, p. 55.)



"The Watchtower" magazine—a mainstay of Jehovah Witness Ministry

⁵ CARM—Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry, Article on JW's Beliefs by Matt Slick (cf., <http://carm.org/jehovahs-witnesses-beliefs>). "This is a great resource" - JKT

Doctrinal Beliefs That Vary from Orthodox Christianity

NOTE: This section is adapted primarily from June Hunt's "Biblical Counseling Keys on Jehovah's Witnesses: A Counterfeit Kingdom ... or Not?"⁶ Other quotes are sourced also.

Virgin Birth

Christians believe in the virgin birth of Christ. The Bible says, *The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*" (Isaiah 7:14)

Jehovah's Witnesses admit that Jesus was born of a virgin, but strongly maintain He is not God. Jesus was born by God's holy power but is not 'god'. They also believe that the Holy Spirit is an active force, not a member of the Trinity either. Jehovah Witnesses do are not Trinitarian (They do not believe in "God the Father, God the son, and God the Holy spirit as Christians do.)

Atonement

Christians believe we are saved by "by grace through faith alone" in Jesus Christ—and not of "works". *"It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."* (Ephesians 2:8–9)

Jehovah's Witnesses admit the penalty for sin was paid by Christ's blood, but salvation is not by grace alone. Jesus is little more than a good "witness" or god. Salvation must be accompanied by good works, Bible study, witnessing, and association with the Watchtower. "A person's final salvation is not determined at the moment that he begins to put faith in Jesus."⁷

Resurrection

Christians believe and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The empty tomb is a witness of our own resurrections from the dead. Without the resurrection, there is not hope beyond the grave. The Bible says, *"Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."* (Luke 24:39)

Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead in His physical body. He was recreated as a spirit that appeared to the disciples in a number of bodily forms. He continued to maintain His original identity, Michael the Archangel.

Incarnation

Christians believe that Jesus was God the Father becoming "in the flesh." The Bible says, *"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'?"* (Hebrews 1:1–5)

Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe that Jesus is God. Instead, He was a created being who is actually Michael the Archangel.

⁶ Hunt, J. (2008). *Biblical Counseling Keys on Jehovah's Witnesses: A Counterfeit Kingdom ... or Not?* (4–5). Dallas, TX: Hope For The Heart.

⁷ *Reasoning from the Scriptures* (Brooklyn, NY: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1989), P. 358.

Eschatology

Christians believe in a literal rapture and second coming of Jesus Christ to the Earth. The Bible says, “*At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.*” (Matthew 24:30)

Since its inception, The Jehovah’s Witnesses have taught that Armageddon has always been imminent—just around the corner. (They have predicted it many times—and been wrong.) Although many prophetic dates were announced, these dates have come and gone with the years. Jehovah’s Witnesses do not believe that Jesus will return in bodily form, but that He already returned in 1914 in invisible form and is ruling as King on earth through the Watchtower Society. They do not believe in the existence of an eternal hell. At death, every person is annihilated, except for the 144,000 Jehovah’s Witnesses who go to heaven and the other obedient sheep who remain in “soul sleep” until they inhabit “Paradise Earth.” Non-Jehovah’s Witnesses and the disloyal Jehovah’s Witnesses will be annihilated into eternal, unconscious soul sleep.

Scripture

Christians believe in the Holy Bible (Geneses to Revelation) to be the infallible word of God. The Bible says, “*I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.*” (Revelation 22:18–19) Christians believe strongly in God’s word—“We are Bible people!”

Jehovah’s Witnesses admit that the Bible is the Word of God, but they claim all orthodox translations that Christians use are distorted. Thus, they have their own Bible, *the New World Translation of Holy Scripture*, which they declare to be the only reliable version. It contains approximately 300 mistranslations to support their doctrine.⁸ They do not believe the Bible is a sufficient source of authority for Christian doctrine and practice apart from the Watchtower publications.

That knock on your door on any Saturday morning, may very well be from two of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Their door-to-door witnessing training take place in the many “kingdom halls” located through the United States and the world.



⁸ *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. For examples of mistranslations, see Walker, *The New World Translation: Is it the Word of God*; Bowman, *Jehovah’s Witnesses, Jesus Christ, and the Gospel of John*.

Definitions used by the Jehovah's Witnesses

NOTE: This section is adapted primarily from David A Reed's "Jehovah Talk"⁹

<i>Disfellowshipping or Shunning</i>	Punishment for disobedience of Watchtower rules and regulations resulting in excommunication. Baptized members who are disfellowshipped are no longer allowed to talk with current members—including in most cases even family members.
<i>Faithful and Wise Servant</i> (Matthew 24:45)	Originally referring to Charles Taze Russell, now referring to the remnant of the 144,000 or "anointed class"/"Little Flock" including the "Governing Body" of Jehovah's Witnesses.
<i>Faithful and Discreet Slave</i>	Another term for the "Faithful and Wise Servant."
<i>Great Crowd</i>	The great crowd are the non-anointed faithful, including those who survive Armageddon. These are also known as the "other sheep," and they make up the vast majority of Jehovah's Witnesses who will not live in heaven but hope to be able to inhabit the restored "Paradise Earth."
<i>Governing Body</i>	A group of fewer than 25 men of the anointed class or "Faithful and Discreet Slave" who historically established the Watchtower's policies and beliefs and direct its publications.
<i>Jehovah</i>	The only true name for God. (Again, the Trinity is considered a false doctrine.)
<i>Kingdom Hall</i>	The local meeting place where Jehovah's Witnesses receive instruction.
<i>"Little Flock" Anointed Class</i> <i>Heavenly Class</i>	The elite group of 144,000 who will live in heaven and reign with Christ. This group is believed to be the Spiritual Israel as the prophecies of the Old and New Testaments are being fulfilled through them.
<i>Memorial Meal</i>	One large, annual meeting scheduled at Passover time (Nisan 14 of the Jewish calendar), which is the only time the Lord's Supper is observed. Only the remnant of the 144,000 "anointed" can partake of the bread and wine—currently fewer than 9,000.
<i>The Society</i>	The informal name Jehovah's Witnesses use for THE WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY (WTBS), which is directed by the "Governing Body."
<i>The Truth</i>	Knowledge available only to Jehovah's Witnesses and learned only through <i>The Watchtower</i> .
<i>Spiritual Israel</i>	All of the 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in the Heavenly Class, which first began among Jesus' disciples. That number was completed in the 1930s. The acting president announced that the enlightenment he received from Jehovah was that "other sheep" that were "not of this fold" would be candidates to inherit "Paradise Earth," provided they remain faithful and "come to Jehovah's organization for salvation."
<i>Publisher</i>	Another name for a Jehovah's Witness

⁹ For a more thorough discussion of these terms and additional Watchtower terminology, see David A. Reed, *Jehovah-Talk* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997).

Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses (General)

Develop a personal relationship with the Witnesses—call them by name, be friendly.

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” - Proverbs 27:17

Be gentle and kind when confronting. At all costs, avoid rudeness, arrogance, or doctrinal brutality that tries to correct immediately every error at every turn. Many errors that are not core to the discussion may be temporarily sidestepped.

“The Lord’s servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.”

- 2 Timothy 2:24–25

Research to become familiar with key Jehovah’s Witnesses writings, doctrines and teachings.

“It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.” - Proverbs 19:2

Keep praying for wisdom and for their eyes to be opened.

“I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.” - Ephesians 1:18

Help the Jehovah’s Witnesses recognize the reliability of the Bible. It is the Word of God.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” - 2 Timothy 3:16

It has unity of meaning even though written over a span of 1600 years in three different languages with 40 different authors.

- It has been meticulously preserved over time because Hebrew scribes were perfectionists in their copying of the Scriptures.
- It has manuscript evidence which far exceeds that of any other ancient writing.

The number of manuscript copies of the Scriptures surviving from antiquity down to our day far exceeds the number of manuscripts representing any other ancient writing. Ancient Greek New Testament manuscripts or fragments have been found, numbering 5,366. Only 643 ancient copies of Homer’s masterpiece The Iliad have survived. Other well-known ancient writings survive in only a handful of documents. The time span between the writing date of the oldest surviving New Testament manuscript fragment and its original writing date is 50–75 years. Most other ancient writings survive in copies made anywhere from 800 to 1300 years after their original composition.¹⁰ No legitimate reason can be advanced for doubting both the authenticity and integrity (accurate transmission) of the New Testament.

- It can never be destroyed or lost.

“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.” - Isaiah 40:8

If you choose **not** to engage them at the door, (and that’s okay) say this:

“I do not want to receive your literature but thank you. I do want to you to know this: The greatest thing that has ever happened to me was discovering a personal relationship with Jesus Christ—it has changed my life. I hope you ponder by words. Good bye!”

MOST IMPORTANT: Your goal as a believer in Jesus Christ is to plant a “seed doubt” in their hearts that God and use to bring them to faith in Jesus Christ!

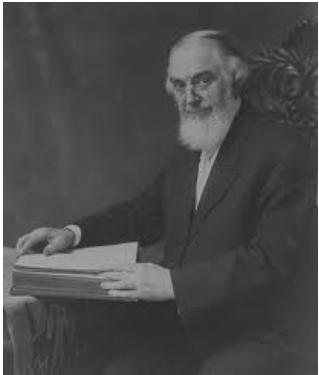
¹⁰ The statistics in the preceding paragraph are from Norman L. Geisler and William E. Nix, *A General Introduction to the Bible*, rev. ed. (Chicago: Moody, 1986), 385, 404–5, 475.

Engaging to Jehovah's Witnesses (Detailed)

1. The Watchtower organization has claimed to be the prophet of God¹¹ yet it has made numerous false prophecies. The excuse given for their false prophecies has been to quote Proverbs 4:18, which says, "But the path of the righteous ones is like the bright light that is getting lighter and lighter until the day is firmly established." Whether or not the "light gets brighter" or not, does not change the fact that the Watchtower made false prophecies. The Bible says in Deut. 18:20-22, "'However, the prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded him to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet must die. And in case you should say in your heart: 'How shall we know the word that Jehovah has not spoken?' When the prophet speaks in the name of Jehovah and the word does not occur or come true, that is the word that Jehovah did not speak...'"
If the New World Translation (NWT) condemns false prophesying and states that it is proof that God is not speaking through that prophet, then doesn't this prove that the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society is not speaking for God?
2. Why does the NWT insert the word Jehovah in the New Testament when there are absolutely no Greek manuscripts that have it in there? Isn't this playing with the text?
3. In the book, "Salvation,"¹² (a Watchtower Publication) it says, "At San Diego, California, there is a small piece of land, on which, in the year 1929, there was built a house, which is known as Beth-Sarim. The Hebrew words Beth Sarim mean "House of the Princes"; and the purpose of acquiring that property and building the house was that there might be some tangible proof that there are those on earth today who fully believe God and Christ Jesus and in His kingdom, and who believe that the faithful men of old will soon be resurrected by the Lord, be back on earth, and take charge of the visible affairs of earth. The title to Beth-Sarim is vested in the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society in trust, to be used by the president of the Society and his assistants for the present, and thereafter to be forever at the disposal of the aforementioned princes on earth [italic added]. . . . while the unbelievers have mocked concerning it and spoken contemptuously of it, yet it stands there as a testimony to Jehovah's name; and if and when the princes do return and some of them occupy the property, such will be a confirmation of the faith and hope that induced the building of Beth-Sarim."
This place was sold in 1942 after Rutherford's death. Therefore, it appears that the faithful were misled since the house was to "be forever at the disposal of the aforementioned princes." Is this really a testimony to Jehovah's name as it said? How can it be if they sold the house?
4. The Watchtower organization states that Jesus died on a stake, not a cross. The typical Watchtower representation of this is with Jesus on a single vertical stake, hands over his head with a single nail in his wrists. If Jesus were crucified on a cross, then two nails would be necessary, one in each hand. How then does the Watchtower organization handle the verse in the Bible that states that Jesus had nails (plural) in his hands: "Consequently the other disciples would say to him: 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them: "unless I see in his hands the print of the nails and stick my finger into the print of the nails and stick my hand into his side, I will certainly not believe,'" (John 20:25, NWT).
Jesus had one nail in each hand. This is made clear by the use of the word 'nails' not 'nail.' Jesus must have been crucified on a cross, and not a stake as the Watchtower organization teaches. Why is it, then, that the Watchtower teaches something that is so clearly unbiblical?
5. The Watchtower organization states that through good works and sincere effort only 144,000 elite JW's will go to heaven. The 144,000 are mentioned in two chapters in the Bible: Revelation 7 & 14. By looking at the verses it is obvious that the 144,000 are literal Jews of the ancient tribes with no Gentiles among them (7:4-8). They are all males (14:4) and virgins (14:4). If the JW states that the usage of Jewish male virgins is figurative, what gives them the right to state that number of 144,000 is literal?

¹¹ *The Watchtower*, April 1, 1972, p. 197.

¹² Rutherford, J. F., "Salvation," 1939, p. 311.

6. Where does it teach in the Bible that Jesus is Michael the archangel? Why isn't Jesus called Michael right now since he is in heaven?
7. According to the Watchtower Organization, Feb. 15, 1983, p. 12, there are four requirements for salvation as taught by the Watchtower magazine. The second is relevant here: "Many have found the second requirement more difficult. It is to obey God's laws, yes, to conform one's life to the moral requirements set out in the Bible. This includes refraining from a debauched, immoral way of life. ' 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; 1 Peter 4:3, 4." Question. Must the JW obey God's laws in order to have his sins forgiven so he can go to paradise earth?
8. State the following as fact: (A) In 1879 Charles Russell married Maria Ackley, who was for years a devoted Watchtower worker. But in 1897, she separated from him. After much litigation, Mrs. Russell's claims for alimony were settled in 1909 with the payment of \$6,036. Also, (B) Charles Russell sold "miracle wheat seeds," claiming they produced five times more than any other seeds. When this claim was challenged, he sued the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* for libel. In January, 1913, not only did he lose the libel suit, but his miracle wheat also was proven *inferior*—not five times *superior*. Also, (C) a Canadian pastor published a pamphlet against Charles Russell and his deviant doctrines. As a result, Russell sued Reverend J. J. Ross for libel. On the witness stand, Russell testified to knowing the Greek alphabet. Under further cross-examination, Russell admitted that he "might make a mistake on some of them" and then finally testified that he was not familiar with the Greek language (*Russell v. Ross*, 1913).¹³ Then say, "All the moral and legal rulings against the founder of Jehovah's Witnesses cast a dark shadow on the credibility of Charles Russell and his new religion. This founder in no way meets the biblical standards of a church leader as "above reproach." In *the New World Translation*, it says, "The overseer must therefore be irreprehensible [or 'above reproach'] ... sound in mind, orderly, qualified..., a man presiding over his own household in a fine manner, having children in subjection with all seriousness, (if indeed any man does not know how to preside over his own household, how will he take care of God's congregation.) - 1 Timothy 3:2-7 How do you expect me to follow a man like that? In fact, How do you follow a man like that?"
 
9. You might begin by asking "why are you here knocking at my door?" They will say, "Because they care about your family." Later, asked them, "How does one achieve eternal life?" They will include in their answer something about going "door-to-door". You can then ask them about the discrepancy between their first reason and now, their second. "You are now going door-to-door so you can 'go to heaven' but you first said 'it was because of cared for me and my family' so which is it?" (It just helps them stay sharp!)
10. To show that Jesus is Jehovah, the Lord Almighty, ask "Who is referred to in Isaiah 44:6?"(Jehovah said, ...I am the first and the last. - NWT) and then ask "And who is referred to in Revelation 1:5-8?" (The whole paragraph referred to Jesus. Jesus is referred to as "Jehovah" and "the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last." - NWT) Say to the Witnesses, "Do you not see that the truth of God's Holy Word clearly shows Jesus is the Lord Almighty?"

Charles Taze Russell

Stats on Jehovah's Witnesses

There approximately 8 million Witnesses in 230 countries of the world.

In the US, there are approximately 2 million Witnesses.

There are about 100,000 congregations worldwide with 14,000 being in the US.

According to the WBTS, Witnesses held over 500,000 Bible studies in the US and 4.7 million worldwide.

JWs participate in a two hour public meeting each Sunday for training and "readings".

JW's also participate in a one hour meetings during the week (usually Tuesday) for more training.

JWs then participate in a two hour meeting (usually Wednesday) for techniques/witnessing training.

On average, each Witness spends about ten hours each month engaged in these door-to-door witnessing.

JW's reach one convert at about 5,500 "door hours" per week.

Witnesses will log about 1.4 billion "door hours" throughout the world each year.

¹³ Walter Martin, *The Jehovah of the Watchtower* (Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 1953), 15-22.

144 Things a Jehovah's Witness Can't do (and one thing they can)

NOTE: *Honestly, some of these things a follower of Jesus Christ shouldn't do either, but you'll get the point!*

1. Belong to another organization or club for the purpose of socializing with nonbelievers
2. Have best friends and activity buddies who are not Jehovah's Witnesses.
3. Associate with people outside their organization when it is not necessary.
4. Attend social functions sponsored by their employer unless attendance is required
5. Associate with coworkers after business hours in a social settings
6. Disagree with their organization's rules and code of conduct.
7. Disagree with their organization's doctrines.
8. Contribute to the Presidential Campaign Fund on their tax return
9. Join the armed forces and defend their country
10. Say the Pledge of Allegiance
11. Salute the flag
12. Vote
13. Run for leadership in their organization. (JW's are 'appointed' and invited to be leaders.)
14. Run for leadership in any organization
15. Take a stand for any political issue inside their organization
16. Take a stand on any political or 'worldly' issue outside of their organization
17. Campaign for a political candidate
18. Hold political office
19. Discuss politics
20. Be a union steward or shop steward
21. Actively be involved in a union strike
22. Use a gun for protection against humans
23. Become a police officer if a gun is required
24. Wear military uniforms or clothing associated with war
25. Take yoga classes and practice the discipline of yoga.
26. Smoke tobacco and cigars
27. Work full time selling tobacco and cigars
28. Attend Alcoholics Anonymous
29. Donate blood
30. Have blood transfusions
31. Read books, magazines, publications, and literature from other religions.
32. Buy anything from a church store
33. Buy something at a church garage sale
34. Donate items to a church run store
35. Shop at the Salvation Army
36. Work for the Salvation Army
37. Work for another church
38. Play competitive sports on a school team
39. Play competitive sports professionally
40. Run for class president
41. Become a cheerleader
42. Go to the school prom or school dance.
43. Attend class reunions
44. Be hypnotized
45. Accept Jesus as their "mediator"
46. Join the Boy Scouts
47. Join the Girl Guides
48. Join the YMCA
49. Serve on jury duty
50. Study psychology, philosophy, sociology, and viewpoints that might shake their faith
51. Attend other Christian churches
52. Attend nondenominational churches
53. Attend non-Christian churches
54. Get married in another church
55. Dating non-believers is discouraged
56. Casual dating is discouraged
57. Dating someone without the intent of getting married
58. Having sex before marriage
59. Breaking an engagement, separation, and 'unscriptural' divorce may result in disciplinary action
60. Marriage to non-believers is not recommended

61. Be gay or lesbian. Homosexuality is not acceptable.
62. Throw rice at a wedding
63. Get divorced unless the reason is adultery and approved by the church leadership (rare)
64. Can't remarry unless their ex commits fornication first
65. Toast drinks
66. Buy a raffle ticket
67. Play bingo
68. Gamble
69. Sing any holiday songs
70. Sing the National Anthem.
71. Celebrate Christmas
72. Celebrate New Years Eve
73. Celebrate Easter
74. Celebrate Mother's Day
75. Celebrate Father's Day
76. Celebrate birthdays
77. Celebrate Thanksgiving
78. Celebrate Flag Day
79. Celebrate Veteran's Day
80. Celebrate Independence Day.
81. Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day
82. Celebrate Valentine's Day
83. Celebrate Halloween
84. Celebrate Hanukkah
85. Accept holiday gifts
86. Celebrate any holiday except the death of Jesus
87. Partake in the bread and wine that represents Christ unless they are part of the 144,000
88. Make holiday artwork for school
89. Engage in holiday parties at school
90. Take on a leadership role in school
91. Do suggestive and immodest dancing in a public place
92. Attend a class, workshop, or seminar, sponsored by another church
93. Attend social events or fund raisers sponsored by another church
94. Use of bad language (curse words) is discouraged
95. Wear blue jeans, shorts, and overly casual clothing at the Kingdom Hall.
96. Wear pants at a Kingdom Hall if you're a woman
97. Wear revealing clothes or skirts that are too short (looked down upon)
98. Wear long hair or facial hair if you're a man (depends on the local customs of the country you live in)
99. Body piercings are discouraged
100. Tattoos are discouraged
101. State or imply that the Watchtower is not run by Jehovah God.
102. Have discussions and express Bible based viewpoints that contradict the organization's beliefs
103. Say anything negative about their organization. JW's must 'speak in agreement' and be 'like-minded'.
104. Consider other religious beliefs as valid and truthful.
105. Acknowledge any prayer spoken by a non-believer as valid
106. Take another Jehovah's Witness to court (with exceptions)
107. Wear or own a cross
108. Own any religious picture
109. Own any religious statue
110. Engage in idolatry
111. Believe in miracles (except those found in the Bible) See Miracles
112. Believe in ghosts
113. Witchcraft
114. Black magic
115. White magic
116. Consult with a psychic or become one
117. Study tarot cards, get a reading or give a reading
118. Study numerology or get a reading
119. Dabble in ESP (extrasensory perception), dowsing, or divination
120. Use a tool such as a pendulum to access information from the spiritual realm
121. Attempt to communicate with departed spirits.
122. Attend a séance
123. Believe in good luck or say things such as 'Good luck to you'. Why?

124. Believe or say anything superstitious
125. Prophecy
126. Speaking in tongues
127. Laying on of hands
128. Energy healing such as Reiki
129. Read their horoscope
130. Study astrology or zodiac signs
131. Combat training, boxing, or martial arts
132. Go to heaven unless they are part of the 144,000
133. Worship Jesus as God
134. Idolize any celebrity or love and admire them to excess
135. Women can't be elders
136. Women can't be ministerial servants (assistants to the elders)
137. Divulge secret information to enemies and those not entitled to know.
138. Greet or talk with disfellowshipped persons (with some exceptions)
139. Associate with disfellowshipped persons except for immediate family living in the same house
140. Keep secrets from the organization. Jehovah's Witnesses report friends and family members breaking the rules
141. Women cannot assume the role of a male and instruct the congregation. See Women Keep Silent
142. A woman should not pray in the presence of a baptized male JW. WT July 15, 2002, Questions from Readers
143. Jehovah's Witnesses can't be part of this world. They must be separate from the world
144. They can't believe anything former Jehovah's Witnesses say, - even if it's factual. See Apostate Lies



Here's good news: *A Witness can come to Christ while there's still time!*

Anyone can be sincere and yet sincerely wrong. There are many examples of those who spent years as a Jehovah's Witness only to one day realize they were wrong. The standards are so high, almost all Witnesses eventually fail to "do the work" required for salvation. A follower of Christ can humbly share with them the good news of Jesus Christ. Just build a relationship and be ready for that 'divine appointment.' When anyone is ready, they can breathe this prayer and, if they mean it, can receive God's gift of eternal life. They don't even have to work for it (salvation) as Jesus already has! *That's good news indeed!*

Heavenly Father,

I admit that I have sinned. I know I have broken Your laws and that I'm not worthy to be in Your presence. Please forgive me for all my sins. I realize that Jesus Christ is the one and only Savior. I'm no longer trusting in my good works to save me. Neither am I relying on obeying any rules or laws to save me. I need you to save me! Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. Right now, I humbly receive your free gift of salvation. I ask You to come into my heart to be my Lord and my Savior. Make me the person You want me to be.

In Your Holy Name I pray.

Amen!

APPENDIX A: Timeline of Jehovah's Witnesses Predictions

- 1874** Christ returned invisibly, and Armageddon began! (*Zion's Watch Tower*, January 15, 1892, 22)
- 1889** Battle of Armageddon will end in 1914. (*Studies in Scriptures*, Vol. 2, 76–7, 99, 101)
- 1914** THE WORLD DOES NOT END WITH ARMAGEDDON! (See prediction in 1889.). The Society later changes the prediction. They began to predict that 1914 began the “Last Generation” and that some of those alive in 1914 would live long enough to survive Armageddon and live forever on a paradise earth. (*The Watchtower*, May 1, 1967, 262)
- 1917** God will destroy “the churches wholesale and church members by millions” in 1918. (*Studies in Scriptures*, Vol. 7, 485)
- 1918** CHURCHES ARE NOT DESTROYED! (See prediction in 1917.)
- 1920** Therefore we may confidently expect that 1925 will mark the return of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the faithful prophets of old....” (*Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, 89–90)
- 1924** “The year 1925 is a date definitely and clearly marked in the Scriptures....” (*The Watchtower*, July 15, 1924, 211)
- 1925** ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB DO NOT RETURN! (See prediction in 1920.)
- 1938** Because the end is so near, Jehovah's Witnesses are advised to wait until after Armageddon to marry and rear children. (*The Watchtower*, November 1, 1938, 323–4)
- 1941** Armageddon is said to be only months away. (*The Watchtower*, September 15, 1941, 288)
- 1942** Abraham and “those faithful men of old may be expected back from the dead any day now.” (*The New World*, 104)
- 1943** The end of “Six Thousand Years of Human History” is mathematically shown to be 1972. (*The Truth Shall Make You Free*, 152)
- 1966** “Six Thousand years from man's creation will end in 1975 ...” followed by the millennial reign of Christ. (*Life Everlasting in Freedom of the Sons of God*, 29–30)
- 1972** SIX THOUSAND YEARS OF HUMAN EXISTENCE DOES NOT END! (See prediction in 1943.)
- 1975** SIX THOUSAND YEARS OF HUMAN EXISTENCE DOES NOT END! (See prediction in 1966.)
- 1988** Jehovah's Witnesses are reminded “Most of the generation of 1914 has passed away.” The generation will not pass all away until the end! (*Awake!*, April 8, 1988, 14) (See prediction in 1914.)
- 1989** The year 2000 marks the completion of Christian missionary work and the beginning of the thousand-year reign of Christ. “The apostle Paul was spearheading the Christian missionary activity. He was also laying a foundation for a work that would be completed in our 20th century.” (*The Watchtower*, January 1, 1989, 12)
Note: this was quietly altered in the bound volume and CD-ROM editions to read “in our day.”
- 1995** The Watchtower changes the “Creator's promise.” The word “generation” is no longer based on a human life span. (Compare *Awake!* mastheads before October 22, 1995, 4 and after November 8, 1995, 4 to see how the “Creator's promise” was altered. See also *The Watchtower* November 1, 1995, 16–20.) (See prediction 1914.)
The Great Tribulation is now declared to be Imminent. (*The Watchtower*, November 1, 1995, p. 19 par. 12 and p. 20 par. 15)
- 2000** THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY WORK WAS NOT COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY. (See prediction 1989.)
- 2007** The Anointed Class now declared to be open to any Jehovah's Witness who “has determined in his heart that he is now anointed and begins to partake of the emblems at the Memorial. (“Questions from Readers,” *The Watchtower*, May 1, 2007, 30–31)
The number 144,000 is no longer taken literally, but symbolically for all those who claim to be “anointed ones.”
- 2008** The time of the Great Tribulation is declared to be Indeterminate.
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jehovah%27s_Witnesses#_ref-55, 4 [Accessed January 4, 2008]]



APPENDIX B: Scriptures Worthy of our Prayers for all Jehovah's Witnesses

John 17:20–25, NIV84 - ²⁰ *“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵ “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.*

Colossians 1:15–17, NIV84 - ¹⁵ *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Romans 3:28–30, NIV84 - ²⁸ *For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. ²⁹ Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, ³⁰ since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.*

Ephesians 6:12–16, NIV84 - ¹² *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

“They go door to door, proclaiming a curious message of doom, in hope that their hard work will earn them eternal life on earth.”

—Joe Hewitt (former Jehovah's Witness)

APPENDIX C: Listening Notes: “Understanding Jehovah's Witness”

(Detailed notes from the Video by The North American Mission Board
of the Southern Baptist Convention This material is copyrighted.)

They have come to our doors as long as we can remember. They claim only the JW under the direction of Watch Tower Bible Society that they have the absolute truth. Their message is plain and simple, join God's only organization on earth and you will survive the battle of Armageddon which will cause the total destruction of all things. Only then will you live forever in a glorious paradise restored on this earth. Armed with this message, believing that the end of this world as we know it, they walk from hut to hut, building to building, house to house, knocking at doors in the name of Jehovah.

They walk the sidewalk with the stride of purpose and resolve. JW's going from house to house. Their competent that their message is so important they knock on every door. Who are these people who come to our doors, who we like to dislike, who we want to avoid, who we even fear.

We know the truth that we have to let other people know. Do something worthwhile.

Named after God Almighty. We are His witnessing. Telling you about Him, not me. Is what they believe correctly based on the Holy Bible? Is what they believe the true spiritual truth? Are they in fact God's lone organization here on earth, the only true truth.

Watch Tower Society

No interviews with governing body are allowed.

“Visitation is essential to what I call a Recruitment process.” Dr. James Bjornstad, Professor of Philosophy, Cedarville University. Introduced to their way of thinking and their theology so they can go forward.

Albert Lombardo (a JW): “Witnessing is like fishing. You are out there to draw people in. Use God's word to catch people. Jesus said you will be fishers of men, I love being a fisher of men. I am telling them something I believe is the truth. We are all ministers, we have a truth and we are telling people the truth. Most people don't know about the Bible. When you first meet them they say they know the Bible, but it doesn't take long to figure out they don't know the Bible.”

From the Beginning:

On a fall day in 1916 an old man collapsed on a train crossing Texas near Pampa. He asked his fellow travelers to wrap him in a Roman Toga. Instead a shaken porter ripped a sheet from a berth and put it over him seconds later the old man took his last breath. Thus died Charles Taze Russell, the founder of what became known around the globe as the Jehovah Witness Organization.

Brought up in a Presbytery family and his mother encouraged him to go into the ministry. At 16 years of age encounters an unbeliever who takes him apart in his discussion. And as such we can tell involve eternal punishment and hell. One of his friends says that as long as those doctrines were in the Bible, he could not accept the Bible. He tossed out all Christian doctrine at the age of 17, along with his Bible. Experiments with other religions. Listens to a second Adventist and there he learns that man does not have a soul but is a soul. And that answers the question if there is nothing that survives death how can one be punished. Secondly, ...annihilated and there would not be any punishment. Adventists denied hell, that it was a

Intense dislike as taught by churches and his newly won conviction that the Bible was not teaching about hell compelled Russell to organize the International Bible Students Association in 1872. Its purpose was to disprove hell and teach a new concept, the invisible second coming of Christ. Russell promoted these teaches with vigor. Russell was very interested in the Bible's prophecy of the Adventist and came up with the date of 1874 when Christ would be spiritual present on earth and in 1914 as a date when Christ would set up his Kingdom on earth.

People started to flock to him and listened to this new preacher. Russell proclaimed to be chosen by the Lord Jesus Christ to be a messenger to the churches and wasted no time in ridiculing them. Accusing them of grieves errors and departures from the Biblical phase. It was a message that struck a not with many people and he received many invitations to preach. It meant a great opportunity to spread his message. Soon he embarked on national lecture tours which established him as respected spiritual leader. In 1879 he established the Zion Publishing company which started printing the monthly Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence. Five years later in 1884 the Zion's Watch Tower and Tract Society was organized as a corporation and was later renamed The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. In 1909 in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge Russell established his headquarters in Brooklyn, NY where it remains to this day. It was named “Bethel”, the House of God. This was the beginning of the Jehovah Witness movement with Charles Taze Russell as the president. Interestingly, during those years Charles Taze Russell got into pyramidology and he believes that God Himself designed the great pyramids. He believed by measuring the inner core of the pyramids he could calculate the precise year. And so by adding up two different corridors he came up with the year 1874 which supports his idea that Christ was to be spiritual present that year. Unfortunately, he also said that one of the signs that Christ would be spiritually present would be that the wrath of God would be poured out on all man and that did not happen. So he wondered what was going on with his own prophecy. He later prophesized that all Christians would be raptured off the earth in 1910 and that the end of the world would come in 1914 at which time Christ would establish His Kingdom. Charles Taze Russell died in 1916 without seeing any of his prophecies come true. He died a disillusioned man.

Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford took over the Watchtower society after Russell dies. He grew up in a Baptist home. But just like Russell, he did not like the doctrine of Hell. Later became a lawyer when one day a Witness came into his office sold him some Watchtower books, and he became a Jehovah Witness. In fact he becomes the legal counsel for the Jehovah Witness. Born on small farm in MO, held many odd jobs, became a court reporter, was then licensed to practice law. Substituted for other judges Did this 3-4 times, enough to become known as “Judge Rutherford” or just “the judge.” When he took over organization he didn't waste anytime to introduce new teaches and viewpoints. Little by little he began replacing Russell's writings with his own, emphasizing the Old Testament more the New Testament. Rutherford preached the impending destructive battle of Armageddon. The book, “The Finished Mystery” predicted that in 1918 God would destroy all churches and their millions of members and that by 1920 every nation would sink into anarchy. When that prediction failed, Rutherford change the predication to 1925 in a new book entitled “Millions Now Living Will Never Die.” In his writings he even went so far as to reject Russell's great pyramid theory and some of his other teachings. For example Russell had stated that Christ was spiritually present in 1874, Rutherford tossed that out. And, Rutherford said that Christ became spiritually present in 1914. Of course the problem is that the Watchtower Society as always claimed to be a prophet of God. Prophets do not change their prophecies or minds. Yet even in the early history of the Watchtower Society we witness key changes taking place in Bible doctrine and Bible prophecies.

Under Russell the name Jehovah was very minimally used. He only used it as commonly as other Bible journals would use it. It was not that big of a deal to be used...it was used, but not like it is today. Now where was the change? The change of using the divine name occurred primarily under Rutherford's tenure as the president. It was all Jehovah because he hated the churches. He hated everything they stood for; he hated the name of Jesus Christ in effect by the way he brought out this new teaching of putting Jesus in the background. He preached against using the cross or anything using the name of Jesus, talking about Jesus, it was all about Jehovah.

At a convention in 1931 Rutherford proposed to change the name of the organization from International Bible Student Association to Jehovah's Witnesses, a name based on Isaiah 43:10, “You are my witnesses,” says Jehovah, “and my servant whom I have chosen.” IN the same year, 1931, James Rutherford also changed the venerable magazine, “Zion Watch Tower Herald of Christ's Presence”. It had been in publication since 1839. He gave it a new name, “The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom.” It is now one of the world's most widely circulated magazines.

Rutherford spent his declining years at his retreat, Beth Serene near San Diego. It was originally deeded by the Society to the ancient patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the belief that they would return by 1925. Rutherford died of cancer in 1941. IN the end he was an alcoholic, a broken and disappointed man.

Under Rutherford's command the Witnesses began to attack the existing social order. They rejected Christian and national holiday, birthdays, forbade blood transfusions, reversed to saluting the flag, forbade military service and were discouraged from voting in elections. Even today Jehovah's Witnesses are not allowed to engage in these activities on threat of being expelled from the organization. Membership declined. To reverse it Rutherford started to compel his followers to recruit aggressively by going door to door. Using loud speakers on cars, Jehovah's Witnesses drove through neighborhoods playing Rutherford's message of fire and judgment for the rest of the religious and political world. Through this increased effort many people were scared into the fold of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

After Rutherford's death Nathan Homer Knorr was elected president. Born in 1905, he joined the Witnesses as a teenager and worked his way up through the ranks. In some respects Knorr's tenure was not as colorful as his predecessors. In fact, he had very little personal appeal or charisma. While Russell was the stern pastor and Rutherford was the despised judge, Knorr was the consummate businessman and organizer, cold, harsh, impersonal, and calculating. In the early 1940s Knorr establish the Watchtower Bible School in Gilead in New York state. It's mission was clear, to train full time missionaries to take the message of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society across the borders to other parts of the world. There was no lack of students despite great personal sacrifice. The school's letter of acceptance left no doubt, *"Please bring your birth certificate or equivalent with you. Do not plan on returning to your home after you complete the course, for no doubt you will go direct from Gilead to your new assignment."* We sold the car the trailer, everything because and said goodbye to everyone because we thought we would never see them again. This dedicated commitment and willingness to sacrifice helped the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society grow rapidly aboard. Today Jehovah's Witnesses propagate their teachings in over 230 countries.

Since the Bible used by Christians over the centuries did not support the doctrine of the Witnesses, Knorr decided to create a Bible that solved that problem. The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures. Ever the shrewd businessman, marketer and manipulator, Knorr kept the printing presses humming greatly increasing the output of books and magazines to record levels. After 35 years of service to the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society Nathan Knorr died on June 8, 1977.

After the death of Nathan Knorr the reins went to then Vice President Frederick W. Franz, already in his 80s. He was born in 1893 in Kentucky and had joined the Watchtower staff in 1920. Later Franz rose to the position of Vice President under Knorr. In contrast to Knorr, Franz was seen as the spiritual guide, the leading theologian, profit and the chief ideologist. It is believed that Franz was the main architect of the New World Translation and largely responsible for its content. They looked at Fred Franz as the Oracle. In fact, that was the word used by others in the body, that Fred Franz was the oracle. In Knorr's presidency, Fred Franz had control over all the literature that was published. He was alleged to have great intellect; he was alleged to have done cold thirteen different languages. Although progressive senility forced Franz to retire from an active role in the 80s, he remained president until his death in 1992 at the age of 99.

After Franz's death Milton Henschel was selected as the fifth president of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. By the time Henschel was elected to the presidency, the governing body, the Supreme Central Leadership Committee had grown in its leadership role, cutting the power of the president and creating an enormous bureaucracy. In October of 2000 the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society underwent reorganization. No member of the governing body would be allowed to head a legal corporation. This ruling ended the presidency of Henschel, who like every president after Rutherford was a member of this body. Don Adams who was not a member of the ruling body, was selected to preside over the legal corporation in an administrative role only. All responsibilities for the ecclesiastical and religious aspects of the work of the Jehovah's Witnesses world-wide transitioned fully into the hands of the governing body, effectively ending the dictatorial leadership style of Russell, Rutherford and Knorr.

The Watchtower Society "God's Theocratic Organization: The Governing Body

Today the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society still continues the unbroken autocracy of the past condemning any dissention, any criticism, and any doubt on the part of the rank and file members. Its central authority is exercised and enforced by a small committee of men called "The Governing Body"

Quotes from Members:

The Governing Body? They are just regular people like you and me, they don't look any different, they don't have wings. But when you talk to them you know they are different.

We think that Jehovah uses the leaders and his followers on earth to bring the organization his message so that we can continue to serve him and grow in his knowledge.

We have to rely on him to give us directions from above. He has an organization here on earth that directs what goes on.

The governing body of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society controls its world-wide empire from a sprawling headquarters complex located in the Columbia Heights section of Brooklyn. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society functions under the direction of a governing body, usually about 12 men who interpret and direct the beliefs as they interpret them from the Word of God. Jehovah's Witnesses are under obligation basically to follow those interpretations and teachings. In effect, there are a dozen or so people on the earth today who are interpreting and if you don't following them you are definitely going to be destroyed at Armageddon. It expresses itself in a number of publications, the Watchtower magazine and The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures. So all of them express what authorities say is the truth. If you were to disagree with they teach, that would be considered going against God and you would be disfellowshipped. Disfellowship means you could be put out of God's true organization, which means you would find yourself outside on the day of Armageddon. And that is as good as destruction.

Jehovah does not stand alone in the Watchtower Society. Ultimately it is the organization which is God's prophetic voice proclaiming what they consider being the truth. Rutherford claimed that angels spoke to him and revealed the truth that he was God's chosen instrument. And, later Rutherford started claiming the organization was important. Under Knorr the concept of the organization became full blown and that angels were whispering to the governing body, and that the governing body where the chosen ones to receive God's truths to reveal to all mankind.

The Jehovah's Witnesses also believe that it is the faithful and the discrete slaves spoken of in Matthew 24. As a result they look to the Watchtower Society or those who oversee it, the governing body, as their spiritual leader and they believe whatever is taught by the Watchtower Society. The Watchtower Society claims that they are the only true Christians and all others are basically apostate. The Watchtower believes that the early Christians were true Christians. But by the third century they had apostatized and there was no visible evidence of a physical organization or group of people who truly represented Christianity. IN other words, the lights went out for 1900 years, until Charles Taze Russell came along and reinterpreted the Bible, and that was the beginning of the modern day history of the Watchtower where there was a successor to those who had the truth. Christ returned to the earth, inspected all religions, cast them all out except the Watchtower and gave them a promotion to control all of his spiritual interests on the earth. That's basically it. So it is an apostolic succession, the governing body is the modern day Christian church after 1900 years of falling asleep. And their belief that they are the only ones who have truth of the Bible and the proper doctrinal interpretation makes them claim that all other religions are false religions. Common saying that whatever comes off the sixth floor (the printing office) is the truth. In the Watchtower organization there is no absolute truth it is whatever interpretation is revealed by the president and the governing body at the time. Jesus pointed to himself as the focus of the Bible, not some organization. He did not say search the Scriptures and discover what the Watchtower has to say in there. The true church has been and always will be focused on the person Jesus Christ who was crucified, not some earthly organization. 1 John 2:27 the apostle says to the average Christian on the street, "But the anointing which you have received from Him

abides in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and it true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you, you will abide in Him." Rather than I needing a priest or prophet explaining Scripture to me, if I am a believer I have the anointing I have the Holy Spirit within me, and it alone is sufficient to lead me to a sound understanding of what the Bible is trying to say to me.

Talk to any JW and you will be told rather enthusiastically that the Bible is the foundation and authority of their faith. Well, on the service that sounds great and convincing, but the problem is the Witnesses talk about The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures which is used exclusively by them. Open it and you will notice that it was translated and produced by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. The question is why do the Witnesses place such an importance on their Bible? How does it compare to the traditional translations that Christian churches use. IN this segment we will examine the JW answer to this question and the also explain the special relationship with the New World Translation to the Watchtower magazine, as well as the significance of the various other Watchtower publications.

To get a sense of the tremendous importance the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society places on their many publications you need to travel to the state of New York and tour its Bible and book production center in Brooklyn and its printing facility for the Watchtower and Awake magazine in the rural town of Walkill. It is no exaggeration to say that the printing plants in Brooklyn and Walkill and in different countries overseas, rank as some of the largest printing and publication operations in the world. In fact tours offered by Watchtower Society amount to nothing more than an excursion through a giant magazine and book manufacturing plant equipped with state of the art presses and latest machinery churning out millions upon millions New World Bibles and other books, and its flagship magazines The Watchtower and the Awake,. Everywhere you go get that sense of urgency to produce and package the message of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society in every way possible and to get it out to the people in mass. The spotless factory floors are a beehive of activities staffed with mostly young people from all over the world. For the most part the work is monotonous and filled with dull repetition. Yet most of these young workers work at these machines with a strong commitment and equally strong sense of purpose.

Literature:

Every single one of the three Watchtower production plants revolves around the production of the Watchtower literature. Even cows are pressed into service, providing milk and cheese to the workers who work for the society whose numbers are in the thousands and feed by the Society. Watchtower Literature, its books, magazines and pamphlets, serve as the direct outlet for all spiritual directives, doctrine and teachings of the governing body. Teachings that bring to bear total and grinding authority over all Jehovah's Witnesses, and an authority which cannot be questioned under threat of being disfellowshipped. Several floors of the Brooklyn factory are dedicated to the production of the New World Translation, all the way from the printing process to putting on the gold edge, to shipping. A lot of care goes into every step of the process and for a good reason: Our main book is the Bible and so we have a newer translation in 42 languages, 29 complete editions, and 13 lead scriptures or New Testaments as people call it. And we have the New World Translation on tape and we have it in braille for persons who are blind and who need to read the Bible. We have three printing presses dedicated to printing Bibles. It prints Bible signatures (held up a copy) at about 30,000/hour in both pocket size and large size.

Jehovah's Witnesses are not informed as to who the translating body for their Bible consists of, nor their credentials. But they are assured that these men have the ability. And, also, they believe they are under the Holy Spirit and they have the anointing of God to translate. They therefore feel it is that anointing that gives them the ability, not necessarily their grasp of Hebrew or Greek.

The Jehovah's Witnesses are very, very careful to say that we give all the glory to God and no one takes credit for the translation. The truth is, if you knew who the translators were you wouldn't trust them. It is a bias translation by many standards. Because of their lack of education, only Fred Franz had any training in Greek. He took a two hour Biblical Greek course at the University of Cincinnati in 1914, but that is the only Greek training that he had. So you can imagine someone trying to translate a Bible with that kind of a background. There have been many scholars who have indicated how bad the translation has been. They give it a failing grade. Their translation has been deliberately changed in many important places, especially in the New Testament dealing with the deity of Jesus Christ and the relationship of Jesus Christ with the Believer. For example in Colossians 1:16 most translations tell us that Christ created all things but the Jehovah's Witnesses add the word "others", "Christ created all other things..." making it look like Jesus himself was created. Or how about John 1:1, all legitimate translations state that Jesus is God, but the Watchtower version adds the word "a", Jesus was a god.

Aside from the Bible presses in Brooklyn, the Watchtower Society operates a building housing the most important printing press in North America. In a small rural town called Walkill, a two hour drive from Brooklyn. Imported from Germany this state of the art press prints the crown jewels of all Witness publications, The Watchtower and Awake magazines in 23 languages. There are 22 countries where these are being printed. Translated into 144 languages for the Watchtower magazine and 88 languages for the Awake magazine. IN this plant alone over 270,000,000 were printed and distributed in the United States. The Watchtower Magazine is distributed to the Jehovah's Witnesses to for them to keep up to date and is the jewel we use to help our neighbors see the wonderful hope we expect to see soon. The Watchtower and Awake magazines are used in our door to door activity. They are able to study the Bible with their neighbors from the magazines, but also it provides them with Bible instruction they can read at their convenience. And then we are happy to return to our neighbors to present more information and also offer a Bible study with them, one on one discussion with our neighbors.

Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe they can interrupt the Bible themselves personally or individually. That is left up to the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society to do.

Member: The Watchtower is authoritative because it is people who are very mature in our organization write the articles after much deep research into the materials. Witnesses and millions of other people read it. Here is what the Watchtower is to me: it's like these glasses we wear to see and able to read, whatever it is, and it kind of helps you see. It actually takes the place of a person in a sense. You read that you are getting a witness by God because everything the Watchtower says has a scripture on it.

As Christians we would like to think that if you just read the Bible you would come to the truth. Not so with the Jehovah's Witnesses, if you don't have the right interpretation you will fall into darkness.

In fact, they say you are not to have any private interpretation. So for example, if you come across a verse like Ephesians 2:8-9 and you start to think that maybe salvation is a free gift, what you need to do is to go the Watchtower literature and find out what it really means because God wants the Watchtower Society to always determine what that verse means. Yes, grace is involved but grace is only God's gracious gift to enable you to go earn your salvation. And so it is this whole twisting of the scriptures by means of your own literature which is very important. If they took away the Watchtower and Awake magazines, just like it says in the Watchtower magazine you would go back to the teaching of Christendom, which they consider apostasy. We read in Psalm 119:9 "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to your word. With all my heart I have sought you. So not let me wander from your commandments." Now notice this, here is not this implication or statement that somehow God's word ought to be mediated through some organization or through some human channel. The Word itself is sufficient. If you want to know the truth for the sake of living a life of Godliness there is nothing in this text that suggests that we can read scripture and become completely ignorant of its meaning until some human or person comes and interprets it for us.

It is convention time in Long Beach, CA. and Jehovah's Witnesses of all races, ages, and social standings head towards the Convention Hall. The lone protector, a former Jehovah's Witness, is ignored, but not entirely. While all Witnesses are not required to attend the convention most of them look forward to it. After all, it provides an opportunity to connect with old friends and make new ones outside their Kingdom Hall. And that is a good thing because Jehovah's Witnesses are discouraged from socializing with people outside their faith. Besides, conventions serve to install a sense of world-wide commoderier and unity. At the same time it helps to firm up what your beliefs are and you are indoctrinated more into what your beliefs are and get a firmer grasp and understanding. There is no lack of spiritual instruction and encouragement at the Jehovah's Witnesses conventions.

Convention Speaker: As Jehovah's Witnesses we are the most blessed people on the face of the earth. We found a spiritual paradise filled with love and unity, and best of all it is the only place where we are fed a feast of vital truths, the very Word of God.

Almost 11,000 have filled the Long Beach Arena. Conventions like this one take place all over North America and in many parts of the world. All identical coming from the same script, a script written by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society in Brooklyn, NY. A script designed to indoctrinate and teach. After learning how to effectively engage people at the door, the highly anticipated drama play is presented. Most of the time it depicts a story from the Old Testament, serving as a the perfect vehicle for disseminating teachings deemed important for the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society at this time. After more speeches, the high point of ever convention is the baptismal service. Several hundred candidates for baptism have assembled to learn that soon they will be in good company. *Speaker: Jesus Christ was Jehovah's foremost witnesses. Now today you are going to become one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Do you understand that your dedication and baptism identifies you as one of Jehovah's Witnesses in association with God's spirit directed organization? Collective Yes in response. Very Good.* The actual baptism is a spectacle to behold. Every person being baptized represents a crowning effort for the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. It is a declaration that for many from now on the Watchtower governing body will direct their lives. It will be a life changing commitment and it is embarked upon with great joy. Especially during baptism the atmosphere at any convention seems to be on of great unity. Yet as many Witnesses will later experience it will be a unity Watchtower style.

In the Watchtower Society, unity is very critical. It is required. All over the world, no matter where the individual is, no matter what, they believe the same, teach the same and there are no exceptions to that. They call it unity, I call it forced conformity. Now, every snowflake can be individual but not you, not if you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses. You have to be fitly united, of the same mind, on the lime of thought. We cannot question, I cannot bring an issue to the governing body and say I think you are wrong here. If I do that I am being rebellious and liable to be kicked out. Or, if you engage in what the Society calls independent thinking that is virtual sin in their sight. We were always told this is God's organization and to question the organization for the most part is that you are questioning and abandoning Jehovah. That is why when someone begins to question they are immediately labels an apostate. He is tarred and feathers and is as good as dead, in fact they day that his entrails will lie in the dust at Armageddon.

Does the Bible teach that God needs that kind of rigid uniformity to maintain unity? What we see in the New Testament for example, from the Apostle Paul in Ephesians chapter 4, that rather than a concern for uniformity, is a concern for spiritual unity. Paul understands that our unity is spiritual and not regimented by some kind of dictate that comes from a governing office. But that is important to note is that even though we celebrate and we have spiritual unity because of our faith in Jesus Christ there is still room for diversity.

We have seen the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society twisting and interrupting the Bible to fit their beliefs. The Watchtower claims to be God's spokesman and His exclusive organization on earth. By taking on this mantle of authority, The Watchtower exerts great influence and power over its followers coercing them to believe doctrines that are incompatible with what the Bible teaches. To gain a better understanding lets examine the doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses and see how they hold up under the scrutiny of God's Word, the Bible.

What they Believe

God: Meet a Jehovah's Witness and soon you will be told that to address God simply as God is not enough. According to them God has a name and that name is Jehovah. That is of great importance for all Witnesses and an integral part of their belief system and their view of God. One of the things that appeals to many thinking people was that we would point out in their own King James Bible where God has a name. And, it was not Lord and it was not Jesus, and that impressed a lot of people who came to realize that Jehovah was his name. The Watchtower Society places great emphasis on the name of Jehovah. It believes that there is only one God, his name is Jehovah, and what we refer to as the Father that he is the only God. It is certainly proper to call God Jehovah, it is proper to call him Elohim, to call him Father, it is proper to call him Adoni. In fact, Adoni would be the same translation Lord as you would have from Yawae or Jehovah. It would be Elohim to be translates as God, the strong one. It is fine to take that, but to say that is the only name or whatever that is where the problem comes in. Why can we use those words? Because the Bible itself reveals these names of God, and therefore it is legitimate to use these names of God. Beyond that I would point out that Jesus never commanded his followers to use the term Jehovah when referring to God. Rather, he always used the term Father. The Lord's Prayer is a perfect example. IN the Lord's Prayer Jesus did tell his followers to say oh Lord Jehovah who art in heaven, rather he exhorted them to pray, our Father who art in heave. Furthermore in the New Testament we don't find a single Greek manuscript anywhere that has the name of Jehovah in it. Did you know that the Jehovah's Witnesses have inserted the name Jehovah about 239 times in the New Testament. Now we have virtually thousands of manuscripts, thousands of them, and not one of them has the word Jehovah in them.

The Watchtower Society and Jehovah's Witnesses feel that the Christian churches have really paid too much attention to Jesus and they have taken away from the worship of the Father. And so the Watchtower promotes Jehovah as the one alone that must be worshipped. And that is why they promote the name Jehovah because they are not allowed to worship Jesus the son.

We can point to the fact that the whole New Testament from Matthew to Revelation is about the person of Jesus. The New Testament is a series of Jesus books. After all, in whose name doe we pray according the John 14:16, in the name of Jesus. Whose name will be exalter above every name according the Philippians 2: 5-11, the name of Jesus. Whose name are the demons subject to, whose name are the angels subject to, the name of Jesus. In whose name are we saved according to Acts 4:12, the name of Jesus. See, the point I am making is that the New Testament is not a series of Jehovah books, it is a Jesus series of books and we desperately need help the Jehovah's Witnesses understand this.

To help the Jehovah's Witness to understand that the New Testament focuses on Jesus rather than Jehovah won't be easy. To make a Witness understand that Jesus is also God, well, we are talking about a far more difficult challenge. Why, because it touches upon the concept of the trinity. Just mention the trinity to a Jehovah's Witness and he or she will draw back in disgust. Every witness on the planet abhors the trinity doctrine. It is like waving a red flag in front of a bull, it just brings out complete animosity, and hatred and they are adamant about the trinity doctrine and opposition to it. *Member speaking: Because within the Jehovah's Witnesses they basically believe that the state of the trinity is an ugly three headed monster. It is very difficult to believe. AS a monotheist, it is very difficult to believe Jesus as all three, there is only one, Jehovah.* The Watchtower Society believes that the central doctrine of what they consider apostate Christian churches is the trinity. And so therefore they reject that central doctrine because it separates them from the rest of so called or acclaimed Christianity. *Member speaking: We don't believe that they are all three in one as some doctrines teach. WE believe that they are actual separate individual beings, if you will. That Jehovah God is God and Jesus was his son and He sent him to the earth, within not one and in part of the other, and that the Holy Spirit is an active force, the force that he uses to accomplish what it is he wants to do.* Jehovah's Witnesses are very much against the doctrine of a trinity because they think that the doctrine of the trinity is an insult to Jehovah. Now it is true that the Jehovah's Witnesses recognize that Jesus is a lesser deity, but it is an insult to Jehovah to make like there is somebody who has the same power as Jehovah. The Scriptures are clear that there is only one God and one God only. A Trinitarian should be careful to respond that they too believe that there is one God and one God only. Very often Jehovah's Witnesses sometimes define the trinity as if we believe in three Gods in one person, or three Gods in one God. We don't believe that. We believe that there is one God eternally revealed in three persons, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirits

What They Believe-Jesus Christ

Jehovah's Witnesses speak about Jesus Christ with great respect and reverence. If you talk to a Witness you might get the impression that what he believes about is identical to what Christians believe. *Member speaking: A lot of people don't even know we are Christians. But Jesus Christ is the foremost thing in our religion. See, we have to be a follower of Christ.* Does that sound familiar? While a study of the Scriptures will reveal that the Jesus that the Witnesses believe in, the Jesus of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is diametrically opposed from the Jesus the Bible talks about. Jesus is represented in the Watchtower very much like a governing body member, he is a representative of God's organization. They call Him the son of God, and know he has a

unique relationship like the first angel created. And so he is an instrument. The Watchtower teaches that Jesus was a created angel basically in heaven with the Father, the first creation of God. The Watchtower Society only looks to the Father as the creator. There is a reference in Colossians 1 about Jesus creating, but the Watchtower teaches that he only did that at the direction of the Father. He was the agent for who God made all things. Colossians is very clear where it says He created all things and all things came into being because of him. Not by means of him as an active worker like a construction worker, but that he was the one who originated creation and was therefore the original creator. *Member speaking: Jesus is not God. He is the son of God, just like the Bible says. And it isn't going to change. The reason is this at Genesis 3:15 God said he is going to send a seed here to bring the serpent, that's Satan in the head. He did not say I am going to send myself.* The Watchtower Society teaches that only God is God. They do not believe that Jesus is deity or divine. They do not believe he is the same nature as God. Jesus was born only as a man, nothing more nothing less, just a mere perfect man and died a man. *Member speaking: Do you want to believe that God died? Who would resurrect Him if he was dead? He resurrected himself then he didn't die. That is so far...it would be a hoax. That's the way I look at it for God to die. I never thought God died.* From beginning to end the Scriptures have emphasized the coming of the divine Messiah. Even back at Isaiah 9:6 which is a Messianic prediction and prophecy, we are told that this Messiah would be Elohim, mighty God. When Jesus actually showed up, what did they call him? Emanuel, God with us. The whole emphasis in the New Testament is that Jesus is God in human flesh. Of course the Jehovah's Witnesses have twisted every one of those texts that deal with the deity of Christ, John 1:1 and various other texts that directly or imply that Jesus is God they have been altered in their Bible. So when a Jehovah's Witness uses a New World Translation all the text we use that relates to the deity of Christ has been changed. So the Christian needs to understand that. John 1:1 is of course the Scripture that the Jehovah's Witnesses have willfully altered to try to prove that Jesus is less than God Almighty. It is one of the most direct statements as to who Jesus is, and yet they added an indefinite article "a" to prove he was a lesser god. First of all, there is no "a" indefinite article in the Greek Language, you only insert an indefinite article to clarify the meaning. What they did was added that and it totally and completely changed the meaning of it which is in direct competition with the other statement about who Jesus is, He is God Almighty.

John 1:1

Correct Greek Translation:

"In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

New World Translation:

"In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god."

There are many things that can be said about John 1:1 but a point that often gets overlooked in the discussion is the three uses of the same verb in John 1:1. IN the original language of Greek every time the word "was" is used, it is the same word: "In the beginning **was** the Word, and the Word **was** with God, and the Word **was** God." The word "was" is an imperfect verb in the original language. What we often fail to understand is the basic thrust or the basic aspect of the imperfect verb form in the Greek language is past continuous action. It would be appropriate to translate this verse in the following way, "In the beginning the Word **continuously** was, and the Word was **continuously** with God, and the Word continuously was God." The meaning is clear, rather than stating that Jesus had a beginning or that there was a time when he did not exist, the thrust or the aspect of the verb suggests that he always existed in past continuous history. He always existed because he is equal to God, he is God.

I think you need to look at John 1:1 in the context of the Holy gospel of John, from beginning to end John's gospel emphasis the deity of Jesus. IN John 1:1 we are told that Jesus is called God. If you drop down to verse 14 we are told that this person who is God also became a man, he took on human flesh. In fact, the original Greek communicates the idea that Jesus "tabernacle" among us. Now if you can picture in your mind the idea of the Old Testament tabernacle and picture the Glory of God coming down and dwelling within it, that's the backdrop to John 1:14. In John 1:3 Jesus is called the Creator of the universe which is something only God can do according to Isaiah 24:24. In John 8:58 Jesus is called the great I AM, a Scripture pointing back to God's name in Exodus 3:14. In John 20:28 Thomas recognizes the resurrected Christ and says "My Lord and My God." If you read what a lot of Watchtower literature you will find an awful lot of pages devoted to reinterpreting the Gospel of John from beginning to end, because the Gospel of John so clearly and definitively establishes the deity of Jesus.

Now that we have established that Jesus Christ is truly God and not just a mere man as the Watchtower teaches, the question arises what do the Jehovah's Witnesses believe about salvation and how can they be saved.

What They Believe: Salvation

Question Jehovah's Witnesses about their faith and you will experience people who are very assured about what they believe. Yet if you ask them whether they know they are saved that assurance soon gives way to great uncertainty. *Members speaking: I don't believe in the Scriptures that I can know I am saved. When we die we do not know what our reward may be, if in fact we will be resurrected or we will not be resurrected. WE know that as Jehovah's Witnesses that when we die we have that hope but we don't have an assurance, an absolute assurance. We don't believe we are actually saved at any time, we can't make that presumption.* Jehovah's Witnesses have no assurances. That is why they are working so hard, going door to door, attending meetings, and going to their conventions. They are really concerned. They really believe that their works must show their faith. In James 2:17, faith without works is dead. They believe they have to show God, that they have to show everyone that they believe and they are doing it by their works. And, that brings them salvation. According to the Watchtower Society a person is saved by four requirements: 1) you must take in knowledge. That is in accordance with John 17:3, take in knowledge of God; 2) You must obey God's law; 3) they must become a member in good standing of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, be associated with the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society; and 4) they must preach the Kingdom gospel of the Watchtower. That's Matthew 20:14. Those are the four requirements for salvation. *Member speaking: We have to earn it, we have to maintain it. And that's what Jehovah's Witnesses believe and that is why we are here [Jehovah's Witness Convention in Long Beach, CA] trying to maintain our good standing with God and feeling good about Jehovah.* And I am going to tell you that that is never going to get you right with God. The fact of the manner is there is nothing that man can do to save himself. The only thing you can do is accept the salvation that God has provided for us in Christ. In fact the Scriptures indicate that the moment you [place your faith in Jesus Christ, you are justified period. I serve Him because I love Him, not because I'm trying to earn something, he has already given it to me. It is already paid for. Good deeds and righteousness follows salvation, they do not cause salvation. You start to become more and more like Jesus. But you don't have to become more like Jesus in order to be saved that is not the Scriptural pattern. In fact almost 200 times the Scriptures indicate that it is by faith alone that we become saved. Think about John 3:16, which is one of the most famous verses in the Bible, when the jailer asked the Apostle Paul, "How am I saved?" The Apostle Paul said believe in the Lord Jesus to be saved (Acts 16:31). The Apostle Paul states in Ephesians 2:8,9 "Salvation is by grace through faith." You need to ask yourself whether God is a good communicator. All throughout Scripture He indicates that it is by faith. Is God wrong? I choose to believe that God is right.

We need to remember though that the very foundation for this saving faith was laid by Jesus Christ dying on the cross for the sins of all mankind. For Witnesses however, the person that dies on that cross differs fundamentally from the one the Bible talks about. *Member speaking: Jesus was the second Adam, the perfect man, see, he didn't fall away like Adam did. He was the second Adam. So that is the difference.* The Watchtower teaches and believes that Jesus as a perfect man that was all he had to be paid the price for Adam's sin. And they believe and even teach that anyone who is perfect could have done that, any angel could have come down, become a perfect man, and paid that price. In other words, they argue that just as Adam was a perfect man and led humanity into sin, what we need is a perfect man who would die on a stake and balance the scales of justice as it were. And they believe that if Jesus had been God in human flesh, that sacrifice would have been way too much. All we need is a corresponding ransom. The idea that Jesus merely atone for the sin

of Adam is really not a Biblical doctrine at all. The fact of the matter is that when John the Baptist saw Jesus approaching on that first day, he clearly pointed and said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John understood intuitively in John 1:29, that Christ's atonement was more than to right the wrong of Adam so that people could then gain salvation through some obedience that might be available to them. Jesus is the sacrifice for the whole world; He died for the whole world to give them salvation and even in their weakness they acknowledge they can't help it, they can't do anything, they want him to take over, that is the moment they are considered saved. In 1 Corinthians 15: 3-4, Paul is talking about the Gospel and he says, "For what I received I passed on to you...Christ died for our sins...that He was buried...that he was raised from the dead..." The most important thing is what took place on that cross and what took place after. Because of Jesus Christ's death on the cross and paying for the sins of mankind and because of his bodily resurrection Christians who believe in Him know for certain that they will go to heaven when they die. Yet ask a Jehovah's Witness about this heavenly hope you will receive an answer that might surprise you. *Member speaking: Most people believe they are going to heaven. We don't. We know the earth was created for us, I mean certainly people will go to heaven but that is not for mankind. We were created to live on the earth. The Bible gives two classes, two groups of people. There is the 144,000 spirit anointed ones that will rule in heaven with Jesus Christ and then there is the great crowd that the book of Revelation that speaks about, that will live here on earth. Question: Do you belong to the 144,000? Answer by member, no, I belong to the great crowd that will live here on earth.* They believe that there is a two tier salvation, one group goes to heaven, the others stay on the earth. The ones that go to heaven are the Bride of Christ, the ones that all the promises are for, the ones who stay on the earth are those that just tag along behind and be faithful to the organization and somehow they will get everlasting life. The Watchtower takes the number from Revelation 7 which deals with the number 144,000. This is the number of the remnant. So they feel and teach that when that number is full that is all that will have the heavenly home. When they have the Lord's Supper once a year only the ones of the heavenly class partake of the bread and the cup and the rest of them just pass it on by. The reason is that they are no part of the new Covenant. The new covenant that Christ Jesus instituted with His Apostles does not apply to his other sheep. Of all the Witnesses on earth today 99.8% are of the other sheep and therefore they are not destined for that. They are destined for the planet earth forever as long as they do not sin during their future life. If they make a mistake after they attain perfection, beyond the millennium they will be destroyed forever. I do not believe there are two classes of saved people primarily because of the number of times I see the word "whosoever" throughout the New Testament. For example when I read John 3:16 it says, "For God so loved the world he sent his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him would not perish, but have every lasting life", you have to underline that word whosoever, it is not limited to 144,000. Do you know that in the end John 10:16 tells us that all Christians will be under one shepherd in one flock. Let me repeat that, one shepherd in one flock. There is not going to be one flock on earth and one flock in heaven. Rather, there is one flock and one shepherd over them and that is Jesus Christ.

If there is one defining issue that rules the thinking and action of all Jehovah's Witnesses to near obsession, it has to be an imminent arrival of a final and total destruction of this world. And, this destruction will occur during a horrible and devastating at a place mentioned only once in the Bible. We find it Revelation 16:16 were it reads. "And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon."

What They Believe:

From its inception the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society has tried its hand at prophecy, especially prophecy ending with the end times. Using the unique approach based on their techniques using the prophetic books of Daniel and Revelation the Watchtower teaches that from 607 BC when they say Jerusalem fall to the Babylonians until 1914 AD when the first World War began the world was in what they call the "Times of the Gentiles." From 1914 forward the world is now languishing in its "Last Days," awaiting its destruction at the Battle of Armageddon, the quiet before the storm. We need to point out one important flaw; historians know that the fall of Jerusalem took place 586 or 587 BC, rather than 607 BC as the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society claim. Although many predictions as to the day of its arrival have been made none of them came true. Yet today, more than ever, Jehovah's Witnesses are still convinced that it will only be a matter of time before the battle trumpet sounds. *Former Member: And every time something horrible would happen the Witnesses would use this as an excuse to say, look, Armageddon is just around the corner. And of course Armageddon is when Jehovah God is supposed to be killing everybody who is not a Jehovah's Witness.* The Watchtower firmly believes that Armageddon will destroy all wicked people, all people who are not part of the Watchtower. So they believe that is a very important event, in fact it is the deciding event of a person's salvation or not. So they are going door to door in an attempt to bring people into the organization to save them from being destroyed at Armageddon which they consider the literal end of this world.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that after Armageddon God will establish a 1000 year rule during which millions of people will be raised from the dead. At the close of that period comes Jehovah's final judgment, faithful Jehovah's Witnesses will inherit eternal life and a restored paradise on earth. The wicked will become complete destroyed forever.

The Watchtower Society feels that the people who are destroyed will be literally annihilated, will be gone forever, they will not be cognizant or aware of anything, body soul or spirit, this is the eternal outcome of people who reject the Watchtower or reject God in their sense.

I was taught that when a person died there was no such thing as eternal judgment even though Jesus spoke of it. In fact, the Jehovah's Witnesses go to great lengths to say there is no eternal hell or eternal separation from God. To the Jehovah's Witness there is no hell or hell fire. They believe that hell is the common grave of mankind or where everybody goes. And those that are approved by God will get resurrected or raised up out of the grave. The rest will be left to just disappear. They do not believe in a burning punishment of any type. *Member speaking: We don't think that our creator ever intended to torment us. What could be worse than to actually die and to be wiped out of existence?* There are parts in the Bible that speaks about weeping and gnashing of teeth and how awful this place will be. And the passage in Revelation Chapter 20:10 which speaks of the fact that they will be punished day and night even into the ages of the ages. It is not something that ceases to be.

"Let us keep in memory the great Bible fact that creation is not yet complete. The completed creation will find our earth a paradise and filled with a happy and perfect human family in harmony with the creator." Charles Taze Russell, circa 1914, "Photo Drama of Creation"

Member speaking: We think our God, Jehovah, really intended for us to live here on the earth and not in heaven.

Former Member: What most people don't realize is that the person who comes to your door with the Watchtower or a magazine from the Watchtower, that person never expects to go to heaven. They expect to live forever on a paradise earth having what Adam had before he sinned, and to live in perpetuity on the earth in physical perfection.

Matthew 5:5 says that the meek will inherit the earth. Jesus said that, the Jehovah's Witnesses believe it, and they believe that they are the meek ones who will inherit the earth. *Member speaking: We will have perfect weather; we will have perfect people, so you know it will be a lot different than what it is today.* The vast majority of Jehovah's Witnesses look forward to a paradise where you see following streams beautiful foliage, beautifully manicured homes, all the images they present in their official publications. Look at what God says in Romans 8:24, "For in hope we have been saved. But hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he already sees?" He makes it very clear here that the mind cannot even begin to contemplate the nature and the beauty of the heaven that awaits us. Believers look forward to something that the mind cannot even begin to imagine because it is something of a glorified nature that we will only be able to contemplate when we stand in the presence of God Almighty. The Bible teaches that all believers go to one place and that place is called heaven. But also in the end we will be in the new heavens and the new earth in New Jerusalem as stated in Revelation 21:22. For those who reject the Gospel, who try to earn salvation in some other way, who reject what God has provided in Jesus Christ (God says it's a gift and they reject it), they will end up in a place of constant torment and eternally separated from God forever and ever.

A terrible prospect and a prospect that will befall all Jehovah's Witnesses unless they denounce the false teachings of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society and embrace the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the next segment we will discuss how we can help them to do just that.

Sharing Jesus:

If you are like most people seeing Jehovah's Witnesses approach the house isn't a site we exactly relish. We may feel intimidated by their perceived knowledge of the Bible, knowing that we are not properly equipped to witness to them. Perhaps we are afraid of their argumentative style. But I think the main reason we do not want to open our doors is because we don't quite believe that the Jehovah's Witnesses can be pried from the powerful grip of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, let alone be won for Jesus Christ. To learn otherwise we traveled to Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminar in California to visit a conference for people who have left the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society to follow Jesus Christ. The great number of former Witnesses who come for Christian fellowship and worship encourage this. Manning like Derek Jock who just a few days ago accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior was eager to give testimonies of their new found freedom in Jesus Christ. *Derek: Earlier this year in January a young man, a neighbor, stopped by and we started talking about basketball and the conversation changed. It changed towards God. He would call God Father and that was very interesting to me. He would talk about the Holy Spirit in a way I would never talk about the Holy Spirit. And so everybody who had planted a seed in my heart somewhere, it was growing in me. When I would read the Bible I'd break down. I couldn't believe the transformation that was happening in me because of my love, my love for Jesus. {He paused and swallowed here in emotion} I had never prayed to Jesus before, I had never come to Jesus before, so what an amazing concept of unconditional love, and it really, really was for me.* A caring Christian, concerned about the soul of his Jehovah's Witness neighbor, planting a seed, a seed after time grew large enough to lead to the liberating truth of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The possibility of a Jehovah's Witness coming to your door is very, real in the near future. And we need to understand that we have all the capabilities and possibilities of reaching that person in faith in Jesus Christ. The fact is that many have come out of the organization and today are faithful followers of our Lord, Jesus Christ. You had better know the Bible because Jehovah's Witnesses train their people better than the average Christian church trains their people. We should know just as well what we believe and be able to go to the Word of God and show why we believe what we believe. He catches you off guard and you really don't have that much prepared in your mind to say to him, so make an appointment for later time when you can have that something prepared for him. But then, within that preparation allow the Holy Spirit to work. We need to understand that the Jehovah's Witnesses by and large are committed to a vast memorization scheme so they can virtually repeat every doctrine of orthodoxy. We ourselves, need to be students of Scripture. We need to take in, internalize, Scripture. I think there is a good scripture in the New Testament that deal with how we should talk to Jehovah's Witnesses as well as anyone who is unsaved. It is 2 Timothy 2:24-26, "And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead he must be kind to everyone, able to teach not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil who has taken them captive to do his will." When you quarrel, you are not defending the faith, you are just getting upset with the other person and that's where the kindness, the patience and the gentleness come in, those are gifts from the Holy Spirit. And so we need to have the Holy Spirit alive in our conversation.

I would say that I had the door slammed in my face by many good Christians. That is not a good approach. I believe when Jehovah's Witnesses comes to our doors we need to reflect Jesus. The witness must reflect that we truly care about him. We never know where that Jehovah's Witness is in his Watchtower walk when he comes to our door, so to speak. And that, he may have talked to many other Christians in the past and maybe he just needs to know that we are concerned about him. You should try to get to know them as a person, not just as a theology or force of evil coming to your door, this is a person who is sincere, this is a person reaching out and wanting to know God, and doing the best they can do based upon the information they have on God. I have always found it beneficial to focus on the primary issues as concerns the nature of salvation, the person of Jesus Christ, what he came to this earth to accomplish through his sacrificial death and resurrection. Those are issues that ultimately lead a person to answer the question as to the need of salvation in their lives. They are all depending on their works and they all realize they come short and they cannot do it and so there is no assurance. I believe that the most powerful thing that we have as believers is our testimony, our personal testimony of what Jesus has done in our lives. We have a peace that the Jehovah's Witnesses do not have. We have somebody with us always, Jesus, who they do not have. That is why your testimony is so powerful to them. I have had a lot of people coming with relatives, wives, and husbands who are in the Watchtower organization and would just love to have that one silver that is going to do the trick and bring that individual out of Jehovah's Witnesses. But there is not just one, every Jehovah's Witness is different and you need different approaches. The Bible says "Greater is he that is in Me than he that is in the world." We have the presence of God in our lives and there is something miraculous happens when you begin to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit begins to work in the life of the person and begins to convict them of their sin and separation from God. If you just deal with the death, burial and resurrection, the very simple plan of salvation, they begin to feel convicted about the absence of the presence of God in their lives. That is a spiritual work, a miraculous work that only God can do. One thing I like to encourage Christians with is there is always hope that a Jehovah

Witnesses do become Christians, so never give up! Unless they close the door, you never close the door on them, for there is always the possibility that you will win them to Christ. If they are a progressive person that wants to grow, that wants to mature, that wants to know more and more about the Bible, its history, how Jesus fits into it all, eventually they will come out. You do not know their time, all you can do is plant seeds.

Planting the seed, for the most part that is all we can do. Praying that God will do the growing and others will bring in the harvest. We must never forget that the Witnesses that come to our door have the best intentions. They truly want to save us from eternal destruction. Yet, they are terribly misguided by an organization that claims to be the exclusive spokesman for Jehovah God. That is why we need to open our doors and hearts to let Christ's love flow out and touch these people. Their whole salvation is based on marching from door to door and selling literature. So compassion for them and your love for them, look beyond the theology and organization and see the human being, a person who Jesus died for. They need to be paraded and set free. They are under the bondage of the book of the law. If you can help them understand that their salvation is not based upon works but entirely upon that personal relationship with Jesus Christ than you are going to change a life for them.