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Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses

by: Daniel Weierbach, Assoc. Pastor

*"²¹Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. ²²And of some have compassion, making a difference: ²³And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."
(Jude 1:21-23, KJV)*

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was expanded and the Christian Greek Scriptures were added to complete the Bible, each book was written directly to the Christian congregation or to a member of the Christian congregation in its behalf. Thus the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible. For this reason the Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah's visible organization in mind.

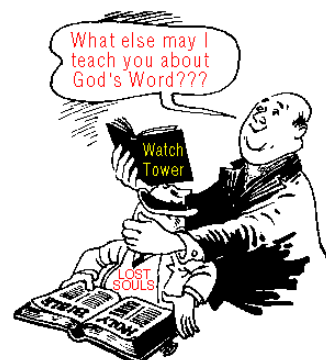
You've probably seen them: a pair of well-dressed folks walking through your neighborhood, knocking on doors and asking to speak to you about Jehovah God and Jesus Christ. So you give them an ear, let them speak and hear what they have to say. They say they're from the local Kingdom Hall, Jehovah Witnesses (JWs) to be exact, and they starting talking about Jesus and how he died for your sins and provides a way for you to get in the right standing with Jehovah God. At the very surface all this seems correct according to the Bible that you've read and heard sermons from. But then you notice they have a translation that you may not recognize; it's not NIV, NASB, ASV, ESV, NKJV, or KJV, no, it's a NWT (New World Translation). And on top of that, you see a little newsletter they are handing out as well, from the Watchtower Society. Now you're curious. What is so different about these people and the traditional Christian beliefs that you were taught in your local Christian church.

The Jehovah's Witnesses (JW) religion is a man-made religion, founded by Charles Taze Russell in 1870. The JWs deny the truth of the Holy Bible,

and have developed their own "scripture" to conform to their beliefs. These heretical beliefs include doctrines such as Jesus is not God, only 144,000 can go to heaven, a person will have a second chance for salvation after death, salvation is by works, and annihilationism. Along with these false teachings, their board of elders have falsely prophesied that the deliverance of the saints would happen prior to 1914¹ and that the battle of Armageddon would end in 1914². They also hold to the completely egregious teaching that the Bible belongs to the JW organization and not individuals; nor can individuals interpret the Bible apart from the JW organization³.

Approximately 7.96 million JWs believe in a false god, a false Jesus, a false religion, and a false gospel, which separates them from God for eternity in a literal place called hell; this should bother Evangelical Christians today. So what are we to do with it? I believe that God has revealed to me some ways to expose the fallacy of the JW religion and illuminate the truth for those who wish to see. JWs are being deceived and need to be told so they may be snatched out of the fire (Jude 1:23). It is my

hope and prayer that if you are wanting to witness to the JWs, that you will be equipped to help them see the truth.



The following is a method which I use to witness to JW, to show them contradictions and errors in their religion. This is not the way, but rather a way to witness; you may already have a method, but this may give you additional tools to put in your belt for use. If you are young in the faith, I do not recommend that you confront these JWs without taking the time to study, be grounded in your faith, and pray about it. If the Lord leads you to confront them, the Holy Spirit will guide you better than any man could. Lastly, if you do witness to JWs, I remind you to let your words be grace seasoned with salt (Col 4:6).

(continued on page 2)

Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses (cont.)

by: Daniel Weierbach, Assoc. Pastor

JW believe that only 144,000 people will get to go and reign in heaven, and that the remainder of people will reside on earth. Because of this, many JW's strive and work in order to gain entrance to heaven so as to become part of this group. However, I like to reference their own scripture (New World Translation) and prove the inconsistency in their belief. In Rev 4:7-8 of the New World Translation (NWT), these 144k people are said to be from Jewish tribes (12k from each tribe, 12 tribes equals 144k). Then in Rev 11:1-5, descriptors are given for who these are: saved, virgins, who are dedicated followers of God. Combine this description with Rev 7 (above), and you can clearly see the 144k are Jewish, virgin, males, who have been redeemed. I submit to you that the majority of JW's are not Jewish, virgin, males and therefore unable to become one of these 144k. They counter this argument by saying that the number, 144k is literal, but the descriptors are figurative, but you can clearly see the inconsistency in their belief set simply to continue promoting their false teaching. This is only one of numerous areas they have inconsistent beliefs in their own scripture!

The main difference between Christianity and the JW is that JW do not believe that Jesus is God, Emmanuel, God with Us, as is clearly taught throughout the Holy Bible. This would be the most damaging belief as they are believing on a salvation that is no salvation at all (John 8:24, 28, 58, 14:6). To their belief I would question them on three passages in the NWT to point out yet another contradiction they are faced with. I would ask them (in their own NWT) to turn to Isaiah 44:6 and ask who is speaking when it says "I am the first, I am the last. There is no God but me." They'll readily admit, "Oh, that's Jehovah." Correct they are, that is the First Person of the Trinity speaking. But then turn them to Rev 1:17 where it is written "I am the first and the last," ask them again who is speaking when it is said "I am the first and the last." They may say that is Jehovah speaking, but many times they'll submit that is Jesus. If they acknowledge Jesus in that passage, then they cannot explain how Jesus is claiming the same title, "First and Last" as Jehovah in Isaiah 44:6 unless of course Jesus is God (second Person of the Trinity). If they state that is Jehovah speaking, then ask them when Jehovah ever died according Rev 1:18 ("I am he that liveth, and was dead: and behold, I am alive for evermore,"). He didn't, rather, Jesus Christ (second Person of the Trinity) died on the cross for the sins of mankind. This is a simple contradiction in their theology and "scripture" that hopefully they'll be able to see.



Furthermore, we see a contradiction in God allowing the worship of Jesus. In the NWT, their scripture clearly states that Jehovah will not give his glory to another (Isa 42:8, 48:11), and yet in their same writings, in John 20:28-29, we see the apostle Thomas falling down and worshipping at Jesus' feet; Jesus however does not rebuke him but receives the worship. This only again points to the inconsistency and contradictions in the teachings of the JW's.

One final note of mention is that of their belief in annihilationism. JW believe that those who are not saved, and don't accept salvation after death would be annihilated, wiped out as if they never lived at all. The unsaved have no remembrance and no eternity. This contradicts the Holy Bible where the Lake of Fire is mentioned as an eternity of torment and remembrance for those who haven't accept Jesus' free gift of eternal life. This contradicts their own Rev 20:10 where the devil, beast, and false prophet are in the "lake of fire and sulfur" in torment "day and night forever and ever," and then in Rev 20:15, it is also stated that those unsaved are thrown in the same lake of fire. Logic will speak that if the devil, beast, and false prophet are in torment forever in the lake of fire, then so will the unbelievers that are hurled in the lake of fire, in torment forever and ever. But this is a contradiction they seem to overlook and ignore. On the final note I leave with the JW, I like to tell them that if they're right and I'm wrong, I just get annihilated, no big deal, no pain, no remembrance. BUT, if they're wrong and I'm right, they are in an eternity of anguish in a literal place called Hell.

In closing, we have not even skimmed the surface of the contradictions in the JW religion, but we have seen a concise method of showing the truth to those JW that knock on your door and give things for them to ponder. These simple contradictions clearly reveal how the NWT is not a divinely inspired book, rather it is a work of fiction made by a fallible man. Do not be alarmed if this is not received well at first; after all, if you were taught (and believed) lies for years, it would be hard for you to receive also. In the end, pray for their reception and discernment in finding the truth of God and salvation in Jesus Christ.

¹ Russell, Charles T. *Millennial Dawn, Volume III, Thy Kingdom Come* (p228). Retrieved from https://archive.org/stream/ThyKingdomComeByCharlesTazeRussell/1891_MD_Thy_Kingdom_Come_1st_Ed#page/n227/mode/2up

² *Studies in Scripture Series II: The Time is at Hand* (p101). Retrieved from http://witforjesus.org/downloads/english/pdfs/jehovahs-witness/prophesy/time_is_at_hand-1911ed-p101.pdf

³ *The Watchtower, 1 October 1967* (p587). Retrieved from <http://witforjesus.org/downloads/english/pdfs/jehovahs-witness/bibleread/wt10-1-67p587.pdf>

Can You Afford Grace?

by: Ken Stodola, Senior Pastor



No matter how much you crunch the numbers, you cannot afford grace.

Recently, my wife and I were at a local shopping center and happened to walk by a jewelry store. As I waited for the anticipated question, I formulated my response. "Let's go look" she said. "Why should we, we cannot afford anything in there!" was my reply. "But we can still look at all the beautiful jewelry" came her response. We ended up in the store looking into the glass cases filled with unattainable treasures.

One of the "precious gems" in the Bible is God's grace. Who can put a value on grace?

Grace is an inexhaustible Biblical topic. Many books have been written on the amazing grace of God. Without grace, there would be no hope for humanity when confronted by the holiness of God. Our sinful condition results in a permanent separation from God. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9 "for by grace are ye saved through faith". So, without grace there is no salvation! How valuable is grace??? We know that grace is often defined as "unmerited favor" or, as we see in the Old Testament, the "lovingkindness" of the Lord. It is when God gives to man blessings and kindness that man does not deserve. Romans 3:23 tells us that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God". None of us deserve heaven and eternal life in the presence of God, but grace.....wonderful, merciful, extravagant, forgiving, redeeming GRACE. Wow. How valuable is that? Can you afford it? Can you earn it? Do you have the credit limit to secure it? NO! Grace cannot be purchased or earned from God. It is a gift that he extends to all mankind. It is best revealed in the free gift of Jesus. He left heaven, became a man, lived a sinless life, became the Passover lamb for all of mankind, and secured victory over death and hell in his physical resurrection from the dead. Jesus offered the free gift of eternal life with God to the wealthy and religious like Nicodemus in John 3 and to the poor and outcast like the Samaritan woman in John 4. In both cases, Jesus says this eternal life can be received by simple belief or faith thru the grace of God. No strings attached. No demands of reform. No "guilt trip" service after the offer. Just simple faith in Jesus for eternal life is the offer.

"Without grace there is no salvation!"

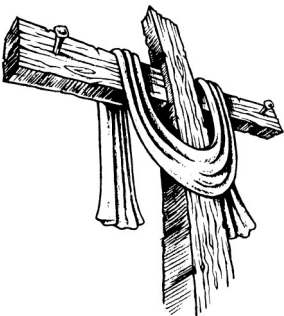
"Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. ⁵But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

(Romans 4:4-5, KJV)

Today, many Bible teachers and pastors are "frontloading" or "backloading" this offer of grace unto eternal life. Frontloading demands you must do this or that before you can drink freely from the water of salvation. Backloaders tell us that we must perform certain actions or show some kind of fruit to "prove" we are genuinely saved. They put a price on grace. It's a price that they cannot afford. None of us can afford it. Often, I have been accused of teaching "cheap grace" or "easy believism". I guess that is as opposed to "expensive grace" or "hard believism".

Consider this illustration. Often my wife will come home and tell me that she was out and saw a sign at her favorite store that said "everything on sale" or "75% off everything". She proceeds to tell me how much money she saved me. She is so excited that she made some "great deals". She knows what my response is going to be! "How much did you spend???" I do not care about percentages or sales. I care only how much money she has spent. No matter how much it was on sale, or how "cheap" it was, it took money to purchase it.

So when people ask me if I believe in "cheap" grace or "expensive" grace, I tell them there is no such thing. After the puzzled look, I explain that grace is a free gift and it does not matter if it was "cheap" or "expensive" because in both cases, it means grace cost SOMETHING and that it can be earned. And when you attach a price to grace it is no longer grace at all!! I don't believe in cheap grace, I believe in free grace! So come into Gods jewelry store and see the huge gem of grace! No, you cannot afford it. Not at any price. But if you believe Gods Word that He will freely give it to you, all you have to do is come in and receive it!!



God's grace is clearly evident in the cross, for a sinless sacrifice was given so YOU could be made righteous.

Be Sure Heaven is YOUR Home!



1. Recognize YOUR Condition: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)

No one is good enough to go to heaven on his/her own merit. No matter how much good we do, we still fall short.

2. Realize the PENALTY for Sin: "For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23)

Just as there are wages (payment) for good, there is punishment for wrong. The penalty for our sin is eternal death in a literal, real place called Hell.

3. Believe Jesus Christ Died for YOU: "But God commendeth His love for us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Jesus Christ's great love for us was shown when He died on the cross to pay our debt.

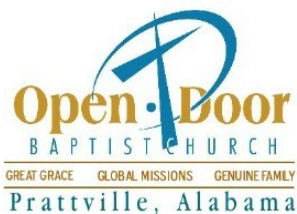
4. Trust Christ ALONE as Your Savior: "...But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Everlasting life is a gift purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ and offered freely to ALL those who call upon Him by faith.

Let us help you word a prayer. (Realize it's not the words that save, but your genuine faith in Jesus Christ):

Pray: Dear Jesus, I know I'm a sinner. Please forgive me for my sins. I ask you Jesus to cleanse me from my sin and save my soul from hell. I'm trusting you alone for eternal life and to take me to heaven when I die. Thank you for your sacrifice on the cross for my salvation, Amen!

If you prayed that prayer, and sincerely meant it, please contact us here at Open Door.



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Service Times

OD Café begins @ 9:15 am
Sunday Worship Service @ 10:00 am
Sunday Night Growth Groups @ 6:00 pm
AWANA Wednesday Night @ 6:30 pm
Wednesday Night Bible Study & Prayer @ 7:00 pm

Ministries

ABC (Alex & Braxton against Cancer)
C4C (Apologetics Ministry)
GO Program (Outreach Ministry)
Od Jobs (Resume Writing / Interview Ministry)
Od Men (Outdoor Ministry)
Od Women (Ladies Fellowship)