

## **Jehovah's Witness**

### **Objectives**

To be aware of the false teachings of the various modern day cults such as the Jehovah's witnesses

### **References**

"The Cults: An Orthodox Apology" by Emil G. Bishay, St. Marina Church, Lake Forest, CA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2001

"The Kingdom of the Cults" by Walter Martin, the Estate of Walter Martin, 1997

### **Scriptural Verse**

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8: 32)

### **Lesson Outline**

#### **1. Christian Cults**

- Satan fights the body of Christ by every mean:
- *Among weak Christians, Satan twists their mind to extreme ideas leading to the birth of cults. Those who follow these cults are no longer considered Christians by the main stream Christians.*
- Examples: Jehovah's Witness, Mormons, Christian Science

#### **2. Introduction**

- Also known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
- It was officially founded in 1884 by Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916).
- Russell originally denied the doctrine of Hell, and would go on to reject nearly every other Christian doctrine, as well as add many of his own false doctrines.
- Many of these unique and bizarre teachings are found in his six volume series titled, *Studies in the Scriptures*.
- The Watchtower Society claims a worldwide membership of over six million (about one million U.S.), and takes in approximately 300,000 new members each year.
- This is accomplished via 4.8 million home Bible studies, 1.2 billion hours of witnessing, and over 500,000 full and part-time missionaries.
- Its main periodicals are *The Watchtower* magazine and *Awake!*
- Historically, the Jehovah's Witnesses (JW's) are best known for their practices of refusing: to serve in the military, salute the flag, celebrate Christmas, birthdays, or other holidays and to give or to accept blood transfusions.

### **Jehovah's Witness' Beliefs**

#### **1. Source of Authority**

- JW's claim the Bible as their final authority, but Russell's writings, especially *Studies in the Scriptures*, are considered "the light of the Scriptures."
- JW's have their own translation of the Scriptures (*New World Translation*, published in 1961), which reflects *the binding interpretations* of the group's leaders.

- The JW's' *New World Translation* greatly perverts the Scriptures to avoid placing themselves under the judgment of God
- Examples: John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”. (NKJV).
- “In [the] beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god”. *New World Translation*
- John 8:58 – “Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” (NKJV)
- Jesus said to them: “Most truly I say to YOU, Before Abraham came into existence, I have been.” *New World Translation*
- 1 Timothy 2:6 – “Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (NKJV)
- Who gave himself a corresponding ransom for all—[this is] what is to be witnessed to at its own particular times. *New World Translation*

## 2. The Trinity

- JW's believe that God is not a triune God, but only “Jehovah God”
- They teach that Trinitarianism is a belief in three gods, and thereby, Satan-inspired polytheism.
- God the Father, known as Jehovah, is considered to be the only true eternal God.
- They write, “There was, therefore, a time when Jehovah was all alone in universal space” (*Let God Be True*, p. 25).
- Being alone, the first creative act of Jehovah was to create His Son by reincarnating Archangel Michael and therefore they do not believe that Jesus is God in the flesh.
- They claim that the Holy Spirit is only an impersonal “active force of Almighty God which moves His servants to do His will” (*Reasoning From the Scriptures*, pp. 406-407; *The Watchtower*, 6/1/54, p. 24).

## 6. Resurrection of Christ

- JW's deny the bodily resurrection of Christ through their teaching. They teach that the body of Christ was annihilated by God and a new one was *created* three days after His death.
- Thus, Jesus was “resurrected” as a “glorious spirit creature” and does *not* now have a glorified physical body.
- Jesus only “materialized” at various times after His resurrection so He could be seen alive. (*Awake!*, 7/22/73, p. 4).

## 8. Sin

- JW's believe that the first man, Adam, disobeyed Jehovah when tempted by Lucifer, who was jealous of man.
- As a result of disobedience, Adam and all his descendants lost the right to life and so became liable to death. This liability is applied to temporal death only.

## **9. Salvation**

- JW's claim everlasting life is a reward for doing the will of God and carrying out one's dedication -- in other words, salvation is a reward for good works.
- These good works are spending five hours per week in door-to-door visitation and witnessing, selling twelve subscriptions to *The Watchtower* magazine each month, and conducting a "Bible study" each month in the homes of their converts.
- According to JW theology, a person has one of three possible destinies:
  - The Anointed (144,000) will be in heaven to reign with Jehovah God.
  - The rest of the faithful JW's will live forever on a paradise Earth.
  - The unbelievers will be destroyed by Jehovah God and cease to exist.

## **11. Annihilation of the Wicked**

- JW's teach that the "second death" is annihilation and extinction -- the wicked will cease to exist and will not suffer everlasting torment.
- They claim that a "doctrine of a burning hell" is "wholly unscriptural," "unreasonable," "contrary to God's love" and "repugnant to justice."
- They claim that hell is the grave.

## **Conclusion**

There are currently a plethora of false beliefs that deny the divinity of Christ, one of these is Jehovah's Witnesses. We must be aware of their false beliefs so that we do not fall in the trap of their beliefs.

## **Activities/Discussion Points**

1. How do we respond to those who may attempt to witness to us about Jehovah's Witnesses?
2. What are sources that we can resort to support our faith