

4 The Jehovah's Witness Organisation Abuses Its Authority.

Despite its many failed prophecies, the Jehovah's Witness organisation teaches that it's the only true religion, and that only its members are true Christians. It says no one can learn spiritual truth apart from them. It also teaches that there is no salvation outside their organisation, and everyone *except* Jehovah's Witnesses will be destroyed at Armageddon (the time of final judgment).

The Watchtower organisation demands that its members obey and accept unquestioningly every command and biblical interpretation their headquarters gives them.

For example, the Watchtower forbids the use of blood transfusions. Individual Jehovah's Witnesses are expected to die—or let their children die—rather than break this command, even though the Bible nowhere teaches that blood transfusions are wrong! Any Jehovah's Witness who disobeys this rule is told he will be destroyed at the coming of Armageddon.

This way the Watchtower leaders use fear and intimidation to control their followers. They've also used their predictions of the end of the world to put fear into the hearts of their followers.

Isn't it dangerous to follow a group that uses its authority abusively?

These four points show the spiritual dangers of the Jehovah's Witness cult. Maybe you're wondering, "What is the good news of the Bible?" The following four points present the true gospel of Jesus as found in Scripture.

How You Can Find True Peace with God

The Bible's message can be summarized in four simple points:

1. Our sins separate us from the true and living God.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

2. We cannot save ourselves.

"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin." Romans 3:20

"He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy." Titus 3:5

3. Jesus is God's remedy for our sin problem.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." 1 Peter 3:18a

4. We must personally receive Jesus by faith to have forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

"... if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

If these truths from God's Word have touched your heart, you can respond right now by asking Him to forgive your sins and give you new life in Christ! This simple prayer can guide you in expressing your faith in Jesus for salvation:

Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, I admit that I have sinned against You in my deeds, words, and thoughts. I fall short of Your righteousness and cannot save myself. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to shed His blood for me! I ask You to forgive me of all my sins, and I place all my trust in Jesus Christ, who died in my place and rose from the dead. Amen.

Endnotes

1 *The Watchtower*, August 15, 1968, page 499; *Kingdom Ministry*, May 1974, p. 3.

2 *The Time Is at Hand*, 1906 ed., pp. 99, 101; *The Time Is at Hand*, 1915 ed., pp. 99, 101; *Pastor Russell's Sermons*, 1917 ed., p. 676; *The Finished Mystery*, 1918, pp. 404, 485; *The Watchtower*, September 1, 1922, p. 262; *The Watchtower*, September 15, 1941, p. 288; *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*, 1920, pp. 88–90.



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Maybe you've seen their followers handing out two brightly coloured magazines, *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*

Their Watchtower organisation claims to be the only true Christian group in the whole world. It says that all churches—whether Catholic or Protestant—teach serious error. It says that God will destroy anyone who's not a Jehovah's Witness! But the facts show that this group is a deceptive cult. Here are four important reasons why you should avoid it.

1 The Jehovah's Witnesses deny the central teachings of the Bible.

Jehovah's Witnesses deny that Jesus Christ is God. Instead, they teach that Jesus is a created angel.

But the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ, the Son, is God. For example, Hebrews 1:8 says, "But about the Son He says, 'Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever...'" Many other verses also teach this. (John 1:1, 14; 20:26–28; Acts 20:28; Romans 9:5; Hebrews 1:3, 8–9; 2 Peter 1:1)

Jehovah's Witnesses deny the bodily resurrection of Jesus. Instead, they have taught that Jesus' body was dissolved into gases. Charles Taze Russell, founder of the Watchtower organisation, taught: "The man Jesus is dead, forever dead." (*Studies in the Scriptures*, Vol. 5, 1899, p. 454) Instead of a physical body, they teach that Jesus was raised with only a spiritual body.

But the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus' physical body was raised back to life: For example, Luke 24:39—"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."

(See also: John 2:19–21; John 20:26–28; 1 Corinthians 15:6, 14)

Jehovah’s Witnesses deny that the Holy Spirit is God. Instead, they teach that the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force, like electricity.

But the Bible clearly teaches that the Holy Spirit is God: Acts 5:3–4—“Then Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit?...You have not lied to men, but to God.’” (See also: John 14:16–17; 16:13–15; Romans 8:26–27; 2 Corinthians 3:6,17–18; Ephesians 4:30)

Jehovah’s Witnesses deny that salvation is God’s free gift. Instead, they teach each of us must earn or deserve our salvation. To gain salvation and escape judgment, each of us must join the Watchtower organisation and do the works it requires.

But the Bible clearly teaches that salvation cannot be earned or merited—it is God’s free gift: Ephesians 2:8–9—“For 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.” (See also: Romans 4:1–4; Galatians 2:16; Titus 3:5)

Jehovah’s Witnesses deny the endless punishment of the wicked. Instead, they teach that unrighteous people will cease to exist.

But the Bible clearly teaches the endless punishment of the wicked: Matthew 25:41, 46—“Then He will say to those on his left, Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels....Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” (See also: Matthew 18:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:8–9; Revelation 14:10–11; 20:10, 15)

Jehovah’s Witnesses deny that people have a spirit that exists after death. Instead, they teach that like animals, a person’s life ceases to exist at death.

But the Bible clearly teaches that the human spirit continues its conscious existence after death: 2 Corinthians 5:8—“We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” (See also: Luke 16:19–31; Philippians 1:23–24; Revelation 6:9–11)

Jehovah’s Witnesses teach that eternal life in God’s presence is only for a select few. They say only a special group of 144,000 Jehovah’s Witnesses can be born again and live forever with God in heaven; all other worthy Jehovah’s Witnesses stay on earth.

But the Bible clearly teaches that all those who put their faith in Jesus will have eternal life in the presence of God. The Bible describes this group as innumerable: Revelation 7:9, 15—“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb...they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple.” (See also: John 3:15, 5:24, 12:26; Ephesians 2:19; Philippians 3:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 3:1, 12:22; 2 Peter 1:10–11)

Jehovah’s Witnesses deny the Three-in-One nature of God (Trinity) and teach that Satan invented the doctrine of the Trinity. They reject all the scriptures that identify Jesus as God and the Holy Spirit as God.

But the Bible clearly teaches that the Son and the Holy Spirit, as well as the Father, are God. (John 1:1, 20:28; 1 John 5:20; Acts 5:3–4) It also clearly and forcefully teaches that there is only one God. (Isaiah 43:10, 44:6–8, etc.) It teaches that the Three are one—a Trinity. (Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 12:4–6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2)

Isn’t it dangerous to follow a group that denies the central teachings of the Bible?

2 **The Jehovah’s Witnesses Tamper with the Bible.**

The Watchtower organisation prints its own deceptive Bible, called the *New World Translation*. They have deliberately changed many verses to hide the fact that their teaching is unbiblical and false.

Comparing the Bible and the Deceptive *New World Translation*



Holy Bible	<i>New World Translation</i>
John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” <i>This clearly declares that Jesus (the Word) is God.</i>	“In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.” <i>This change was made to support the Jehovah’s Witnesses’ denial that Jesus is God.</i>

Colossians 1:16	
“For by Him [Jesus] were all things created...all things were created by Him and for Him.” <i>This teaches that Jesus is the Creator of all, and is not a created being Himself.</i>	“...because by means of him all other things were created...All other things have been created through him and for him.” <i>The word “other” has been wrongly added to support the Jehovah’s Witnesses false teaching that Jesus himself is a created angel.</i>

Hebrews 1:8	
“But about the Son He says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever.’” <i>See that here God the Father addresses Jesus the Son as “God.”</i>	“But with reference to the Son: ‘God is your throne forever and ever...’” <i>The order of the words has been wrongly changed by the Jehovah’s Witnesses to hide the fact that Jesus (the Son) is called God.</i>

Isn’t it dangerous to follow a group that dishonestly changes the Bible?

3 **The Jehovah’s Witnesses Have a History of Failed Prophecies.**

The Jehovah’s Witness leadership claims to speak for Jehovah God with prophetic authority, but they have made many prophecies that failed to come true. For example, they predicted that Armageddon and the end of the world would come in 1975. To cover up for this failure, most Jehovah’s Witnesses today deny they made this prediction even though it is easily proven from their own literature.¹

The Watchtower organisation predicted that the end of the world would come in 1914...1915...1918...1925 and 1942! They predicted that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would be resurrected and return to the earth in 1925. They have been wrong every single time.² The Bible warns that failed prophecy is a mark of a false prophet. (Deuteronomy 18:21–22)

Isn’t it dangerous to follow a group that makes repeated false prophecies?