



In my prior article on Latter-Day Saints, I began with the illustration of a Saturday morning knock on the door. Both Latter-Day Saints (LDS) and Jehovah Witnesses (JW) use this evangelistic technique where they go door to door traveling in pairs. While the LDS/Mormons will usually be two young men in white shirts and ties or two young women in dresses, the Jehovah Witness are usually adults with a junior JW paired with a more mature JW Elder. Jehovah Witness will also present an opening statement to get you to start discussing a Bible study or what Jesus can do for you. The Jehovah Witness may also set up a small stand on a street corner or sidewalk with signs that say “Free Bible Study” or something to that effect. Their full name includes their organization: The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (WTS) which they claim is God’s voice on earth.

Similar to the LDS, Jehovah Witnesses will also use very familiar terms like Father, Son, Spirit, salvation, sin, grace, faith, so they sound like normal Christian denomination. Are they Christians? Again, we must answer with a hard “No.” Not even close with them either. But they do sound like Christians. What is their

trick? We can again look to the rules of logic (i.e. law of non-contradiction and law of identity) to show that JW's cannot be Biblical Christians. The laws of logic show that Jesus cannot be God incarnate (Biblical Christianity) and the Michael the Arch Angel (JW) at the same time. Jesus cannot be the uncreated creator of all things (Biblical Christianity) and a created creature (JW). The Bible cannot teach that there is a single being of God (Christianity-3 persons in one being) and at the same time only one person (JW).<sup>1</sup> The list goes on and on. JW have many unorthodox teachings about God, Jesus, life after death, heaven, hell, and many other topics. Similar with LDS, if you ask them JW'S if they are Christians they will say "yes". The better question to ask is "Does that mean all Christians Jehovah Witnesses?" They cannot answer that with a "Yes." They want you to join their organization. That is why they are at your door. They know they are different. Make them explain and justify their differences and test them to the Bible which is our infallible rule of faith. You will find the vast differences between the God of the Bible and the God of the WTS. Who are the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. This religion was started by Charles Taze Russell (1852 1916) who was raised as a Presbyterian but later tried

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<sup>1</sup> Larry A. Nichols, George A. Mather, Alvin J. Schmidt, *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Cults, Sects, and World Religions* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2006), 158.

Congregationalism and eventually became unsatisfied with historic Christianity, especially the concept of eternal damnation. He started his own group of members and became convinced that Christ would return in 1874.

When Christ did not come, he said Christ came invisibly and spiritually. In the early 1880's, Russell began printing material for his magazine the Zion Watchtower and Tract Society. Russell also was trying to sell and promote his "Miracle Wheat" to help support his WTS and during a libel suit, his wheat was found to be fraudulent. Before the wheat scandal, another Pastor had accused Russell of having no pastoral accreditations. Russell sued him for libel but during the court proceedings, Russell admitted he did not know how to read Greek nor did he have any ordination from any denomination. He lost much credibility for his perjury in that trail and later died in 1916. His successor was Judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford who launched a revised ministry and laid the foundation for its main teachings and practices.<sup>2</sup> The WTS produced its own Bible translation called "The New World" translation in 1950 which top Greek scholars have denounced as a gross mistranslation which often inserts words and revises terms to fit with the WTS teachings.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Nichols, Mather, Schmidt, *Encyclopedic Dictionary of Cults, Sects, and World Religions*, 153-155.

<sup>3</sup> Ron Rhodes, *The Challenge of the Cults and New Religions* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan, 2006), 94-95.

The WTS has continually revised the date of the second coming of Christ from 1874 to 1914 to 1975. This has caused hundreds of thousands to leave the WTS because of these false prophecies. The WTS claims it just gets “new light” and keeps reinterpreting its claims.<sup>4</sup> As shown in the training document found elsewhere on this webpage, there are vast differences between the Bible, historic teachings of the church and the WTS. The typical response by the WTS is to claim the church went astray and needed to be reformed and their organization came to the rescue. They claim the cross, Trinity and other teachings came from pagan sources but they cannot provide evidence for these assertions. This presents the question, what did the church do for 1800 years before the WTS came into existence? Was the church without a witness? Similar to the problems with LDS, no JW prophet has the sign gifts and there are numerous false prophecies. Per Deuteronomy 18, a false prophet gives false prophecies and is to be rejected. If you take away anything from this post, investigate the history and doctrines of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society and see for yourself. The training slides on this site have links to excellent resources. It is hard to imagine coming up with the kinds of manipulation the JW’s use to back up their claims and still present themselves as Christians.

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<sup>4</sup> Rhodes, *The Challenge of the Cults*, 84-86.

They have a different God, a different Jesus, different atonement, they require works-based salvation, and they deny essential Christian beliefs. They will only use Bible verses where Jesus is in his humbled human nature(e.g., Philippians 2:8-10; John 1:14) where he submits to the Father as a man, but they will ignore or twist the verses where the Son is referred to in his eternal Divine nature as God. For a comprehensive comparison of the details, please see summary charts on the training material PowerPoint.

As you can see, it is important with any new religion that presents itself as a better version of Christianity to remember to follow the Biblical principles that the Bereans' used in Acts 17:11 - test everything to Scripture. Matthew 7:15-23 – gives us a warning to beware false prophets and Scripture is not to be added to (Prov. 30:5-6). False prophets make false organizations and come to deceive (1 John 2:18-23; 1 John 4:1-6; Matthew 24:3-5; 23-27; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 3-4). In Pakistan, Jehovah Witness/Watchtower Society are already in the Country and encouraging citizens to join their organization. They present themselves as Christians, so the temptation is great for Pakistan's looking for a better life. But at what expense? Jesus said in Matthew 16:26 "For what good will it do a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits

his soul? Or what will a person give in exchange for his soul?" Paul also issues a warning in 2 Timothy 4:3: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires"