

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## *Gospels that Damn—Jehovah Witnesses* **Selected Scriptures**

**Keywords:** Jehovah Witnesses, Cults, false gospel, Gospel, Sin

**PowerPoint Presentation included:**

**SermonAudio Blurb:** Since the late 1800's the Jehovah Witnesses, originally known as the Russellites, have sought to preach and spread their version of a gospel. Their claim is that they alone are the people through which God works. Many people have experienced having them arrive on their doorstep seeking to share their message and many have walked away from those conversations confused. What is their message? Or to put it a different way, what gospel do they preach? Does it conform to the gospel the Scriptures set forth as the gospel that saves or is it one of many false gospels that damn a soul to eternity? This message is designed to show how the Jehovah Witnesses go wrong, badly wrong, with the gospel.

### **I. Introduction.**

- A. Today we look at the gospel according to the Jehovah Witnesses.
- B. Many are acquainted with them through one of two ways: The visits to your home or the material often found in Dr. offices and lobbies.
- C. Seen by many as a quirky subset of the Christian faith, or, because of today's culture of vague truth, they are actually being embraced by many as if they are Christians.
- D. But, no matter how you view the Jehovah Witnesses, the issue, always must come down to what they view as the problem for the world as a whole and as individuals. Then, what is the solution to the problem? The commands in light of the solution. And the promised blessings that are the result of the solution.
- E. When looking at the tactics of cults claiming to be "Christian" there are four tactics that are consistently seen and they fit nicely into the four parts of what we taught you: problem, solution, command and blessings.
  1. The first tactic is to redefine the problem in some way.

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2. The second and third tactic are to redefine the solution and command so that it is not centered only upon Jesus Christ.
3. The fourth tactic is then to redefine the blessings.

## **II. The False Gospel of Jehovah Witnesses.**

### **A. Problem.**

1. Sin by Adam and Eve. They were created perfect but chose to sin.
2. They describe humanity as imperfect and “inclined to sin” and prone to “errors.” It is not so much that they deny overt rebellion against God, but it is downplayed.
3. But here are the two greatest problems with their sense of sin and humanity: 1) how they view the soul and 2) how they view the destiny of unbelievers.
  - a. For them, the human being is a soul rather than possessing a soul. Sounds similar but it is not. Because a person merely is a soul it means he is not immortal.

### **b. This leads to the destiny of people.**

(1) 144,000.

(2) The rest of the faithful Jehovah Witnesses.

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(3)      The rest of humanity will simply be destroyed.

4.      So the problem of sin is present but greatly downplayed. The idea of being under the judgment and wrath of God is not the focus. Rather the problem is that this world is broken and it would be nicer to live in a better one.

B.      Solution.

1.      Their solution to the problem lies with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. But like all cults and false gospels, the devil truly lies in the details. Let me break this down

2.      The **preexistence** of Jesus.

3.      The **birth** of Jesus.

4.      The **death** of Jesus.

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5.      The **resurrection** of Jesus.

6.      The **return** of Jesus.

7.      But what are we commanded to do in light of their gospel?

C.      Commands.

1.      You must believe.

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2.      Second, you have to learn what the bible teaches.

3.      Third, you must repent.

4.      Fourth, you must be baptized.

5.      Fifth, You must obey whatever the Watchtower teaches is to be done.

6.      Finally, you have to be faithful all the way to the end. This means a strict obedience to Jesus and a loyalty to Jehovah.

## D.      Blessings.

1.      For the 144,000, assuming they are investigated by Jesus and found faithful, then this is what they get. They are presently justified as long as they keep that righteous status. They are anointed as priests. They are set aside for Jehovah's purposes. If they stay faithful all the way to death then they will be born again like Jesus and they will become spirit creatures. And finally they will rule in heaven with Jehovah and Jesus, who is really Michael.

2.      For the rest, they are of the earth and not destined for a spiritual, heavenly existence. So they must earn their salvation. They have no expectation of a new birth since that only applies to the special class. However, if they are able to earn their salvation then during the millennial age they will help

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- rule on earth but if they fail at any point during that time then they too will simply die and be annihilated.
3. The rest of humanity will get resurrected during the millennium in whatever condition they were when they died. Then they have another chance over the 1,000 years to attain perfection. Then, once they are judged they will be given eternal life on earth, which will become a paradise. Or they will simply be destroyed.
- E. What is the core issue? It is a false understanding of who God is.
- F. The challenge with their bible.
1. One thing that you can use if you engage someone in the Watchtower Society is that they have a strong commitment to the bible. So in talking with them you can at least go to the bible with them rather than having them reject the bible.
  2. They use a version of the bible called the *New World Translation*. They believe that it is the best, most accurate translation of the Greek and Hebrew manuscripts.
- G. The idea of the Trinity:
1. Plurality
    - a. Genesis 1:26.

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b.      Genesis 3:22.

c.      Isaiah 6:8.

d.      Jeremiah 23:5-6.

2.      Angel of the Lord.

a.      Genesis 16:7-13.

b.      Zechariah 3:1-2.

3.      Isaiah 48:16.

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4.      Matthew 3:16-4:1.

5.      John 1:1.

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A.      Time does not permit us to look at the many, many passages that refute the teachings of the Jehovah Witnesses regarding God.
  - 1.      I recommend you relisten to the series I did on the Trinity.
  - 2.      These are likely found under “resources” on the website and go to the sermon archives.
- B.      Here is the take-away for today.
  - 1.      The gospel preached by the Jehovah Witnesses is another soul-damning gospel that saves no one.
  - 2.      It is premised off of a false understanding of who God is as revealed in the bible. It is premised off of a false understanding of what Jesus did in His death and resurrection.
  - 3.      And the commands given are the same old lie every cult or world religion tells us. You must do certain things and if you do them well enough you can be saved in some way.
  - 4.      And finally the blessings given are cheap compared to the inexhaustible blessing promised by God to all who believe.



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- C.      So do not look at a Jehovah Witness and think they are just a little off but still ok. But also do not look at them as your enemy, but as a soul who needs to hear the truly good news of Jesus Christ.

## **Benediction**

**Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

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Inside of Pastor Matt's old Bible

How can we know God today?

- 1) Through Christ: Jn 1:1; 1:18; 17:3; I Jn 5:20; Mt 11:25-30
- 2) By the Holy Spirit: I Cor. 2:10-12
- 3) Through the Word: Ps. 19; 119:11, 105; Jn 17:3; 20:31; I Cor. 2:13; 13:5, 13
- 4) Through Prayer: Eph 1:17-23; 3:14-19

Knowing God includes fear & obedience.  
I Ki. 8:43 of II Chr. 6:33; Is 11:2; Ps. 119:79;  
Prov. 1:7; 9:10; Deu. 10:12-13

It includes a changed life  
ISam. 2:12; Jer. 22:12-13;  
I Jn. 2:3

Requirement to know God  
Jn 14:21; I Jn. 2:3

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<p><u>The Trinity</u></p> <p><u>God as one</u> Deu. 6:4</p> <p><u>God as alone</u> Deu. 32:36-39 I Chr. 17:20 Ps. 86:10 Is. 43:10, 11 Is. 44:6 Is. 45:5-6, 18 Is. 46:9</p> <p><u>God speaks in plural number</u> Gen. 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Is. 6:8; 42:21-23</p> <p><u>God as the Angel of the Lord</u> Gen. 16-7-13; Ex 3:3, 4, 6, 13, 14; Zech. 3:1-2; Jg. 6:11, 16, 20-24; 13:21-22</p> <p><u>God as concerning the Spirit of God</u> Gen. 1:2; Ex 31:1-3; Ps. 51:11; Zech. 4:16</p> <p><u>God related to the number three</u> Num. 6:23-27; Is. 6:3; 48:16;</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100</p>	<p><u>The Trinity</u></p> <p><u>God as one</u> Mt. 19:17 Mk. 12:29 Ro. 3:30 I Cor. 8:4 Jame 2:19</p> <p><u>God as 3 Persons</u> <u>Father</u>: Mt 11:25; I Cor. 8:6; Jn 6:27 <u>H.S.</u>: Act 5:3-4; I Cor. 3:16; II Tim 3:16 <u>II Pet. 1:1</u></p> <p><u>Christ</u>: Mt, 11:23; Jn. 1:1, 14; 20:28; Ro, 9:5; Phil. 2:5-8</p>	<p><u>3 Persons of Godhead Associated</u> Mt, 3:16-17; 28:19; I Cor. 12:4-6; II Cor. 13:14; Eph. 5:18-20; I Pet. 1:2; Jude 20-21; II The. 2:13-14</p> <p><u>3 Persons considered One</u> Jn. 10:30; 14:19; Ro. 8:9-10; II Cor. 3:17; I Cor. 3:16; Jn 14:16, 18, 23 Act. 5:3-4; Mt. 28:19</p>
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