

Bible or Watchtower Trained Conscience – Which?

AS with so many other subjects, there have been many fine Watchtower articles about our conscience and how God created us with this “inner sense of right and wrong”...

*A good conscience, one that is **Bible-trained**, can remind us of the way in which (God’s) spirit wants us to walk ... By learning to rely on our **trained Christian conscience**, we can make good choices even when there is no specific direction in writing... A clean, **Bible-trained conscience** is a good gift from God.¹⁹³*

The men of the Governing Body have taken God’s gift of personal conscience away from Jehovah’s Witnesses.

This all sounds about right. But what Jehovah’s Witnesses don’t notice is that the men of their Governing Body have taken this gift away from them. These men have made themselves the determiners of what are and what are not matters of conscience. Here are just a couple examples that show this to be the case...

Example #1: There is “no specific direction in writing” in the Bible about saying “Happy Anniversary” or “Happy Birthday.” But Jehovah’s Witnesses are only allowed to say “Happy Anniversary.” They will be disfellowshipped if they say “Happy Birthday.”¹⁹⁴

There may be many Witnesses who don’t see much difference between the above two greetings and don’t understand why saying a simple “Happy Birthday” would be deserving of the “everlasting punishment” Jesus mentioned in Matthew 25:46. If it wasn’t “God’s organization” making

¹⁹³ May 1, 2000 *Watchtower*, p. 16

¹⁹⁴ They will be disfellowshipped if they do not repent from saying “Happy Birthday” and promise never to say it again. The typical counsel that elders give in such cases usually comes down to, “Do you believe the Society is God’s organization?” And then, “Even if the Society is mistaken on this matter, are you willing to wait for Jehovah to correct his organization?” If they answer “No” to either question they will be disfellowshipped for apostasy.

such an issue about this it wouldn't bother their consciences to say "Happy Birthday." But they bow to the collective conscience of the Governing Body.¹⁹⁵ If these men ever change their minds and decide to leave it up to individual conscience, it is possible that some Witnesses will acknowledge birthdays while others may not. But at least their decisions would be based on their own consciences.¹⁹⁶

Example #2: "Alternative Civilian Service": When Jehovah's Witnesses refuse military service some countries offer them a non-military alternative such as working in a civilian hospital on weekends for a specified period of time. For decades Witnesses were required to refuse the offer which meant they would go to jail. Those who accepted it were to be considered as having disassociated themselves from the congregation and therefore were treated just as if they had been disfellowshipped. Most Witnesses went to jail. This was the Governing Body's unyielding position until the May 1, 1996 *Watchtower* when they finally left the decision to accept alternative service up to individual conscience.

The Point: Even when Witnesses are able to exercise their conscience it is only because their Governing Body grants them that right. There is no allowance for conscientious disagreement with their current teachings.

Even when Witnesses are able to exercise their own conscience it is only because the Governing Body grants them that right.

"Why Do You Believe What You Believe?"

Under this heading the Governing Body says, "*The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrines every person's 'right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.'* This right includes the freedom 'to change his religion or belief if he wants to do so.'" But as has been shown, Witnesses who try to exercise any of these human rights will be disfellowshipped.¹⁹⁷ - See Chapter 10

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

¹⁹⁵ If they don't bow to the Governing Body's conscience they will be disfellowshipped.

¹⁹⁶ One of the problems the Governing Body has created for itself comes from their insistence that all Witnesses must "speak in agreement." This makes it difficult for them to leave anything up to individual conscience because that could lead to a situation where Witnesses do *not* all "speak in agreement."

¹⁹⁷ August 1, 2001 *Watchtower*, p. 4. Witnesses who insist on their right to freedom of thought, conscience or the freedom to change their religion, will be disfellowshipped for apostasy.

What If This Was Another Religion?

IF the teachings and prophecies considered in this study had come from some other religion, the Governing Body would likely apply all those terms mentioned back on page 56 to it and its teachings...

“falsehoods”
 “false stories”
 “false teachers”
 “false teachings”
 “false doctrines”
 “false prophets”
 “false prophecies”
 “false religious views”
 “false religious teachings”
 “false religious philosophies”
 “doctrines with pagan religious routes”
 “the disfiguring of God”
 “God dishonoring”
 “pagan doctrines”
 “godless myths”

If some other religion was guilty of doing what the Watchtower organization has done, the Governing Body would identify it as part of Satan’s organization.

If that same religion claimed to be God’s organization and his sole channel of communication to all mankind and that it was the only true religion, Jehovah’s Witnesses would reject such claims and say that its historical record and the present conduct of its religious leaders proves that it is part of Satan’s organization – “the world Empire of false religion.”¹⁹⁸

If its religious leaders did what the Society’s religious leaders have done in order to ignore, alter, misrepresent and cover-up their historical record, the Governing Body would likely apply the same terms to them as Jesus applied to the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23.

What would the Governing body say about members of that religion who were accused of being apostates just be-

¹⁹⁸ The Society’s interpretation of the “Babylon the Great” of Revelation 18:1-5

cause they could not consciously accept everything their religious leaders required them to believe, even if what they were teaching wasn't true? It is likely that they would commend them for following their God-given conscience rather than bowing to the dictatorship of their religious leaders.

If Jehovah's Witnesses saw some other religion doing all the things their religion is guilty of doing, they could only wonder why anyone would want to have anything to do with it. And so that brings up the fair question: Why do *they* have anything to do with the Watchtower religion since it *is* guilty of doing all these things? What makes the difference?

It is their concept of "the organization" that makes the difference. It forces them to either not notice that their religion is guilty of doing all these things, or else to ignore all the things it is guilty of doing because in their minds, "No matter what happens it is *still* God's organization." If anything is wrong then it is their responsibility to wait patiently until God sees fit to straighten things out in his own due time.¹⁹⁹ Those who cannot wait are thought of as having "turned their backs on God" and therefore deserve to be disfellowshipped and shunned "in order to keep God's organization clean."²⁰⁰

Again and again, the reasoning of both the Witnesses and their Governing Body is dominated and controlled by their concept of "God's organization."²⁰¹

NEXT: Even when Witnesses begin to become concerned about what their religion is guilty of doing, there are many factors that make the thought of leaving an extremely difficult decision to make.

If Jehovah's Witnesses saw some other religion doing what their religion is guilty of doing they could only wonder why anyone would want to have anything to do with it.

¹⁹⁹ See the 'You shall not be unsettled by anything that happens' reasoning from the May 1, 1957 *Watchtower* on page 13.

²⁰⁰ See next chapter p. 110.

²⁰¹ Review Raymond Franz's comments on pages 11 and 12.

No Honorable Way Out of the Watchtower Religion

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FOR most Jehovah’s Witnesses, leaving the Watchtower religion is not just a simple matter of saying, “I quit.” The Governing Body has made it a very painful, life-altering process. There is no honorable way out of this religion.

The God’s-organization reasoning that has been inculcated into their minds goes like this...

*‘Since the Society is God’s organization then **there can never be a legitimate reason for anyone to ever leave it.** Even in the remote possibility that something is wrong, then it is the obligation of God’s people to wait for him to make whatever corrections he sees fit to make. Therefore, when anyone does leave, there must be something seriously wrong with that one.’²⁰²*

And then when “God’s organization” demonizes those who leave as ‘apostate servants of Satan the Devil,’²⁰³ the Witnesses who remain cannot help but believe that such ones must have “turned to the dark side”²⁰⁴ or, the way they usually express it, “turned their backs on God,” when in fact their consciences can no longer allow them to believe that the Society is God’s organization.²⁰⁵

There are only two options open to those who cannot accept the Society’s claim of divine authority. They can (1) voluntarily disassociate themselves, or else (2) they will be forcefully disfellowshipped.²⁰⁶ In either case, verses 9-11 of 2 John are applied to them...

²⁰² If the Society is *not* God’s organization then this reasoning is *not* reasonable.

²⁰³ March 1, 2002 *Watchtower*, p.11

²⁰⁴ An expression from “Star Wars.”

²⁰⁵ There is no allowance for freedom of conscience when it comes to disagreeing with what the Society is currently teaching – even if what they are teaching isn’t true.- See Chapter 10.

²⁰⁶ Some Witnesses try to leave quietly in order to avoid disassociation or disfellowshipping. It may depend on how aggressive their elders are whether or not they will be allowed to simply walk away. It will definitely depend on whether or not the one leaving is caught saying anything against “God’s organization.”

*Everyone that pushes ahead and does not remain in **the teaching of the Christ** does not have God...Never receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him. For he that says a greeting to him is a sharer in his wicked works.*

This Scripture is presented to the Witnesses as justification for their requirement to shun those who leave. Those who do not shun them lay *themselves* open to being disfellowshipped. Although John referred only to those who rejected “the teaching of *the Christ*,” the Governing Body says that this includes the teaching of *the Watchtower Society*. They apply John’s words as if he had said...

*‘Everyone that pushes ahead and does not remain in **the teaching of the Watchtower** does not have God. Never receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him. For he that says a greeting to him is a sharer in his wicked works.’²⁰⁷*

This very application showed up at the “Committee Meeting” (or trial²⁰⁸) of Gene Flanigan. The elders kept telling him that by not accepting a particular teaching of the Watchtower Society he was not remaining in the teaching of the Christ according to 2 John 9-11. He then asked, “Do you want me to remove the words ‘the teaching of the Christ’ from my Bible and replace them with ‘the teaching of the Watchtower Society?’” One elder answered, “Yes, because there is no difference.” Flanigan then handed them his letter of disassociation.

But why do elders and most Witnesses tend to think this way? By now the answer should be obvious: It is their concept of “the organization” that molds their thinking, their attitudes and their judgments.”²⁰⁹

Although they are not required to totally shun members of their **immediate families living in the same house**, it is not difficult to imagine the strain that exists when a hus-

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²⁰⁷ Although Witnesses may not *consciously* think this way, this *is* the way it works. Those who reject any “teaching of the Watchtower” (even the ones that are not true) are viewed as apostates

²⁰⁸ A “Committee Meeting” is normally presided over by 3 elders. No spectators are allowed. In his *Apocalypse Delayed*, James Penton explains: “The system of judicial committees serves as the ultimate control mechanism among the Witness faithful, and a terrible one it is.” p. 249

²⁰⁹ See Raymond Franz’s statement on pages 11 and 12.

band or wife is thought of as “an apostate servant of Satan the Devil!” Many family relationships have been destroyed by what the Governing Body refers to as “a loving arrangement.”²¹⁰

Keeping God’s Organization Clean?

They present their disfellowshipping and shunning-of-apostates policy as the Bible’s way of “keeping God’s organization clean.” But this is another instance where looking at their teachings that were not true brings out a different reason that has nothing to do with keeping an organization that belongs to God clean.

Take for example their teaching about the generation of 1914 that the Governing Body didn’t realize was a mistake until 1995. Who was responsible for making the organization unclean during those years they said that that false teaching was one of “the teachings of Jehovah”?²¹¹

Was it those Witnesses who could not conscientiously accept their teaching and were therefore disfellowshipped for apostasy in accordance with the Governing Body’s instructions in their September 1, 1980 letter? Or was it the men who created that teaching and insisted that it was “the Creator’s promise”²¹² and then placed it in hundreds of millions of copies of their literature and spread them all over the world for decades?²¹³ How does disfellowshipping people who cannot accept a false teaching keep an organization clean?

And so, what *does* disfellowshipping and shunning Witnesses who disagree with the Governing Body really accomplish? For one thing, as mentioned in Chapter 10, it maintains their ‘unity of belief at all costs’—a unity at the *expense of truth rather than a unity based on truth.*

How does disfellowshipping people who reject a false teaching keep an organization clean?

²¹⁰ See September 8, 1996 *Awake!* article, “Why Disfellowshipping Is a Loving Arrangement,” p. 26. See also the August, 2002 *Kingdom Ministry*.

²¹¹ See Governing Body’s letter on pages 78 and 79.

²¹² See the masthead page of every *Awake!* magazine prior to November of 1995.

²¹³ That false teaching also referred to on page 716 of the *Proclaimers* book that was written in 1993 – two years before that teaching was dropped in 1995. It says, “The ‘generation’ that was alive in 1914 is fast approaching. The end cannot be far off.”

But perhaps even more important to the men of the Governing Body is that their disfellowshipping/shunning policy effectively blocks the majority of Witnesses who don't know what is going on from finding out things about the organization that the Governing Body prefers they don't know.

They do have a provision for reinstating “apostates” and thereby removing their apostate label. All they have to do is show “true repentance” to their local elders’ satisfaction. But how does one repent from understanding the truth about something before the Governing Body understands it?²¹⁴ Do they say to their elders, “I’m so sorry that I correctly understood the truth about the generation of 1914 before Jehovah revealed it to his organization”?

How does one repent from finding out that the Watchtower Society is not God’s organization or that its Governing Body is not always honest? It would seem that in such cases the repentance needs to come from those who have been responsible for the false teachings and the misleading information. So far that has never happened.

The above may help explain why most Jehovah’s Witnesses are not too anxious to start a process that may end up convincing them that the Society isn’t God’s organization—which in turn will likely result in their being disfellowshipped—which in turn will result in the loss of all their friends. And unless their family members are also ready to face the truth, they will likely lose their close relationship with them—even the possible loss of their marriage mates and children.²¹⁵

But as difficult as it is to walk away from this religion, there are those who have been able to do it. Many of them are now trying to help others come to know what they discovered by using a means that has become the Watchtower’s worst nightmare.

How does one repent from finding out that the Watchtower Society is not God’s organization?

Those thinking about leaving must be willing to face the possibility of the loss of relationships with their family members who do not leave with them.

²¹⁴ When Witnesses are disfellowshipped for rejecting one of the Society’s teachings that the Governing Body later discovers was not true, they will remain disfellowshipped. But the charge against them changes from “not keeping up with God’s organization” to “running ahead of God’s organization.” No one is allowed to stop believing a false teaching before the Governing Body stops teaching it. – See their 9/1/80 letter on page 78.

²¹⁵ Go to any search engine on the Internet and type, “Jehovah’s Witnesses.” Many ex-Witnesses have placed their personal experiences there. See Chapter 18, “The Internet – The Watchtower’s Worst Nightmare.”

The Internet – The Watchtower’s Worst Nightmare

The Governing Body has no legitimate defense against what they and their predecessors have done. They can only try to keep Jehovah’s Witnesses from realizing what they and their predecessors have done.

IF the Society’s literature is their greatest enemy, then *the Internet is their worst nightmare*. This is because their greatest enemy, which contains (1) everything they have ever said that wasn’t true, and (2) everything they have ever said to cover up what they have said that wasn’t true—is plastered all over the Internet for the whole world to see. The Governing Body doesn’t appreciate this arrangement because (1) they have no control over the information that is being made available, and (2) they have no *legitimate* defense for what they and their predecessors have done.

Their only defense has been to resort to their weapon of choice—Watchtower propaganda. It is designed to convince Jehovah’s Witnesses not to look at anything anyone has to say about the Society or its Governing Body...

*Some **apostates** are increasingly using...**the Internet** to spread false information²¹⁶ about Jehovah’s Witnesses. As a result, when sincere individuals do research on our beliefs, they may stumble across **apostate propaganda**... Avoiding all contact with these opponents will protect us from their corrupt thinking.*
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As usual, their propaganda does not focus on any facts but immediately resorts to their favorite name-calling word “apostates” so that “sincere individuals” will ‘reject the information on the Internet on the basis of the negative label instead of weighing any of the evidence for themselves.’²¹⁸ Their propaganda doesn’t protect anyone from *their own* “false information” and “corrupt thinking” which springs from living their illusion.

²¹⁶ Most of the “information” that is being provided on the Internet is the Society’s own literature. Whatever is “false” in their literature is not the fault of those who are putting it on the Internet.

²¹⁷ May 1, 2000 *Watchtower*, p. 10. Another ‘weapon’ they have used is to try to shut down websites that allow readers to examine the Society’s older literature. See <http://quotes.watchtower.ca/>

²¹⁸ See Chapter 9, “Watchtower Propaganda Keeps Them Captive”

Just as the religious leaders in the first century tried everything they could think of to convince the Jews not to listen to anything Jesus or his disciples had to say about them, the Watchtower's religious leaders do everything they can think of to convince Jehovah's Witnesses not to listen to anything anyone has to say about them or their organization.²¹⁹

And just like those religious leaders in the first century had to misrepresent Jesus and his disciples in order to convince the Jews that they deserved to be dead, the Governing Body misrepresents those they call "apostates" today in order to convince Jehovah's Witnesses that they deserve to be considered *as* dead.²²⁰

As mentioned on page 73, if the Society's religious leaders had told the truth about the organization's history in the first place, they would not now have to work so hard to prevent their followers from learning about it.

The evidence considered in this study makes up only a small portion of that which exists. But no matter how much there is or how it is presented, evidence will not benefit those who refuse to look at it as the Governing Body instructs Jehovah's Witnesses to do. Evidence can only help those who are not only willing to make contact with it, but then are able to get the sense of what it means.

NEXT: When everything is taken into consideration it's a wonder that anyone ever 'escapes' from the Watchtower religion. In order to permanently set themselves free from it they will need to come to realize that the concept that has been holding them captive is not true.

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²¹⁹ On page 31 of the March 15, 1987 *Watchtower* they explain, "The (Jews in Jesus' day) had permitted their opinion of Jesus to be shaped by the religious leaders who hated him because he had exposed them as false teachers whose actions were not in harmony with their claims of being representatives of the true God." And yet *this statement perfectly fits the way it is with the Watchtower's religious leaders and Jehovah's Witnesses today!* Witnesses have permitted their opinion of "apostates" to be shaped by their religious leaders who hate them because they have exposed them as false teachers whose actions are not in harmony with their claims of being representatives of the true God. It is fascinating to observe how people (who are captives of an illusory concept) can have the ability to notice a serious mistake made by others, but are unable to notice when they are making the exact same mistake.

²²⁰ Witnesses are instructed to view all those who have been disfellowshipped or disassociated as though they were literally dead. This helps to assure that they will never want to have anything to do with "apostates."

The Key To Their Escape

The key to unlock themselves from their captivity is to come to realize that the Watchtower Society is not God's organization.

SINCE the concept that holds Jehovah's Witnesses captive is their belief that the Society *is* God's organization, then the key to releasing themselves from their captivity is to come to realize that it *isn't* God's organization.

This sounds simple enough in view of the fact that all the evidence they need to know is so abundant and readily available.²²¹ It *would* have been simple for them if they had seen the evidence before they got baptized. And as explained in Chapter 16, it would be simple for them today if it was some other religion that was involved. But because they *are* baptized and it *is* their own religion, it is extremely difficult for most of them to want to even look for this key let alone find it and then use it to unlock themselves and walk away from the Watchtower religion.

As shown in Chapter 3, it isn't for any lack of evidence that prevents them from realizing that Jesus would never have appointed anyone associated with the Watchtower Society to anything in 1919. It is their *unwillingness* to look at the evidence and/or their failure to understand it in connection with Matthew 24:45-47. This is that one mistake they have all made.²²² If they had not made it, it seems likely that they would not now be associated the Watchtower Society. This is suggested by the fact that Witnesses who *have* corrected that mistake no longer believe that the Watchtower Society is God's organization.

NEXT: In order to escape the concept holding them captive, something more powerful than evidence is needed no matter how undeniable or unequivocal it may be.

²²¹ That evidence is contained in their own literature. Go to any Internet search engine and type "Jehovah's Witnesses." Many ex-Witnesses are simply trying to help Jehovah's Witnesses look at the things in their own literature that they have missed.

²²² See Chapter 5, "The One Mistake All Jehovah's Witnesses Have Made"

Evidence Alone Is Not Enough

*“We have all experienced the futility of trying to change a strong conviction ... Suppose an individual believes something with his whole heart [which Witnesses do]; suppose further that he has a commitment to this belief [which Witnesses have], that he has taken irrevocable actions because of it [which Witnesses have done]; finally, suppose that he is presented with evidence, **unequivocal and undeniable evidence**, that his belief is wrong: what will happen? The individual will frequently emerge, not only unshaken, but even more convinced of the truth of his beliefs than ever before.”²²³*

Jehovah’s Witnesses are very familiar with the above phenomenon. They have observed it many times during their door-to-door and Bible Study ministry while ‘trying to change the strong convictions’ of others. But what they have not noticed is that others have experienced this same phenomenon when trying to change *the Witnesses’* strong convictions.

I had spent 20 years trying to help others learn about what I had mistakenly thought was “the Truth.” I then spent my final year as a Witness trying to help the local elders come to learn that what we thought was the Truth—wasn’t. And while I was not surprised to discover that the majority of non-Witnesses had no interest in anything I had to say about our religion, I was very surprised at the time to discover that none of the elders had any interest in anything that I had to say about our religion either.

The following personal experience helped to teach me that “unequivocal and undeniable evidence” is not the determining factor as to whether people with “a strong conviction” in an illusion will be able to get the sense of what has happened to them.

Unequivocal and Undeniable Evidence

(Jehovah’s Witnesses and The Mexican Army First Reserve)

I gave each elder in my congregation copies of official Watchtower letters to and from the Branch Office in Mexico which showed that President Knorr had allowed the

Something other than unequivocal, undeniable evidence is needed for Jehovah’s Witnesses to be able to get the sense of what has happened to them.

²²³ *When Prophecies Fail* (1956), p. 4

The Society's president permitted Witnesses in Mexico to illegally bribe government officials in order to have them falsify a document which enrolled them in the Mexican Army First Reserve.

Witnesses in that country to illegally bribe government officials in order to have them falsify a certificate, which then indicated that they had successfully completed one year of military basic training and were enrolled in the Mexican Army First Reserve.²²⁴ (Witnesses in all other parts of the world are told that such conduct is unacceptable.)

I tried as gently as I could to explain to the elders that I had come across this information but could not verify if it was true or not. I asked them to write to the Governing Body just to inquire if there was anything to these letters. I wanted them to see the Governing Body's reaction to a legitimate question that I knew they would have no intention of answering. But they refused.

They were not concerned in the slightest whether the letters were true. Their only concern was that I had them. They asked, "Where did you get these letters?" I said that they were included in the book written by former Governing Body member Raymond Franz. They then asked, "What are you doing reading a book written by an apostate?" That was their only response to these letters.

Later I was able to sit down with the congregation's most humble elder and carefully go through the letters so that he understood what they were saying. His only response was,

"If the Society isn't God's organization then I might as well eat, drink and be merry."

'If the Society is not God's organization then there is no God!'

I understood him to mean that as far as he was concerned, if the Society isn't God's organization then *there is no God!*²²⁵ When the other elders reached the point of not wanting me to show them anything else, they made the following private comments to me...

"I would rather go to my grave being deceived than to find out that the Society isn't who they say they are."

"They can't tell us the truth about the organization's history because if they did the organization would fall apart."

²²⁴ See "Double Standards" in *Crisis of Conscience*. The letters were copied with the author's permission.

²²⁵ The Governing Body is well aware of these letters. But they have never attempted to explain them.

“I know there are problems. But I can wait 30 years for Jehovah to correct his organization.”

“I don’t care if every member of the Governing Body is apostate. I will do whatever they say because I know that Jehovah is using this organization no matter what.”

These statements came from the “spiritually mature” men that the Governing Body had appointed “under the guidance of the Holy Spirit” to shepherd the local congregation. These are the ones the members of the congregation look to for protection against those who would deceive and mislead them.²²⁶

But how can an elder protect his congregation from being deceived if he himself would rather be deceived than to have to face the truth? How can an elder protect anyone from apostates if he doesn’t care if every member of his Governing Body is apostate? And how can an elder protect the congregation from being misled if he is perfectly willing to allow his own Governing Body to mislead them? The answer of course is, he cannot.

As long as elders are unable to face the truth they cannot protect anyone from being misled by their religious leaders who themselves are unable to face the truth. When loyalty to the Society,²²⁷ no matter what happens, takes precedence over loyalty to the truth, no matter what happens, *those who lead will mislead and those who follow will be misled.*

Eventually the elders did come up with the answer to all my concerns. What happened was that a former elder was complaining to me about how the elders had unfairly deleted him as an elder a while back. I recommended that he read *Crisis of Conscience*. I said that it might help him understand why elders think and act the way they do. The next day he handed the book back to me (without reading any of it) and said, “We need someone to lead us by the hand.” He then reported me to the local elders who subsequently disfellowshipped me for apostasy. In this way they apparently felt that they were keeping God’s organization clean.

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²²⁶ Notice how their concept of “God’s organization” controlled their thinking.

²²⁷ I tried to resign as an elder in 1978. They rejected my request and instead *deleted* me on the grounds of “Disloyalty to the Society.” At the time I felt like I was being charged with being disloyal to God!

A couple of days before they announced my disfellowshipping I hand-delivered about a hundred copies of a ten-page letter to members of the congregation in order to give them the opportunity to hear my side of the story; to see some of the evidence that I knew their elders had no intention of showing them. As far as I know, not a single one of those letters had any effect on anyone.²²⁸

Why Ten Thousand Words Won't Make Any Difference

I came across a saying that may help to explain an underlying factor that nullifies unequivocal and undeniable evidence. It went something like this...

When ten thousand words won't make any difference, but one word can make all the difference...

*When dealing with those who **are** ready to face the truth, one word may make all the difference. But if they are **not** ready to face the truth, then ten thousand words won't make any difference.²²⁹*

My ten thousand words didn't make any difference. And it did seem that it was because no one else in my congregation was ready or able to face the truth at that time.

But I also keep coming back to what the apostle Paul explained to the Thessalonians. Although he didn't have the Watchtower Society specifically in mind, the principle he stated would seem to apply to anyone when it comes to the truth about God. Of the ones he was referring to he said...

Because they did not accept the love of the truth that is why God lets an operation of error go to them that they may get to believing the lie.²³⁰

According to this, the reason why some Witnesses cannot *face* the truth is because they haven't yet accepted the *love* of the truth. It is evident that those elders had not accepted it when they told me that they didn't care if they

²²⁸ There was one family that I had studied with that allowed themselves to examine the evidence. They all disassociated themselves.

²²⁹ Highly paraphrased from an unknown source.

²³⁰ 2 Thessalonians 2:10,11

were being deceived and lied to by a bunch of apostates. There was an operation of a whole lot of error going on in their thinking at that time. With what result? They were able to continue “believing the lie” that the Watchtower Society is God’s organization. Since that’s what they wanted to believe then God let them believe it. **As far as I know God is still letting them believe it.**

This explanation provides a possible answer why some Witnesses are bothered by what they see going on within their organization while others who see the same things are not bothered. They can say they are “*in the Truth*” as often as they like, but it is only when they are confronted *by the truth* that it becomes evident whether or not they have accepted *the love of the truth*.

It is only when they are confronted by the truth that it becomes evident whether or not they have accepted the love of the truth.

The Different Kinds of Jehovah’s Witnesses

1. Some Witnesses are concerned about what they see going on and are able to set aside the propaganda and even their own willful blindness and are already in the process of examining the evidence for themselves.²³¹ Many of them are searching the Internet (usually anonymously) looking for answers.
2. Some are willing to read so-called “apostate literature” but they know they are walking a very thin line. If anyone in the congregation, even members of their own families, find out that they are checking up on “God’s organization” they may be reported to the elders in order to “readjust their thinking.”²³²
3. There are Witnesses who are either not aware of any problems (usually newly baptized) or are perfectly willing to “wait on Jehovah to correct his organization” no matter how long it takes.
4. Some stay with the organization despite the problems they see only because they cannot see anything better. They still believe that “there is nowhere else to go.” – See Chapter 22
5. Others stay in order to keep from being disfellowshipped, which would destroy their relationship with their family members who are not ready to leave with them.

²³¹ See graphic on page 75.

²³² Elders’ bottom-line readjustments often come down to the following two questions: “Do you believe the Society is God’s organization?” and, “Even if the Society is wrong, are you willing to wait on Jehovah to correct his organization?” A “No” answer to either question leads to disfellowshipping for apostasy.

There may be many unhappy Jehovah's Witnesses who either don't know what to do, or don't dare to do anything about it.

6. There are others who continue because they are in a comfortable routine and don't want anything to upset it. They may not even care if the Society really is God's organization or not.
7. Some Witnesses have reached the point where they just go through the motions as they keep hoping and praying for "a peaceful and secure new world that is about to replace the present wicked, lawless system of things."²³³
8. And then there are those who don't try very hard to apply Bible principles in their lives despite their association with "God's organization." Thousands of Witnesses are disfellowshipped each year for immorality of some kind.²³⁴
9. Finally, there may be many unhappy Jehovah's Witnesses who are concerned about what they see going on but either don't know what to do, or don't dare to do anything about it.²³⁵

It's not always easy to identify the various types of Witnesses, especially when more than one is present. For example, both Witnesses at the door may have serious questions or doubts about Watchtower doctrines or policies but they don't dare to express their concerns in front of the other Witness. Amongst themselves they tend to want to show how loyal they are to God's organization. It is only when you can speak with them privately that they may be more willing to express their true feelings or concerns.

No matter how deeply captive they are to their organizational concept and no matter what pressures there are to keep them there, it is not so deep and the pressures are not so great that God cannot help them escape. And no matter how long they have been living an illusion, it is not so long that God cannot help them see the reality. In other words, no matter how impossible it may seem from a human standpoint for Jehovah's Witnesses to be able to realize what has happened to them, it is not impossible *if God chooses to help them.*

The Kind of Witness God Chooses to Help

²³³ This has been stated on the masthead page of every *Awake!* magazine.

²³⁴ They have even had to deal with the serious problem of child molesters within their "Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses." – Go to <http://www.silentlambs.org> to see how extensive this problem is.

²³⁵ There is one other kind of Witnesses. They feel that the Society's leadership has seriously deviated from the Christian religion Jesus had in mind. They are anonymously trying to reform the organization from the inside. But most former Witnesses feel that it is not possible for the Society to be reform in any meaningful way.

If God lets those who do not accept the love the truth believe the lie then perhaps He helps those that do have that love to stop believing the lie. This is also suggested in the instructions that Paul gave to Timothy about how to bring the truth to the attention of those who believe the lie...

Paraphrase of 2 Timothy 2:23-26

*'A slave of the Lord does not need to fight Jehovah's Witnesses, but needs to be gentle towards them, instructing them with mildness as **perhaps God may give them repentance** leading to an accurate knowledge of the truth about the Watchtower Society and they may come back to their proper senses.'*



The Bible's Instructions for helping Jehovah's Witnesses discover the truth about their religion.

Although it is good to have evidence that Jehovah's Witnesses need to know (like that found in Chapter 3) and to be able to present it in a mild and gentle way, whether or not they will be able to get the sense of it ultimately depends on what God does. Notice that it isn't the evidence that will lead them to an accurate knowledge of the truth about their religion. *It is God giving them repentance* that will do it. And according to what Paul said previously, it appears that God only gives it to those who "accept the love of the truth." – 2 Thessalonians 2:10,11

It isn't the evidence that will lead them to the truth about the Watchtower Society.

It is not possible to force anyone to accept that kind of love, or to change a Witness who isn't ready to face the truth into one who is. But it may be possible to help some kinds of Witnesses notice some of the interesting things their *Proclaimers* book is willing to tell them, and then leave it up to God to enable them to get the sense of what it all means.²³⁶

The following presents some personal observations and thoughts about how I would go about trying to apply what Paul told Timothy above - while always keeping in mind that there is nothing I can say or do that will bring them "back to their proper senses." Only God can do that.

²³⁶ The *Proclaimers* book may be available on the Internet.

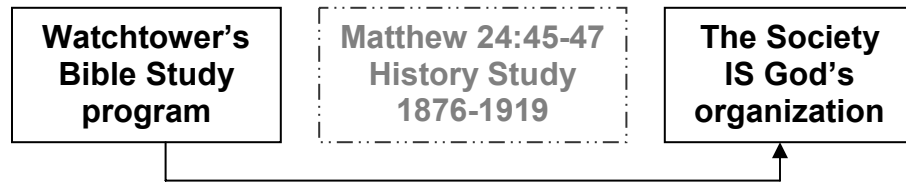
Correcting Their Mistake

Matthew 24:45: "Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom [Jesus] appointed over his [disciples], to give them their [spiritual] food at the proper time? **46** Happy is that slave if [Jesus] on arriving finds him doing so. **47** Truly I say to you he will appoint him over all his [earthly interests]." (Luke's account is located at 12:35-44)²³⁷

IN order to escape the concept holding them captive, Jehovah's Witnesses will need to correct the mistake that caused them to become captives in the first place...

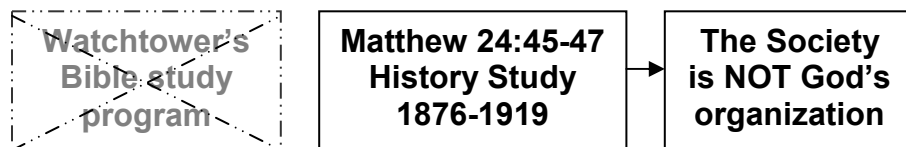
The Mistake

In order to escape the concept holding them captive they will have to correct the mistake that caused them to become captives in the first place.



In order to correct this mistake they will need to go back and examine what the Society had been teaching down till 1919 in connection with their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47²³⁸ ...

Correcting The Mistake



It isn't necessary to prove that the Society's pre-1919 teachings were false.

The easy part about such an examination is that it isn't necessary to try to prove that any of those teachings mentioned in Chapter 3 were false. The Governing Body already admits that they were false.²³⁹ The difficult part is not just getting Jehovah's Witnesses to notice the Society's pre-1919 teachings that were not true. Many already know

²³⁷ Review "Matthew 24:45-47 – The Most Important Scripture in Watchtower Theology," p. 18 ff.

²³⁸ Chapter 5, p. 44 ff.

²³⁹ The fact that they have changed all those teachings mentioned in Chapter 3 means that they recognized that they were all false. It's just that they don't use the word "false" when referring to them. See page 55 for the long list of the other terms they use in place of the word "false."

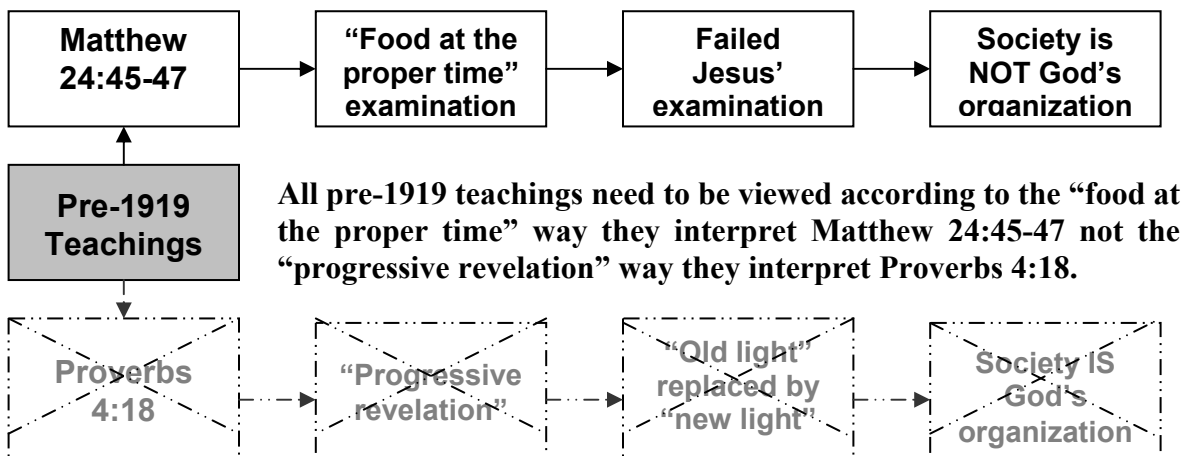
about some of them. The difficult part is **getting them to look at those teachings today the same way Jesus would have looked at them in 1919.**

For example, many Witnesses have heard at least something about Rutherford’s *Millions Now Living Will Never Die*. The *Proclaimers* book openly refers to it several times.²⁴⁰ But it doesn’t register with them that Rutherford was teaching that “godless myth”²⁴¹ right in front of Jesus Christ all during the year they say Jesus was examining him to make sure that what he was teaching was “proper and timely.” Why don’t they notice this? Or if they do notice it, why doesn’t it concern them?

Jehovah’s Witnesses need to look at the Society’s pre-1919 teachings the same way Jesus would have looked at them in 1919 rather than the way their Governing Body looks at them today.

Watch Out For Proverbs 4:18

A major factor that prevents them from realizing that the Society would have failed a food-at-the-proper-time examination in 1919 is the way have been trained to apply Proverbs 4:18. They simply view all of their former teachings (including all those mentioned in Chapter 3) as “old light” that were eventually corrected by “new light” according to the “progressive revelation” way they interpret this Scripture.²⁴² But all pre-1919 Watchtower teachings need to be viewed in light of the way they interpret Matthew 24:45-47 rather than the way they interpret Proverbs 4:18...



²⁴⁰ Review Chapter 3, “48 Teachings Jesus Examined,” pages 30-22.

²⁴¹ “Godless myth” is one of the terms the Society uses when referring to the teachings of other religions that they say are not true. See the long list of other uncomplimentary terms they use on page 56.

²⁴² See Chapter 8, “Using the Bible to Keep Themselves Captive,” page 63.

IMPORTANT POINT: Even if Proverbs 4:18 did have anything to do with how God progressively reveals the truth to his people, the Society would have to first pass Jesus' examination before it could apply that way to them.²⁴³

More and more Witnesses are becoming self-motivated to make this examination because of their concerns about things that they see going on which are not consistent with the Society's claim to being God's organization. But there may be others who have similar concerns but don't realize that the answer to them lies in correcting the above mistake by making the above examination. The following presents a different way of thinking that gives Witnesses a reason to help someone else make this examination whether the Witnesses feel the need to make it for themselves or not. It tries to take into account their way of looking at things.

A different way of thinking that takes into account the way Jehovah's Witnesses look at things.

They are instructed to teach about their organization as soon as possible.

In the process of teaching someone else that the Society is God's organization they may teach themselves that it isn't.

Teaching Themselves the Truth

Jehovah's Witnesses don't spend a billion hours a year looking for someone to teach them anything—especially that the Watchtower Society is not God's organization.²⁴⁴ Their purpose is to teach everyone else that it is. They are instructed to do so as soon as possible...

*Bible students need to get acquainted with **the organization** of the "one flock" Jesus spoke about at John 10:16. They must appreciate that identifying themselves with **Jehovah's organization** is essential to their salvation (Rev. 7:9, 10, 15) Therefore, we should start directing our Bible students to **the organization** as soon as a Bible study is established.*²⁴⁵

This different way of thinking tries to take advantage of **their desire to teach others** that the Watchtower Society is God's organization in the hope that in the process **they may teach themselves** that it *isn't*. This possible

²⁴³ See pages 64-68 where it explains that the 'DIMMER-switch' way they interpret Proverbs 4:18 is not the way their changes in their teachings occur. They simply turn old teaching OFF and new ones ON.

²⁴⁴ The May 1, 1984 "Questions From Readers" says, "Witnesses do not go to people's doors searching for truth or enlightenment. Rather, they already have devoted countless hours learning the truth from God's Word and, having taken in the "good news," they are obediently going forth to share it." But they have *not* spent "countless hours learning the truth" about their organization's history.

²⁴⁵ November, 1990 *Kingdom Ministry*

outcome is based on a principle of teaching the apostle Paul explained to the Romans. It may be the most mild and gentle way of teaching ²⁴⁶ and therefore the most effective and convincing way of learning when it comes to something as personal as one's spiritual beliefs...

*Do you, the one teaching someone else not **teach yourself?** - Romans 2:21*

According to this principle, if Jehovah's Witnesses can become involved in teaching someone else about the Society's history they may teach themselves the truth about it. The easiest way to get them involved is to **ask for their help to learn about it**. Since their Governing Body instructs them to teach others about their organization as soon as possible, they should be pleased to do whatever they can to help those who ask about it. Especially when their January, 2004 *Kingdom Ministry* tells them...

When starting a conversation, you will likely have a subject in mind. However, if the person indicates that some other issue is of pressing personal interest, do not hesitate to discuss that instead if you are able to do so, or offer to return with some helpful information.

Here their Governing Body is obligating them to be willing to talk about whatever "issue is of pressing personal interest" to those they meet in their ministry. The only issue that needs to be discussed is the history of the Watchtower Society as it relates to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47.

The Best Way to Get Along With Jehovah's Witnesses

When it comes to the Bible, Jehovah's Witnesses view themselves as the teachers and everyone else on earth as potential students. The only time they view themselves as students is when "God's organization" is the teacher. Therefore, the best way to get along with them is to **let them be the teachers**. Remember that it isn't a matter of trying to

**Ask for
their help to
understand
Watchtower
history.**

**The only issue
that needs to
be discussed
is the history
of the
Watchtower
Society
in connection
with Matthew
24:45-47.**

**Let them be
the teachers.**

²⁴⁶ 2 Timothy 2:24,25

teach them that they are wrong but rather that *they may teach themselves* the truth about their organization's history while they are in the process of "teaching someone else" about it. – Romans 2:21

Although the Witness is the teacher, the student picks the subject.

Although they would like to teach the same things that mistakenly convinced them that the Society is God's organization (see left hand columns on pages 15,16), these subjects should only be considered if a history study proves that this is the organization that God has chosen to teach these things to the rest of mankind.

But although they are the teachers, the above *Kingdom Ministry* tells them that they should **let the student pick the subject**.

There are several advantages to being the student.

The Student/Teacher Relationship

There are several advantages to being the student. For one thing the student doesn't have to teach or prove or convince the teacher of anything. The student has the freedom to ask questions, listen, read, research, make observations and then accept or reject what is being taught.

This student/teacher relationship also eliminates debating, which seldom accomplishes anything.²⁴⁷ Debating occurs when there are two or more teachers trying to out-teach each other. But when there is only one teacher there is no one to debate with.

You don't want them to defend the Society's history. You want them to discover it.

Also, as long as Jehovah's Witnesses feel they are the ones doing the teaching they are not as likely to go on the defensive when the subject of the organization's history comes up. You don't want them to *defend* that history—you want them to *discover* it. And the longer they are not on the defensive the better chance there is for them to discover it.

It is not easy to remain a passive student when the student knows the truth and the teacher doesn't. It takes constant effort to fight the tendency to want to teach. But as soon as Witnesses sense that someone is trying to teach

²⁴⁷ See comments from *When Prophecies Fail* on top of page 115.

them something negative about their organization or its Governing Body their minds shift into a defensive mode. Once that happens the learning process usually comes to an end.

Watchtower History Study

As explained on page 45, a history study needs to be conducted before a Bible study is even considered because *it is a history study—not a Bible study—that proves whether or not the Society is God’s organization*. If Watchtower history showed that this is the organization that Jesus appointed in the spring of 1919 to teach the Bible to everyone else, *then* it would make sense to take them up on their offer of a free Bible study. But again, those who do a history study first don’t ask for a Bible study later.

Teaching Watchtower history is not easy for Jehovah’s Witnesses for a couple of reasons...

1. They have not studied it themselves.
2. There isn’t any program set up for them to teach it.

But the above *Kingdom Ministry* gives them an easy way out. It tells them that if they are not able to discuss a particular subject at the time, they should “return with some helpful information.” **The helpful information they need to return with is their *Proclaimers of God’s Kingdom* book.** If they don’t offer to do this, I would ask them to do it.²⁴⁸ The following suggestions assume that the *Proclaimers* book has been obtained.

“Proclaimers of God’s Kingdom”

The Book of Watchtower History

The easiest way for them to teach what is in this book is

Witnesses don’t realize that it is a History Study, not a Bible Study, that proves whether or not the Watchtower Society is God’s organization.

²⁴⁸ Some Witnesses may offer to explain some of the Society’s history ‘off the top of their head.’ If they do it will come out the same way it was explained to them. I made the mistake of just accepting what I was told about the Society’s history. The first question I asked was, “Aren’t Jehovah’s Witnesses the ones who foretold the end of the world a time or two?” The answer I got was, “No. It was other religions that have done that.” I don’t feel that the Witness who gave me that answer was intentionally lying. He was just repeating what he had been told. It wasn’t until twenty years later that I finally looked up the answer to my question for myself. The point is that although it is alright to listen to what Witnesses have to say about the Society’s history, don’t wait twenty years to check to see if what they said was true. Today, the Internet has made it much easier to learn the history of the Watchtower Society than it was in the 1970s.

The easiest way for Witnesses to teach about the Society's history is to let people read the "Proclaimers" book for themselves.

**- THE GOAL -
Helping Witnesses notice some things they should have noticed before they got baptized.**

It is essential that the starting point in the study of the Society's history is their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 and then hold them to it.

to **let people read it for themselves**. If they really care about helping others learn about their organization they should be willing to lend it to those who ask for it. Although this book is not as candid as it should have been, it is candid enough about a few very important former teachings that might begin to get the attention of some Witnesses if only they were able to notice what it says. If it does get their attention they may then become self-motivated to want to look at the Society's actual pre-1919 literature (Russell's *Studies In The Scriptures* and Rutherford's *The Finished Mystery*) to teach themselves if there was anything else the Society had been teaching that would not have passed an examination by Jesus Christ in 1919. Those who do look will discover numerous other false teachings (including the thirty-eight listed on page 33) along with the thousands of false statements and reasonings that were used to support them. They may finally begin to realize that they have not been told the truth about the organization's history.

'Once the Bell Has Been Rung'

The following presents an approach that may help some Witnesses 'hear' some of the things their *Proclaimers* book has to say whether they are ready to face the truth or not. At least they will hear some things they were not aware of and "once the bell has been rung it cannot be unring." If what they hear has no effect on them today because they are not ready to face the truth, it may have some effect in the future if they ever do become ready to face it.

The Starting Point: Matthew 24:45-47²⁴⁹

As the student, the first thing I would mention that I learned from the *Proclaimers* book is the importance of their teaching that the Society is God's organization. I would acknowledge that if it is then I would want to know it. I would mention how often the book refers to Matthew 24:45-47 to explain the reason why God selected the Watchtower Society was because they were the only reli-

²⁴⁹ A question that may get Witnesses thinking about Matthew 24:45-47: "Why did God select the Watchtower Society rather than some other religion?" Answer is on page 161 of the *Knowledge* book. (Appendix, p. 145)

gion that had been teaching the right things at the right time down till 1919. And that is why they received the appointment mentioned in verse 47.²⁵⁰

I would make sure that that not only *I* understand it the way the Society teaches it, but also that *they* understand it the way the Society teaches it. As important as this Scripture is to the very foundation of the Watchtower religion, Jehovah's Witnesses have just accepted what they were told about it without checking to make sure that what they were told is true. This is that one mistake they have all made.²⁵¹ But as their student I am not going to make that same mistake. With the help of the *Proclaimers* book I will conduct the same examination of the Society's pre-1919 teachings that they say Jesus conducted.²⁵²

Although Jehovah's Witnesses have never done this themselves, they should have confidence that whatever the *Proclaimers* book says will be the same as what they have been led to believe. The following are a few important pre-1919 teachings that I personally would mention that I learned from their book and how they affect me...

Russell, Rutherford, 1914 & The Second Coming of Christ

Out of some sixteen million people who had anything to do with the Watchtower Society in 2004,²⁵³ it is possible that not a single one of them realizes that the *Proclaimers* book teaches that the Society's first two presidents never knew that Jesus returned in 1914 to begin his Second Coming or "invisible presence" (assuming he did return in that year). And so I would let them know that I was surprised to learn this from their book. I would think that most Witnesses will be just as surprised, although they may not care to show it. But whether they are willing to admit it or not, they will have heard something they didn't know, and 'once the bell has been rung'...

Make sure that everyone understands Matthew 24:45-47 the way the Society teaches it.

The student needs to avoid making the same mistake the teacher made.

It is possible that there isn't a single Witness who realizes that the Society's first two presidents (three if you count W. H. Conley) never knew about Jesus' return in 1914.

See page 7.

²⁵⁰ See *Proclaimers* book Index under the heading, "Faithful and discreet slave."

²⁵¹ Chapter 5, "The One Mistake All Jehovah's Witnesses Have Made," page 44.

²⁵² Their *Knowledge* book explains their interpretation on page 161. See Appendix, p. 145.

²⁵³ In 2004 there were 16,760,607 people who attended their annual "Memorial of Christ's Death."

These are things Witnesses have never thought about. But they are hearing someone else think about them.

While trying very hard to remain the student I would wonder out loud why God apparently didn't want Russell or Rutherford to ever know when his Son had returned, especially when he knew they were teaching the wrong date (1874) and that he was going to send Jesus to examine what they were teaching to make sure that they were teaching the right date (1914). What sense does that make? It doesn't make any sense. But God is going to have to help them realize that it doesn't make any sense. And it also doesn't fit their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47. What Russell and Rutherford taught about the time of the Second Coming of Christ for almost seven decades was never proper or timely. – Review Chapter 3, pages 22-26.

'We are not your faithful and discreet slave.'

Witnesses don't notice that since the Society denied being Jesus' "slave" in 1919 that therefore they did not accept his appointment of that "slave" mentioned in Matthew 24:47.

I would mention what I learned on page 143 where it says (without saying) that in 1919 the Society denied being Jesus' "faithful and discreet slave" and therefore they did not accept his appointment mentioned in verse 47. Here too I would wonder why God did not let them know that they were this "slave" so that they would have accepted Jesus' appointment when they say he offered it. God knew that what they were teaching was not true and therefore that they would fail his Son's examination on such an important matter. Again, what sense does that make? - Review Chapter 3, pp. 26-28

"Millions Now Living Will Never Die"

Although Witnesses may be familiar with this title, they don't think about the fact that President Rutherford was teaching several things about this subject that were not true *all during the period of time they say that Jesus was examining him* to make sure that he was faithfully and discreetly dispensing "proper and timely spiritual food."²⁵⁴ But I (the student) would let the teacher know that I *do* think

²⁵⁴ Page 161 of their *Knowledge* book leads the reader to believe that Rutherford had been dispensing "proper and timely spiritual food" while Jesus was examining him. See paragraph 4 in the Appendix, p. 145.

about that fact. I would quote some of the strange things the *Proclaimers* book says about Rutherford’s “exciting message they proclaimed” and wonder how they can say such positive things about a teaching that failed Jesus’ examination. – Review pages 30-32

“The World Magazine” (August 30, 1914)

“The terrific war outbreak in Europe has fulfilled an extraordinary prophecy.” ²⁵⁵

I would try to bring this subject up because it is referring to “an extraordinary prophecy” that does not exist. But as the student I would not try to just tell them that it doesn’t exist. I would ask them to find it for me because it isn’t mentioned in the *Proclaimers* book.²⁵⁶ If they will sincerely try to find a 25-year prophecy where Russell had foretold the beginning of a war in Europe (or anywhere else on earth) in 1914 **they will teach themselves that it does not exist.**²⁵⁷ Will they care? They might if they have “accepted the love of the truth.” - 2 Thessalonians 2:10,11

**Ask to see
Russell’s
prophecy.
Everyone who
tries to find
it will teach
themselves
that it does
not exist.**

Christmas, Birthdays, the Cross and the Great Pyramid of Gizeh

Depending how things are going, I might mention the above four teachings that the *Proclaimers* book says were “abandoned” sometime after 1919.²⁵⁸ While Witnesses tend to automatically process those teachings through Proverbs 4:18 and simply dismiss them as “old light,” I would process them through Matthew 24:45-47 and notice that they too would have failed a food-at-the-proper-time examination in 1919.

²⁵⁵ Review Chapter 12, “What They Say Is Not What They Always Do,” pp. 88-90

²⁵⁶ As explained back on page 90, the paragraph next to the above insert in the *Proclaimers* book changes the prophecy *The World Magazine* was referring to in its title from the “End of All Kingdoms in 1914” to ‘the end of the Gentile Times in 1914.’ In order to notice the switch one needs to see the title of the article as shown on page 88. But the *Proclaimers* book does not show or even mention the title.

²⁵⁷ Review Chapter 12, “What They Say Is Not What They Always Do,” pages 88-91.

²⁵⁸ Pages 200, 201. See also Chapter 3, “48 Teachings Jesus Examined,” pages 34, 35.

How Would I Have Reacted?

Today my reaction to a study of the history of Watchtower Society is to conclude the same things Peter Gregeron and Raymond Franz concluded following their own history studies.²⁵⁹ I would let the Witness teacher know that I don't see how the Society could have passed an examination by Jesus Christ based on what they had been teaching down till 1919.²⁶⁰

I have often thought about how I would have reacted to such a study *when I still believed that the Society was God's organization*—when I was still a captive of that concept. I can remember a period of several years after I first realized something was seriously wrong in 1976 that I was not ready to discover that the Society wasn't God's organization. I was perfectly willing to be challenged about what I believed about God's name, the Trinity, hell, the soul, and the condition of the dead. But if someone tried to direct me to the Society's history I distinctly remember going out of my way not to look (willful blindness). If something did get through to me I was able to rationalize that whatever went on in the past did not matter today. I had been trained to think that way and that training worked for several years.

Although what had been bothering me caused me to resign as an elder in 1978, it wasn't until about 1984 that I was finally ready to face the truth, even if it meant that the Watchtower Society was not God's organization. Once I reached that point I allowed myself to do a history study. It didn't take very long after that to conclude that God has never had anything to do with this organization. But I'm afraid that even if the *Proclaimers* book had been available in 1976, it might not have been able to help me until I was ready to face the truth in 1984.

It took me almost nine years from when I first sensed that something was seriously wrong to when I was able to realize that it meant that the Watchtower Society was not God's organization.

²⁵⁹ Pages 43 and 45.

²⁶⁰ NOTE: I would expect that they will want to bring up some of the Society's teachings that have not changed since 1919 such as God's name, the Trinity, Jesus is not God, immortality of the soul, the condition of the dead, and hell. If they do, then as mentioned in footnote #74 on page 40, I would refer them to page 622 in the *Proclaimers* book where it acknowledges that the Society was not the only religion that was teaching these same things. And that if these teachings would have passed Jesus' examination in 1919 they would have passed no matter who was teaching them.

How Will Jehovah's Witnesses React?

Although it may be possible to bring some of those teachings considered in Chapter 3 to their attention, it is not possible to effect how they will react to them. How they react will depend on what kind of Witnesses they are.²⁶¹ If they have “the love the truth”²⁶² in them somewhere, and if they are ready to face the truth, and especially if God is in the process of giving them repentance,²⁶³ then what they hear may cause them to feel the need to conduct their own history study with Matthew 24:45-47 in mind in order to correct the mistake they originally made before they got baptized.

But if they have not reached this point then they will likely not feel the need to do anything except “wait on God to correct his organization.”²⁶⁴

Regardless of the kind of Witnesses that are out there, the above approach is designed to get them to at least ‘hear the bell ring.’ According to what Paul told Timothy, all any human can do is to ‘ring’ it as mildly and gently as possible. God will have to help them understand what the ‘ring’ means. - 2 Timothy 2:23-25

“Would You Welcome a Visit?”

This question appears on the back cover of every *Watchtower* magazine and on the Society's website. It leads to an invitation to their “free Bible study” program. Although millions of people have accepted their offer, they did so without ever learning about the organization's true history. Is there anyone on earth who could know its history (and therefore how often it is misrepresented today) and still accept their offer? I would let them know that I am unable to do so.

FINALLY: Evidence is only able to help those who are willing to meet up with reality...

***How
Jehovah's
Witnesses
react to what
they hear will
depend on
what kind of
Witnesses
they are.***

***Man can only
'ring the bell.'
God will have
to help
Jehovah's
Witnesses
understand
what the
ring means.***

***Is there any-
one on earth
who could
know the
Society's true
history and
still ask them
for a for a
Bible study?***

²⁶¹ “The Different Kinds of Jehovah's Witnesses,” page 119

²⁶² 2 Thessalonians 2:10,11

²⁶³ 2 Timothy 2:25

²⁶⁴ May 1, 1957 *Watchtower*, p. 284. See Chapter 1, page 13.

When Illusion Meets Up With Reality

“I cannot believe that ‘ignorance is bliss,’ or that there is any kindness in encouraging people to live in illusions. Sooner or later, illusion must meet up with reality.” – Raymond Franz

ILLUSION has met up with reality for thousands of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Many of them have related their remarkably similar experiences on the Internet. In most cases the transition from illusion to reality has been long and usually painful,²⁶⁵ but they are now grateful to no longer be captives of the illusionary concept that God was dealing with them by means of the Watchtower’s fictional “faithful and discreet slave organization.” I don’t know of anyone who allowed themselves to meet up with reality and then say, “I’m sorry I learned the truth about the Watchtower Society.”

One of the major concerns for those who have met up with reality is where else they can go to worship God. All those years they were convinced that the Society *is* God’s organization they were equally convinced that every other religion *isn’t*. Some may feel like that elder who said that if the Society isn’t God’s organization then he might as well go out and “eat, drink and be merry” because it meant to him that there is no God.²⁶⁶

Such feelings are the result of years of being reminded, and reminding others, that there is nowhere else to go, or that there is no other acceptable way to worship God. Amazingly, the Scripture that the Watchtower’s leaders have always used to prove that there is nowhere else to go *is the very Scripture that says there is—John 6:68.*

The Scripture they use to prove that there is nowhere else to go to worship God is the very Scripture that says there is.

²⁶⁵ It took me nine years to make the transition from when I first sensed that something was seriously wrong to when I was able to conclude that the Society’s wasn’t God’s organization. With the advent of the Internet the needed evidence is much more readily available now and so the transition can be much shorter for those who are ready to face the reality.

²⁶⁶ p. 115

John 6:68

Jesus had just asked Peter if he wanted to follow someone else. Peter answered...

*Lord, whom shall we go away to? **You** have sayings of everlasting life. – John 6:68*

Peter was acknowledging that there is nowhere else to go but to Christ. But note what the Governing Body does with Peter's response...

NOWHERE ELSE TO GO
*We will be impelled to serve [God] loyally **with his organization** if we remember that there is nowhere else to go for life eternal. – John 6:66-69²⁶⁷*

On page 18 of the March 15, 1988 *Watchtower* their explanation goes like this...

*Peter knew there was nowhere else to go because **Jesus** had "sayings of everlasting life. Are you as determined to remain loyal [not to Jesus but] to **Jehovah's organization**?"*

Even if Witnesses look at John 6:68 they are unable to notice what it says. What they see is *as if* Peter had said...

*Lord, **where** [not "whom"] shall we go away to? **The Watchtower Society** has sayings of everlasting life.*

This switching of Peter's words from the *person* of Jesus Christ to the *organization* of the Watchtower Society without anyone noticing the switch, testifies to how deeply captive everyone is locked into the concept holding them captive.

Note the following reasoning that convinces Witnesses *why* there is nowhere else to go to worship God...

Suppose a person was to separate himself from [the Watchtower Society]. Where could he go? Is he not faced with the same issue that confronted Jesus' apos-

Witnesses have been led to believe that there is nowhere else to go to worship God apart from the Watchtower Society.

They change Peter's words from referring to the person of Jesus Christ to the organization of the Watchtower Society

²⁶⁷ November 15, 1992 *Watchtower*, p. 21

NOTE: Although it isn't necessary to compare what the Bible says with what the Society says, this is another example where it is difficult not to point out the difference. Also see Matthew 7:15-20 on page 61.

*... tles when he asked them if they also wanted to leave him? The apostle Peter rightly replied: "Lord, whom shall we go away to? You have sayings of everlasting life." (John 6:68) There is nowhere else to go but to (1) 'Babylon the Great,' the world empire of false religion, or (2) into the clutches of Satan's political wild beast.*²⁶⁸

Notice again how they equate one's relationship with the Watchtower Society today with the apostle's relationship with Jesus Christ in the first century. Their position is that there are only three possibilities open to mankind...

***Is the
Watchtower
organization
the only
alternative to
Satan's
organizations?***

GOD'S organization: The Watchtower Society	(Matthew 24:45-47)
SATAN'S religious organization: "Babylon the Great"	(Revelation 18:2-4)
SATAN'S political organization: "The wild beast"	(Revelation 20:10)

These are the only possibilities Jehovah's Witnesses can see. *If* this is all there is then maybe the Watchtower Society isn't so bad after all no matter what went on in its history. But *is* this all there is?

An Alternative to "God's Organization"

Ron Frye²⁶⁹ offers some insight and suggestions for those who have been captured by illusionary concepts and are willing to consider a *fourth* possibility of simply 'going to Christ' as Peter acknowledged above...

Some who come away from a highly structured religious system find themselves confused and disoriented religiously. They may not even be sure what they believe anymore. Why?

The root of the problem lies in the failure of having built on the "rock" of obedience to the commands of Jesus Christ. They allowed men to determine for them what constituted obedience rather than listening to Christ.

Then when their relationship with these men came to an end the foundation upon which they had structured their house of faith was washed away. The end result was loss of spiritual security.

When the loss of spiritual security is coupled with the loss of family and friends and a whole way of life, the experience becomes extremely burdensome. It is at that point a person is most vulnerable

²⁶⁸ March 15, 1988 *Watchtower*, pp. 18,19

²⁶⁹ For information about Ron Frye go to <http://www.xjw.com/ronmavis.html>

and in danger of a permanent loss of faith.

If this would happen to us we should learn from it and avoid a recurrence of such a calamity. It should make us more determined to rebuild our structure of faith on a better foundation, namely, obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ – not looking to men or organizations to give us direction.

There is no security in man-made religious structures. The only security to be had is that which accompanies obedience to Jesus Christ. This constitutes God's will for us – being obedient to the commands of his Son.

There simply is no other way. It matters not what men and religious organizations say that go beyond what Christ has said. Men and or organizations may cast themselves in the role of savior, as does the Watchtower Society.²⁷⁰ When they say you must be with US; you must be loyal to US; you must be obedient to US – they are assuming the place that only Christ occupies.²⁷¹

Some people buy into these presumptuous claims and get trapped and become captives of other men. Because a religious sect attracts some and grows to become a sizable religious entity does not validate it as approved and blessed by God. Any number of such groups can point to such growth and expansion.

To be sure, many powerful works have been performed by such groups and continue to be performed. But their powerful works – done in the name of God – do not validate their ministry. – Matthew 7:21-23

What brings recognition from Christ and validates ones Christian course is doing the Father's will. And how do we determine the Father's will? By listening to his Son. And how do we listen to his Son? By meditating on his recorded word; by putting into practice what we learn and by looking to him as the living Lord in our life.

We have access to Christ in a living way when we address him as our mediator in prayer. He is alive to plead to the Father in our behalf. The spirit of Christ can comfort and sustain us. – 1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 8:9,34²⁷²

The religious leaders of the Watchtower Society have assumed a place that only Christ occupies.

Someone else expressed an alternative to “God’s organization” this way...

²⁷⁰ On page 21 of the 11/15/81 *Watchtower* they say, “Come to Jehovah’s organization for salvation.”

²⁷¹ The Watchtower’s religious leaders have never said, ‘YOU must be loyal to US’ or ‘YOU must be obedient to US.’ They say, “WE must be loyal/obedient to **God’s organization.**” But that *means* just what Ron Frye is saying. If only they would say it this way Jehovah’s Witnesses just might be able to notice that their religious leaders are in fact “assuming a place that only Christ occupies.” See Chapter 6, “Who Is God’s Organization?”

²⁷² Ron Frye’s *The Christian Respondent*, <http://www.xjw.com/cr-ordr.html>

“Beware of organization.”

Beware of "organization." It is wholly unnecessary. The Bible rules will be the only rules you will need. Do not seek to bind others' consciences, and do not permit others to bind yours. Believe and obey so far as you understand God's Word today, and so continue growing in grace and knowledge and love day by day.

The men who said these things would not be permitted to have “approved association” with Jehovah’s Witnesses or its Governing Body today.²⁷³ The first statement was made by one of their former traveling overseers. The latter was made in 1895 by the Society’s President Charles Taze Russell!²⁷⁴ It would seem that the “rules you will need” to worship God have changed considerably since Russell wrote those words.²⁷⁵

Many former Jehovah’s Witnesses have released themselves from their self-imposed captivity that was created by the illusionary concept that God was dealing with them by means of the Watchtower organization. But since then many have once again allowed themselves to come into captivity. But this time it’s the one mentioned by the apostle Paul...

Going from being obedient to the men of the Governing Body to being obedient to the Christ.

*For we are overturning reasonings and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God; and **we are bringing every thought into captivity to make it obedient to the Christ.***²⁷⁶

The Governing Body does not permit anyone to be obedient to the Christ apart from themselves.

Most Jehovah’s Witnesses have sincerely tried to do what Paul said here. But in the process they got sidetracked by the “reasonings and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God” by the men who have formed the leadership of the Watchtower religion. As a result, they have unintentionally become obedient to those men—men who will not permit their followers to be obedient to the Christ apart from themselves.

²⁷³ April 1, 1986 *Watchtower*. See Chapter 10, p. 80

²⁷⁴ September 15, 1895 *Watch Tower*.

²⁷⁵ One has to wonder what Russell would think today about the religion that claims him as its founder. It is now a religion that is not just an “organization” but claims to be *God’s* “organization.” It is now a religion that could not exist without “organization” – something Russell said was “wholly unnecessary.”

²⁷⁶ 2 Corinthians 10:5

But there are many former Witnesses who *have* become obedient to the Christ apart from the Watchtower's Governing Body. As difficult as it was to let go of the illusion that had sustained many of them for decades, they are grateful for whatever help they received along the way to see the reality.

In Conclusion

It is hoped that this information may help the reader better understand...

1. The illusionary concept that holds Jehovah's Witnesses captive.

2. How it has been maintained by a very few men who are themselves captives of the same concept and who have been unable or unwilling to face the reality of their religion.

3. Why it is so difficult for them to not only face the reality that the Watchtower Society is not God's organization, but then to make the life-altering decisions that the reality forces upon them. And that even with divine intervention such a realization and the decisions that must follow will take time.

It is also hoped that this information may make it easier to *look forward* to the Witnesses' next visit rather than *dreading it*.

***Those who are
ready to meet
up with reality
must then
make the
life-altering
decisions that
the reality
forces upon
them.***

Review

According to the Society's interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47, there is only one thing that needs to be known about the Watchtower Society and there is only one way to know it.

1. The only thing that needs to be known:

Is the Watchtower Society God's organization? All other teachings depend upon what "God's organization" currently says the Bible says whether the Bible says it or not. Pages 15,16

2. The only way to know if the Society is God's organization:

By examining the same pre-1919 teachings they say Jesus examined. According to their interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 the only way they could be God's organization today is if they passed Jesus' examination in 1919 and therefore received the appointment mentioned in verse 47. Page 20

3. The concept that holds Jehovah's Witnesses captive:

"The Watchtower Society is God's organization." They believe that all of God's direction to mankind comes only through this one "channel." This organizational concept is the dominant controlling force in their lives without them realizing it. Page 11

4. The most important teaching in Watchtower theology:

"The Watchtower Society is God's organization." It is just as Peter Gregerson observed, "Everything always comes back to the question, not "Is Jesus the Christ, " but rather, "Is the Watchtower Society God's organization?" – Page 15

5. The most important Scripture in Watchtower theology:

Matthew 24:45-47. Their claim to being God's organization is based upon the way they interpret this Scripture. Page 18

6. The most important event in Watchtower history:

They claim that Jesus appointed the Society over all his earthly interests in the spring of 1919 in fulfillment of Matthew 24:47. Pages 19,41

7. The one mistake all Jehovah's Witnesses have made:

They all failed to examine the Society's claim to be "God's faithful and discreet slave organization" based upon what it had been teaching down till 1919 A.D. in fulfillment of Matthew 24:45-47. The reason why there are millions of Jehovah's Witnesses as of 2005 A.D. is not because they all *did* make this examination. It is because they all *didn't* make it. Page 44

8. Who is "God's organization"?

In actual practice the terms used for "God's organization" refer to the men who are hidden behind those terms. Prior to 1976 they referred to the one man who was the president. Since 1976 they refer to the men of their Governing Body. No one can be loyal to "God's organization" unless they are loyal to their religious leaders by accepting all their current teachings, including the ones that are not true. Pages 47-50

9. Why Jehovah's Witnesses don't notice that the Society has had numerous false teachings and prophecies:

The men they look to for their spiritual guidance and direction refuse to use the words "false" or "prophecies" when referring to their teachings and prophecies that were false. Page 51

10. The 2nd most important Scripture in Watchtower theology:

Proverbs 4:18. They use this verse to explain away every teaching that turns out not to be true. Without realizing it, they are blaming God whenever they misunderstand something. For example, if God had revealed the correct date of Jesus' return to Russell in 1876 then he, Rutherford and Knorr would not have announced the wrong date for 67 years. And so, whose fault was it that they got that date wrong? - Page 63.

11. Why All Jehovah's Witnesses Believe the Same:

Because their Governing Body does not allow anyone in their religion who disagrees with what they are currently teaching—even if what they are teaching isn't true. – Pages 76-81

12. Those whom Jehovah's Witnesses have followed:

Their willingness to change what they believe whenever their religious leaders change what they teach shows that they have been following those men rather than God's Word. It also shows that the final authority for what they believe is their religious leaders rather than the Bible. Pages 82, 101,102

13. Why the Governing Body cannot present a truly candid history of the Watchtower Society:

They are not able to face a truly candid history of it.²⁷⁷

14. The key to escape from the concept holding Jehovah's Witnesses captive:

They need to come to realize that the Watchtower Society is not God's organization. Page 114

15. Why it is so difficult for Jehovah's Witnesses to even want to look for the above key, let alone find it and then use it to unlock themselves and walk away from the Watchtower religion:

They know what lies ahead of them if they leave. The Governing Body has made leaving their religion a very painful, life altering experience. One must face the real possibility of losing their close relationship with their family members who do not leave with them. Page 108

16. How might they be helped to notice the key to their escape, whether they are ready to use it or not:

Ask them for a history study of the Watchtower Society. If they can become involved in teaching about the organization's history they may teach themselves some of the truth about it. – Romans 2:21, Pages 45, 127

17. If everything the Watchtower Society is teaching today is true it would mean that it is *not* God's organization. Why?

If they could pass an examination by Jesus Christ because of what they are teaching *today*, it means that they would have failed the same examination in 1919 because so much of what they had been teaching then was not what they are teaching now. The time to pass an examination is when it is given, not decades after it is over. The Watchtower's exam was over in the spring of 1919. – Page 46.

18. With so many external and internal factors involved in keeping Jehovah's Witnesses captive of an illusionary concept, how it is possible for any of them to escape?

On page 53 of the *Proclaimers* book the Governing Body says...

It took real courage in [Russell's day] to withdraw from one's church.

It takes no less courage today for Jehovah's Witnesses to withdraw from their 'church.' It is so difficult in fact that according to 2 Timothy 2:25, it will take divine intervention.

²⁷⁷ Of all the men who have formed the top leadership of the Watchtower religion for over one hundred years, to date Raymond Franz is the only one who has been able to face the reality.

Appendix

The Watchtower Society's 1914

It isn't necessary to know anything about 1914 other than the fact that as of the beginning of the year 2005 the Society still teaches that Jesus' Second Coming or "invisible presence" began in that year in fulfillment of Matthew 24:3.



18

AWAKE! — OCTOBER 8, 1973

The year 1914 is arrived at through rather involved interpretations of both the Scriptures and ancient history as they relate to the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon.²⁷⁸ Charles Russell got his interpretations from the same man who taught him that Jesus' Second Coming occurred in 1874 (Nelson Barbour). Although they eventually let go of 1874 (in 1943), as of 2005 they have not been able to let go of 1914 – yet.

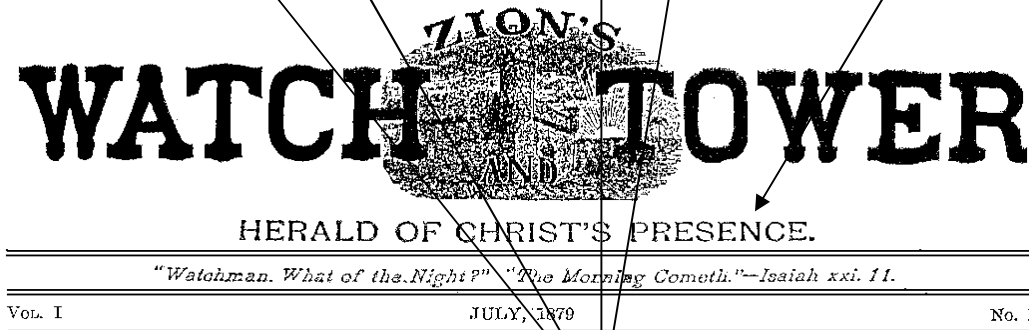
When Russell taught it, 1914 only related to "the end of the Gentile Times." But after his death in 1916 the date gradually came to also be associated with other things including the beginning of "the last days," the Second Coming of Christ and the beginning of his Kingdom Rule. - See page 36

This subject is *so* complicated and involved that most Witnesses would prefer that nobody ask them *how* they arrive at that date. But again, for the purpose of this study it isn't necessary to understand how they arrive at 1914. It is only necessary to know that this is the date they assign to the Second Coming of Christ and then hold them to it. – See page 22ff.

²⁷⁸ If you want to get an inkling of just how complicated this teaching is, go to pages 95-97 of the *KNOWLEDGE That Leads to Everlasting Life* book under the heading, "Kingdom Rule – When?" If you *really* want to dig into this matter as deep as it can get, read "The Gentile Times Reconsidered" by Carl Olof Jonsson.

The First Watch Tower Magazine – July, 1879

According to what the Society teaches in 2005, there were at least 5 stated objectives of Russell’s original magazine that turned out to be “amiss.” (1) Jesus was **not** “invisibly present” in 1879. (2) They were **not** living in “the last days.” (3) It was **not** “the day of the Lord. (4) It was **not** “the end of the Gospel age, and. (5) they were **not** living in “the dawn of the ‘new age.’” What are the chances that Russell’s magazine would have passed and examination by Jesus Christ in 1919?



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PROSPECTUS
This is the first number of the first volume of "Zion's Watch Tower," and it may not be amiss to state the object of its publication.
That we are living "in the last days"—"the day of the Lord"—"the end" of the Gospel age, and consequently, in the dawn of the "new" age, are facts not only discernible by the close student of the Word, led by the spirit, but the outward signs recognizable by the world bear the same testimony, and we are desirous that the "household of faith" be fully awake to the fact, that—

"We are living, we are dwelling
In a grand and awful time,
In an age on ages telling
To be living is sublime.

And not alone to help awaken, but to assist them to "put on the whole armor of God, that they may be able to stand in the evil day," and, besides all this, that giving all diligence, they add to their faith, virtue, and to virtue, knowledge, self control, [temperance,] brotherly kindness, charity; when, as a result of these indwelling and flourishing graces, they shall be God-like [godly].

But, recognizing the beauty and necessity of these adornments of the spiritual man, they fail not to recognize that the merit toward God lies not in these moral virtues, but in Christ's perfect sacrifice, and though adorned by all these gems of character, we could not be recognized as God's children now, nor permitted ever to enter His presence without the robe of Christ's righteousness, the "wedding garment" necessary to our participation in "the marriage of the Lamb."
Christians to whom an apology would be needed for directing

attention to these things, should blush and be ashamed. Every thing desirable, hopeful and precious stands closely and ever connected with them. They embrace nearly all the great motives to faith, watchfulness, abstinence, holiness.

PROSPECTUS
"This is the first number of the first volume of 'Zion's Watch Tower,' and it may not be amiss to state the object of its publication.
That we are (2) living 'in the last days' – (3) 'the day of the Lord' – (4) 'the end of the Gospel age, and consequently, (5) in the dawn of the 'new age.'"

That we are (2) living 'in the last days' – (3) 'the day of the Lord' – (4) 'the end of the Gospel age, and consequently, (5) in the dawn of the 'new age.'"

only one
As its
matters
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It is
The terms, fifty cents a year, (postage paid,) are moderate; but to all interested and desirous of having it, who cannot afford to pay, we will gladly send it free, but you must ask that you may receive.

IN RE "THE LAST TRUMP"
Bro. H. B. Rice, editor and publisher of *The Last Trump*, has been obliged by circumstances beyond his control to suspend its publication. Knowing that such a course was probable, we two months ago proposed to Bro. Rice that we would supply *The Watch Tower* to his subscribers, instead of *The Trump*, up to the close of their subscriptions, and we invited him to speak to his old subscribers, and others of the body of Christ, through Zion's Watch Tower.
He has accepted both propositions, sent the list of subscribers, and in an open letter to them says, "I will endeavor to contribute something to *The Watch Tower* every month," &c.
As we are much crowded, we have published this letter as a supplement, and sent it to the subscribers of *The Last Trump*.

“Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life” (Page 161, paragraph 4)

Just as the Christian religion could not exist if nobody believed that Jesus is *God’s Son*, the Watchtower religion could not exist if nobody believed that the Watchtower Society is *God’s organization*.

But as essential as their organizational concept is to the existence of the Watchtower religion, the above “Bible Study aid” only offers one short sentence to explain why God selected the Watchtower Society over all other religions as his “faithful and discreet slave” in fulfillment of Matthew 24:45-47...

NOTE:
This paragraph asks, “In 1914, who did the ‘faithful and discreet slave’ prove to be?” As far as the Society was concerned, in 1914 that “slave” proved to be Charles Russell. It didn’t prove to be what this paragraph is saying until 1927.
(See pages 26, 27)

Jesus said that at the time of his presence in Kingdom power, “the faithful and discreet slave” would be found providing “food at the proper time” for His followers. (Matthew 24:45-47) When Jesus was installed as heavenly King in 1914, who did this “slave” prove to be? Certainly not the clergy of Christendom. For the most part, they were feeding their flocks propaganda that backed up their own national governments in World War I. But proper and timely spiritual food was being dispensed by [the Watchtower Society] [They] preached God’s Kingdom rather than man’s governments. As a result, over the years millions of righteously disposed “other sheep” have joined the anointed “slave” in practicing true religion. (John 10:16) Using the ‘faithful slave’ and its present-day Governing Body, God directs his organized people to make spiritual food, clothing, and shelter available to all who wish to have these provisions.

→ **“They preached God’s Kingdom rather than man’s governments.”** ←

This single statement in the middle of the only paragraph in this entire book that mentions Matthew 24:45-47 is surrounded by so much assertion,²⁷⁹ rhetoric²⁸⁰ and sophistry²⁸¹ that it makes it difficult to notice how little actual evidence is being provided to prove that God is ‘using the Watchtower Society and its present-day Governing Body to provide spiritual food, clothing and shelter to all the rest of mankind.’

²⁷⁹ **Assertion:** “To state positively with great confidence but with no objective proof.”

²⁸⁰ **Rhetoric:** “The art or science of using words effectively in speaking or writing so as to influence or persuade...artificial eloquence.”

²⁸¹ **Sophistry:** “Reasoning sound in appearance only... Clever or plausible but unsound and tending to mislead.”

IMPORTANT NOTE: Although the men who have formed the Watchtower leadership have been experts in the use of assertions, rhetoric and sophistry, this does not necessarily mean that they have always used their abilities to intentionally mislead. The need to uphold their illusionary “God organization” *in their own minds* may be the driving force behind the use of their abilities. – See the insert on page 95 where they refer to some scientists who “fall in love with their constructions” and spend a lifetime trying uphold their mistaken beliefs.

As explained in Chapter 5, the reason why Bible students are willing to accept so little evidence is because by the time they get to this paragraph they already believe that the Society is God's organization. The paragraph is simply stating something they already mistakenly believe.

But what about the fact that they “preached God's Kingdom rather than man's governments”? Does that count for anything?

First of all, according to what the Society teaches today, most of what Russell and Rutherford had preached about God's Kingdom was not true. The following are some of the things that they no longer preach about it...

- 1) The King of God's Kingdom had returned in 1874.
- 2) God's Kingdom was set up in heaven in 1878
- 3) Jesus was installed as King of God's Kingdom in 1878
- 4) Jesus began ruling as the King of God's Kingdom in 1878.
- 5) Under God's Kingdom the dead in union with Christ were resurrected in 1881.
- 6) Under God's Kingdom anointed Witnesses would be taken to heaven before 1914.
- 7) God's Kingdom would be firmly established in the earth by 1914.
- 8) God's Kingdom would destroy all false religion by end of 1914.
- 9) God's Kingdom would destroy all Gentile nations by the end of 1914
- 10) Jesus would begin ruling God's Kingdom in 1925
- 11) Under God's Kingdom Jesus would resurrect Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in 1925

Secondly, when *all* the “spiritual food, clothing and shelter” that Russell and Rutherford provided from 1876 to 1919 is examined it becomes evident that most of it was *not* proper or timely. According to what the Society teaches today, those two men were responsible for thousands of portions of improper and untimely spiritual food that they served millions of times.²⁸²

Note: It isn't as if millions of people were aware of the things considered in this study and decided to join the Watchtower religion anyway. The reason why there are millions of Jehovah's Witnesses today is because they are *not* aware of these things. Although they may have read the *Knowledge* book several times (first as a student and later as the teacher), they have never checked to see if “proper and timely spiritual food” really had been dispensed down till 1919. – See Chapter 5, “The One Mistake All Jehovah's Witnesses Have Made”

²⁸² Chapter 3, “48 Teachings Jesus Examined,” pp. 39,40. George Swetnam, the official historian for the Pittsburgh Bicentennial in 1958-1959 wrote: “Pastor Russell traveled constantly, covering more than a million miles, delivering more than **30,000 sermons and lectures and talks**, writing **books totaling over 50,000 pages**, which have reached a circulation of more than **20,000,000 copies**.” Therefore, Russell's teachings mentioned in Chapter 3 were just a small portion of the spiritual food that was included in his sermons, lectures, talks and books.

The Foundation Cornerstone of the Watchtower Religion

Jehovah's Witnesses realize that the foundation cornerstone of the Christian religion is that "Jesus is the Christ."²⁸³ What they don't realize is that the foundation cornerstone of their religion is that "the Watchtower Society is God's organization." Everything always comes back to the question, not "Is Jesus the Christ?" but, "Is the Watchtower Society God's organization?" - p. 15

The purpose of this study has been to identify the above 'stone' and then remove it by understanding the Society's interpretation of Matthew 24:45-47 and then holding them to it while examining the organization's history that relates to their interpretation.

Once this is done it destroys the foundation upon which the Watchtower religion rests. Witnesses who are willing to face the result of such an examination are then able to let go of the illusionary concept that has been holding them captive. – See *Foreword*, page 8, paragraph 2

About The Author

I spent my first 20 years as one of Jehovah's Witnesses trying to help the rest of the world learn what I had mistakenly thought was "the Truth." I then spent my final year as a Witness trying to help the local elders come to learn that what we thought was "the Truth" - wasn't. And while I was not surprised to see that the majority of non-Witnesses had no interest in anything I had to say about our religion, I was very surprised to discover that none of the elders had any interest in anything that I had to say about our religion either!

Although there is not much that can be said about the religion of Jehovah's Witnesses that has not already been said, there are lots of different ways of saying what has already been said. I have said things in a way that may have helped me when I was a captive an illusionary concept of how God is dealing with mankind.

But I have learned that no matter *what* is said or *how* it is said, it will not be able to help those who are not ready to meet up with reality.

²⁸³ Ephesians 2:20

