

Witnessing to the Witnesses

Colossians 2:8-10 Part 2

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[Colossians 2:8-10](#)

“8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”

Last time we were together we took a little detour from our study of the book of Colossians. We did this to give the history of another cult, that attacks the Deity of JESUS CHRIST; The Watchtower and Bible Tract Society — AKA Jehovah’s Witnesses.

Why are we talking about the Jehovah’s Witnesses? The JW’S are a group that has over 1.2 million members in the United States and 8.6 million members worldwide. They are involved worldwide. Their materials are translated into numerous languages around the world.

The events of the past two years have hindered them from doing their typical activity of going door to door. However, Starting September 1st, the start to their “service year or fiscal year.” You and I may be getting visitors on Saturday mornings, again.

Their translation of the Bible is known as the *The New World Translation*. The magazines that the JW’s carry are the “*The Watchtower*; and “*Awake*.”

We discussed last time a group that preceded the JW’S, the followers of William Miller; the Millerites.

“William Miller was a devout Baptist and careful student of the Bible. He calculated a date for the end of the world by using a strictly literal reading of the first chapters of Genesis and other prophetic events in the Bible.

Jesus, Miller predicted, would make his millennial return and the world would end on October 22, 1844. Jesus, Miller predicted, would make his millennial return and the world would end on October 22, 1844.

Charles Taze Russell was the man who founded the **International Bible Students** which are the forerunners to the Jehovah’s Witnesses. Charles Taze Russel was born in 1852 and died in 1916. By the time he was twenty he had left the Presbyterian and Congregationalist denominations because he could not reconcile the idea of an eternal hell with the mercy of God.

The belief that Hell is not a place of Eternal Torment is a believe held by the JW’S to this day.

Russel came across the path of some Adventists tied to William Miller who taught Russell that the Bible Could be used to predict God’s plan of salvation and the end of the World.

Charles Taze Russell and the successors of the Watchtower predicted the end of the World numerous times; 1874; 1914; 1915; 1918; 1925 and 1975. When these predictions failed; the prophecy of JESUS's return in 1914 was changed to JESUS having returned invisibly.

See the messages titled, "A History of the Watchtower and Bible Tract Society — AKA Jehovah's Witnesses for numerous quoted from Watchtower publications supporting these statements.

I will touch briefly again on the falsehoods of 1925.

"We may confidently expect," stated the booklet Millions Now Living Will Never Die, back in 1920, "that 1925 will mark the return [from the dead] of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the faithful prophets of old . . . to the condition of human perfection." Not only was the resurrection of faithful men of old expected in 1925 but some hoped that anointed Christians might receive their heavenly reward in that year.*

The year 1925 came and went. Some abandoned their hope. But the vast majority of the Bible Students remained faithful." Advertise the King and the Kingdom (1919-1941) Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom pg 78

This prophecy given during the term of the Second President of the Watchtower Society; Jude Rutherford has a physical testimony standing to this day; that this did not happen.

A house was built by Judge Rutherford in San Diego, CA; known as "Beth Sarim" or "House of Princes, in 1929. Judge Rutherford planned on living there until the princes showed up after Armageddon to live in the home. He lived and worked there until his death in 1942. This house is still standing in San Diego to this day.

We looked at why it matters about the false prophecies made by the JW's because of their own admission to being a Prophet of God and that they claim that admitted that you made a mistake does not make you a false prophet of God.

But God's WORD says:

Deuteronomy 18:21-22

"And if you say in your heart, 'How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?' — when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him."

JESUS also warned us about false prophets in Matthew 7:15 "15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves."

We showed that the WTBS quoted Spirit Medium in the translation of The New World Translation (NWT) and knew of this the whole time; even though they disavow this and have made no attempt to correct this.

We looked at how the JW's deny that JESUS was Crucified on an actual Cross with a crossbar and how the Cross is abhorrent to the JW's; but to Bible Believing Christians, as it is written in:

1 Corinthians 1:18

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

We showed how the JW's deny the Trinity and believe that JESUS; is Michael the Archangel and is a created being.

As we wrap up our review, we are going to look again at a sample dialogue between a JW and a neighbor; to see how the JW's operate. **The following is from the April 2012 Watchtower; Titled: A Conversation with a Neighbor: Is Jesus, God?**

Is It True That You Do Not Believe in Jesus?

Samantha: My pastor says that Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe in Jesus. Is that true?

Karen: Let me assure you that we do believe in Jesus. In fact, we believe that exercising faith in Jesus is vital to salvation.

Samantha: I believe that too.

Karen: So this is something that you and I have in common.

The JW's spend a lot of time training and going over "scripts" like this. Walter Martin the original Bible Answer Man over fifty to sixty years ago, stated: "A man can attend college for four years and one to two years in seminary only to be turned into a doctrinal pretzel by a 90-day wonder from the WTBTS."

He also mentioned and we see in the start of this dialogue that we need to scale the language barrier when talking with a JW or any other cult member. The first thing we see in this script is to define our terms.

(explain they do believe in JESUS, but another JESUS and another Gospel.)

The JW's come from the mindset that they are part of Jehovah's Organization and that The New World Translation comes from God. Coming from this mindset they believe in restoration-ism. This means that the true word of God was lost and that they have the truth of God's word .

The JW comes from a siege mentality mindset; which means that any criticism will in their minds be converted into persecution because they "have" the truth.

The typical JW will not look at any material that is critical of the WTBTS because they believe it comes from Satan. When talking to a JW, we are not trying to get them to agree with what we are telling or showing them; but only trying to sow seed that the HOLY SPIRIT can use to bring doubt and questions to the JW's mind about what they believe; and if what they are being taught is true.

We can do this by asking questions, that may become "an irritant" in the mind of the JW.

It is important to remember that when you are talking to a JW or any other person in a cult;

➤ ***What do YOU believe? And WHY do YOU believe that?***

As the sample dialogue continues it comes to one of the JW's favorite "Gotcha" verses. A "Gotcha" verse is a verse that they believe is a slam dunk denial of JESUS being God. Turn to John 14:28.

John 14:28

"You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I."

Karen: Consider, too, Jesus' words at John 14:28: Based on that verse, how would you say Jesus viewed himself in relation to the Father?

Samantha: Well, he said that the Father is greater than he is. So I guess he viewed God as his superior.

➤ **How would you answer this question?**

In the military a Colonel is in greater authority than a Lieutenant in terms of rank. But as humans they are both the same nature. That is true of JESUS and GOD the Father. They are the same essence and nature but distinct persons. JESUS took on the role of a servant.

Philippians 2:8

“And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

As the scripture continues Karen suggests that Samantha read Luke 3:21-22. Let’s turn there

Luke 3:21-22

“When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. 22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.””

Karen: Did you notice what Jesus was doing as he was being baptized?

Samantha: He was praying.

Karen: Yes. Of course, we might wonder, ‘If Jesus is God, to whom was he praying?’

Samantha: That’s a good question. I’ll have to ask my pastor.

As we looked at last time, the passage in Luke is an excellent example of the Triune nature of GOD and that JESUS is not the FATHER NOR The Holy Spirit, but each are unique.

The JW’s like to ask “Gotcha ““If” and “why” questions.

Another “IF” the JW’s like to ask is:

“If JESUS is the Father, then to whom was He talking to in the Garden of Gethsemene?”

They may hit you with this and as you are trying to process it they will shift the topic and hit you with something else. It is very important to not let them do this.

This question comes from not understanding the nature of GOD. IN the JW’s eyes anytime they think of Jehovah they are thinking of the Father; the almighty GOD.

We do not believe that JESUS is the Father, Biblically GOD THE FATHER AND JESUS, GOD the Son are distinct from each other.

The JW may state that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, but not God the Son. The title “Son of GOD” as JESUS applied it to HIMSELF, denotes Diety is evident from the reaction of the Pharisees.

John 10:33

“The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.””

I will now read this out of the JW's bible, The New World Translation:

John 10:33 (NWT):

The Jews answered him: "We are stoning you, not for a fine work, but for blasphemy;+ for you, although being a man, make yourself a god."

We will look at some more verses using The New World Translation shortly.

Some other "Gotcha" "IF" questions are"

If Jesus is God, how could He die, and who was running the universe, while he was dead for three days? Once again, we do not believe that JESUS is GOD the Father and we do not believe JESUS is all there is to GOD; Because of this we are not concerned with who was "running the universe." As we have talked about already, JESUS has a dual nature.

HE is one hundred percent GOD, and one hundred percent man. HE had to become a man, to be able to die. Since JESUS is also GOD, the divine part of HIS two natures did NOT die.

In this question, it shows their complete misunderstanding of death itself which they believe to be the complete annihilation. The word "death" means separation, and not annihilation. When we talked about this doctrine last time we looked at Luke 16:19-26 and the Real story of Lazarus and the Rich man; and what happened to them after death.

The dual nature of JESUS, will be the answer if they try to talk to you about a couple of paradoxes. They may present to you the following:

John 1:18

"No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."

They may say to you; no one has seen God at any time, but men saw JESUS.

one more...

James 1:13

"Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."

They may say to you God cannot be tempted, but JESUS was tempted.

As you talk with the JW's they may ask you to turn to the following section in Proverbs to show you that JESUS was a created being. Please turn to Proverbs 8.

Proverbs 8:22-31

"The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was brought forth; While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, Or the primal dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep, When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth, Then I was

beside Him as a master craftsman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, And my delight was with the sons of men.”

On the surface this would seem to support their point. However, when talking with a JW, or any other cultist for that matter; remember CONTEXT, CONTEXT, CONTEXT.

Proverbs 8:1-2 “1 Does not wisdom cry out, And understanding lift up her voice? 2 She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, Beside the way, where the paths meet.”

What is the topic of Proverbs 8? Wisdom. While we see that understanding is described with the feminine her. It appears in verse 2 “She take her stand, appears to point to Wisdom.

Please go to Proverbs 9:1 “1 Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars;”

Here we see Wisdom is described with feminine pronouns. JESUS is masculine. So while wisdom was created and with GOD; this does not mean that JESUS was a created being.

This is just a taste to get your feet wet. As we have already talked about, the JW’s spend hours, I mean hours studying their script. It can difficult to use our Bible translations; which are scholarly in the research that has gone into them, to accurately translate the Word of God.

In their study, they study how to answer you using your own translation. In fact on their website, they have copies of the KJV; The American Standard; The Bible in Living English and The Emphasised Bible.

As we talked last time; the typical JW may not be aware of the false prophecies of the Watchtower. It is important to remember to use the information from last time to try to plant seeds of doubt in the minds of the JW, regarding the false prophecies and some of their false doctrines, but not to argue these points.

Showing the false prophecies and the false doctrines will not save a JW. The only one who can save them is JESUS. I will now talk about some verses that you can bring to their attention from The New World Translation, to show them that JESUS is Jehovah or almighty GOD.

As we look at these, please write down the verses and go back later and read them out of your Bible.

Psalm 102:1-2 NWT

O Jehovah, hear my prayer;+Let my cry for help reach you.+ 2 Do not hide your face from me in my time of distress.+ Incline your ear* to me; Do answer me quickly when I call.

Who is the Psalmist Speaking to in verse 1. Jehovah or almighty God?

Now we will jump down to verses 25-27

Psalm 102:25-27 NWT

Long ago you laid the foundations of the earth,And the heavens are the work of your hands.+ 26 They will perish, but you will remain;Just like a garment they will all wear out. Just like clothing you will replace them, and they will pass away. 27 But you are the same, and your years will never end.+

Who laid the foundations of the earth and the heavens? Jehovah.

Now let’s look at Hebrews 1:8.

Hebrews 1:8 NWT

But about the Son, he says: "God is your throne+ forever and ever, and the scepter of your Kingdom is the scepter of uprightness.

The write to Hebrews states that the Son is called God. This will stronger in your translation.

verses 10-12

Hebrews 1:10-12 NWT

And: "At the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands. 11 They will perish, but you will remain; and just like a garment, they will all wear out, 12 and you will wrap them up just as a cloak, as a garment, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never come to an end."

So in Psalm 102:25-27 who laid the foundations of the Earth? Jehovah God. Now looking at Hebrews 1:10-12 who is this passage talking about. JESUS, GOD the son and what does it say he did? He laid the foundations of the Earth.

So these two passages show that JESUS Jehovah.

Our next one is Jeremiah 17:10.

Jeremiah 17:10 NWT

I, Jehovah, am searching the heart, +Examining the innermost thoughts, *To give to each one according to his ways, According to the fruitage of his works.+

Once again who is speaking?:Jehovah. What is he doing? Searching the innermost thoughts.

Now lets look at Revelation 2:18,23.

Revelation 2:18,23 NWT

"To the angel of the congregation in Thy·a·ti'ra+ write: These are the things that the Son of God says, the one who has eyes like a fiery flame+ and whose feet are like fine copper:+

In verse 18 who is speaking? JESUS the Son of GOD

23 And I will kill her children with deadly plague, so that all the congregations will know that I am the one who searches the innermost thoughts* and hearts, and I will give to you individually according to your deeds.+

In verse 23, WHAT is HE claiming? That HE IS THE ONE searching the innermost thoughts.

Here are a few others, these will talk about the First and the Last or the Alpha and the Omega. Please turn to: Isaiah 41.

Isaiah 41:4 NWT

4 Who has acted and done this,Summoning the generations from the beginning? I, Jehovah, am the First One;+And with the last ones I am the same."+

Who is speaking? Jehovah. And what is HE? The first and the last.

Isaiah 44:6 NWT

6 This is what Jehovah says, The King of Israel+ and his Repurchaser,+ Jehovah of armies: 'I am the first and I am the last.+ There is no God but me.+'

Who is speaking? Jehovah. And what is HE? The first and the last.

Isaiah 48:12 NWT

12 Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I have called. I am the same One.+ I am the first; I am also the last.+'

Who is speaking? Jehovah. And what is HE? The first and the last.

Now turn to the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 1:18 NWT

17 When I saw him, I fell as dead at his feet. And he laid his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First+ and the Last,

Ask the JW who is speaking? They will answer Jehovah.

Revelation 2:8 NWT

8 "And to the angel of the congregation in Smyr'na write: These are the things that he says, 'the First and the Last,'+ who became dead and came to life again:

A question to ask is, "If Jehovah is the first and the last, when did HE die? Here are a few verses from their Bible; titled: The Kingdom Interlinear Translation of the Greek Scriptures. This translation is the same as The New World Translation with the Greek text and English translation on one side and the text from The New World Translation on the other.

We have already discussed how they translate John 1:1. by adding the definite article "a" before God.

In the Kingdom Interlinear Translation (KIT) on the Greek side we read. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was toward the God and God was the Word."

So the English translation on the Greek side describes God as the Word.

Another one is Colossians 1:15-17 where they add the word other to show that JESUS created all the other things of Creation. On the Greek side the word other is omitted because it is not in the Greek.

Now showing the JW'S things might illicit a reaction and it may not be a pleasant one. I want to encourage you that this may be difficult if insults and being called satan start to fly because you are challenging God's organization.

May the LORD give us hearts to reach out to this group whom HE died for and loves.

Do you know what it means to be a follower of the TRUE, biblical Jesus? If you'd like to speak to someone, please reach out to us. It would be our privilege to speak with you!

Reach out to us [here](#).

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

