

WHO ARE THEY?

As of 2006 there were a reported 6,741,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in 236 states and countries around the world.ⁱ If you are a homeowner the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, also known as Jehovah's Witnesses, will probably visit your home at least 2 or 3 times per year.ⁱⁱ They are men and women in need of God's grace and salvation. You are the messengers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You are light in their dark world, and you can be a part of reaching them for the Lord.

Our text gives a great overview of the history and teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses, so be sure to refer to that. But we do want to spend a few moments discussing some of the background of the missionaries at your door so that you can have a fuller understanding of how desperately they need the true Gospel of grace. These are truly just a few 'fast facts' on the group.

1. Whether they would admit it or not, the doctrine of the Watchtower Society places Jehovah's Witnesses under terrible bondage.

For example, Jehovah's Witnesses are forbidden to:

- Sing The National Anthemⁱⁱⁱ
- Receive Blood Transfusions^{iv}
- Vote In Elections^v
- Celebrate Holidays^{vi}
- Join The YMCA^{vii}
- Contribute To The Red Cross^{viii}
- Have Tattoos^{ix}
- Attend A Wedding In Another Church^x
- Read Negative Information About The Watchtower Society^{xi}
- Buy Girl Scout Cookies^{xii}
- Own A Gun, Go To A Nightclub, or Play Chess^{*xiii}

These are only a few of the varied and heavy prohibitions placed on every Jehovah's Witness.

2. Since 1897 the Watchtower Society's leaders have been making fraudulent prophecies publicly and in their literature.^{xiv} They are the largest publisher in the free world.^{xv}

3. Their bible is wrought with changes and perversions of God's Word.^{xvi}

Take a look at this chart:

A Comparison of the Bible & the Deceptive New World Translation	
The Holy Bible	The Deceptive New World Translation
<p>John 1:1 — "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."</p> <p>This is a clear declaration that Jesus (the Word) is God.</p>	<p>John 1:1 — "In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god."</p> <p>This change was made to support the Jehovah's Witnesses denial that Jesus is God.</p>
<p>Colossians 1:16 — "For by him [Jesus] were all things created ... all things were created by him and for him."</p> <p>This teaches that Jesus is the Creator of all, and is not a created being himself.</p>	<p>Colossians 1:16 — "because by means of him all [other] things were created ... All [other] things have been created through him and for him."</p> <p>The word "other" has been wrongly added to support the Jehovah's Witnesses false teaching that Jesus himself is a created angel.</p>
<p>Hebrews 1:8 — "But about the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever."</p> <p>Note here that God the Father calls Jesus the Son, "God."</p>	<p>Hebrews 1:8 — "But with reference to the Son: 'God is your throne forever and ever..."</p> <p>The order of the words has been wrongly changed by the Jehovah's Witness organization to hide the fact that Jesus, (the Son) is called God.</p>

WHAT DO I DO?

So what do we do when a pair of Jehovah's Witnesses comes to our door? There are key things we need to remember when dealing with any of these cults or teachings. First, remember that our goal is not to 'beat' them, outsmart them or out-debate them. Our goal is not to make them ashamed, but to draw them closer to Jesus, the real Jesus so that they might be saved. Second, don't argue about what you think they believe. Trust me, the Jehovah's Witness at your door knows a lot more about what they believe than we know, so if you find yourself saying, "well you believe this!" a lot, then you might be on a fruitless track. Third, your window of opportunity is often very short, but it is very precious. Most of us get afraid to share our faith because we're not sure what we might be asked or how we should present ourselves.

Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses are 2 groups of people who will **ACTIVELY SEEK US OUT!** They are coming to us and are willing to be a captive audience, even if only for a short amount of time.

When they do we need to be prayed up and ready to talk to them about an issue or 2. We need to be ready to give them something other than an angry argument.

Remember why you're here learning about these people. They are in total bondage; they are on a track to a Christ-less eternity. As God loves us, He also loves them and wishes that they not perish, but come into a real relationship, a saving relationship with Him. The first thing you can do for them is pray for them, pray for the Kingdom Hall in our city, pray that God would close their doors and tear down their abominable teachings. Then pray that the Holy Spirit would give you opportunities to share with some JW's and that He would give you the words you need to hit a nerve with the people at your door. Pray that God would give you a heart of love and compassion and patience for these people.

The key to reaching out to the JW's is to do so in love and mercy, just as Jesus would. Their teaching is heretical, they are leading people astray, but they need love, not anger, hospitality, not hatred. After prayer comes preparation. That's what you're here for, and we want to give you a few ways you can lovingly counter the teachings of these groups.

Our text for this class really gives I think the easiest, most excellent way to refute the teachings of the Watchtower Society. Flag those verses in Revelation or make yourself up a little flash card with the references on them. Take them through those verses and see what God does.

There are other issues that you can address as well. Some will be more easily spoken about by JW's and some will cause them to walk out the door. As you prepare and pray God will be faithful to bring to mind the words and questions that the individuals you are talking to need to hear.

Since the beginning of the organization they have had issues with prophecy. Though a JW will probably not want to discuss this issue, it never hurts to gather some information on the history of their group. If you have a JW at work or in the family you might want to ask them about Deuteronomy 13.1-5.

Here are some other questions and issues that they might be more inclined to talk about:

- Who Is The Alpha And The Omega?
 - o Revelation 1.8 - Revelation 21.5-7 - Revelation 22.13 - Revelation 1.17-18
- How Many Gods Are There?
 - o Isaiah 44.6-8 - Deuteronomy 4.35,39 - John 17.3-5 - John 1.1
- I And The Father Are One
 - o John 10.30-33
- Why Did Jesus Accept Worship As God From Thomas?
 - o John 20.28
- Jesus' Witnesses
 - o Acts 1.8

- Angels Refuse Worship
 - o (Angels Refusing) Revelation 19.10 - Revelation 22.8-9
 - o (Jesus Receiving) Hebrews 1.6 - (JW Bible Omits since 1970)

- How Could The Gospel Change?
 - o Galatians 1.1-10

- What About Peter's And Paul's View Of Government?
 - o Romans 13.1-7 - 1 Peter 2.13-17

THE BOTTOM LINE

Jehovah's Witnesses are a difficult group to reach out to because they have no interest in discussing the shortcomings of their doctrines, their organization or their methods. They will not pray with you and do not want you to ask them probing, accusatory questions.

We need to pray for them, reach out to them, and be ready for when they come to our door.

If you encounter a Jehovah's Witness I encourage you to get their name, phone number and address so that you can pray for them and follow up with evangelistic ministry. Just as they come to your door, so you can meet them where they are at in different ways. An organization named MacGregor Ministries will confidentially mail witnessing materials to the homes of Jehovah's Witnesses. You can send them a card or a letter telling them about the love of Jesus.

They need help, we have help. Be ready to give them aid when the Holy Spirit brings them to you.

RESOURCES

http://www.calvaryhanford.com/transcripts/false_teaching/Jehovah'sWitne.html

<http://www.macgregorministries.org/>

<http://www.jude3.net/JWIDX.HTM>

Google

Fast Facts On False Teachings (Carlson, Decker)

- ⁱ http://www.watchtower.org/e/statistics/worldwide_report.htm
- ⁱⁱ http://www.macgregorministries.org/jehovahs_witnesses/bewareofwt/protect.html
- ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.
- ^{iv} http://www.watchtower.org/e/hb/index.htm?article=article_06.htm
- ^v <http://www.jwfiles.com/vote.htm>
- ^{vi} <http://www.jwfiles.com/jw-cant.htm>
- ^{vii} Ibid.
- ^{viii} Ibid.
- ^{ix} Ibid.
- ^x Ibid.
- ^{xi} Ibid.
- ^{xii} <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/2919/reasons.html>
- ^{xiii} <http://www.jwfiles.com/jw-cant.htm> (the chess prohibition has possibly been lifted)
http://www.watchtowerinformationsservice.org/index.php/watchtower_quotes/do-not/chess/
- ^{xiv} http://www.carm.org/jw/false_prophecies.htm
- ^{xv} Fast Facts On False Teachings pg. 117
- ^{xvi} <http://www.irr.org/English-JW/4-Dangers.html>

