

The 45 Primary Errors of Jehovah's Witnesses

Bracketed numbers are from the Watchtower book Reasoning from the Scriptures

The Watchtower Teaches

- 1.The Watchtower Society is God's visible representative on earth, and should be obeyed as the voice of God [205].
- 2.Scripture alone is insufficient in learning the things of God [328, 332-333].
- 3.Without the Watchtower Society and its vast literature, people are incapable of ascertaining the true meaning of Scripture [328].
- 4.People are not to think for themselves in interpreting Scripture. They are to submit their minds to the Watchtower Society [328].

The Bible Teaches

- 1.The "voice of God" is found only in the Scriptures (see 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:13). Obedience should be rendered to God and His Word, not to an eighteenth-century organization (read Psalm 119).
- 2.Scripture is *completely* sufficient to provide the knowledge that leads to salvation through faith in Christ and to grow spiritually (see 2 Timothy 3:15-17).
- 3.Every person has the ability to understand Scripture (2 Timothy 3:15-17). The Holy Spirit helps believers to understand and apply God's Word (John 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:9-12).
- 4.Believers are called to test all truth-claims with the measuring stick of Scripture (1 Thessalonians 5:21), just as the Berean Christians did (Acts 17:11). Jesus, by example, showed us how to use Scripture as the final court of appeal (Matthew 4:4,7,10).

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- 5."Jehovah" is the *only* name by which God should be called [149, 191].
- 6.The proper use of God's "correct" name (Jehovah) is essential to salvation [149, 196-197].
- 7.References to the Father in the New Testament should be denoted as "Jehovah" [194-195].
- 8.Believers are called to be witnesses of *Jehovah* [199-208].
- 9.Jesus is not Jehovah like the Father is [197-198].

The Bible Teaches

- 5.Scripture refers to God in numerous ways -- including "the God of...Abraham, Issac, and Jacob" (Exodus 3:16), "our Father" (Matthew 6:9), and "Abba" (loosely meaning "daddy") (Romans 8:15). Moreover, "YHWH" (or "Yahweh") -- not "Jehovah" -- is the proper rendering of the Old Testament name of God.
- 6.The forgiveness of sins is found in the name of *Jesus* (John 1:12; 3:16; Acts 10:43; 1 John 3:23,24). Jesus is the *only* way of salvation (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:13).
- 7.The New Testament (in the Greek manuscripts) always uses the word "Lord," never "Jehovah" -- even in quotations from the Old Testament.
- 8.Believers are called to be witnesses of *Jesus Christ* (Acts 1:8; 2:32; 3:15; 4:33; 13:30-31).
- 9.Jesus *is* Jehovah (or "Yahweh"), for he is prophetically referred to as Yahweh (Isaiah 40:3), has the glory of Yahweh (Isaiah 6:1-5; cf. John 12:41), and does things only Yahweh can do -- such as creating the universe (Isaiah 44:24; cf. Colossians 1:16).

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- 10 Christ was the "firstborn of all creation" and .was created billions of years ago [408-409].
- 11 Christ was created as the Archangel Michael .[218].
- 12 It was through this created angel (Christ) that .all other things in the universe were created [408-409].
- 13 Jesus is a mighty god, but He is not God .Almighty like the Father is [212-213, 416-417].
- 14 Jesus is a lesser god than the Father, for He .said, "The Father is greater than I" (John 14:28) [214, 219, 410, 420, 425].
- 15 Jesus is a lesser god than the Father, for "the .head of Christ is God" (1 Corinthians 11:3) [410].
- 16 Jesus is a lesser god than the Father, for he is .called God's "only begotten son" (John 3:16) [418].
- 17 Because Jesus referred to the Father as "my .Father" and "my God" (John 20:17), He cannot be God in the same sense that the Father is [212-213, 426].
- 18 Because Jesus didn't know the day or hour of .His second coming (Mark 13:32), He cannot be God in the same sense the Father is [409].

The Bible Teaches

- 10 Christ wasn't created, but *is* the Creator (Isaiah .44:24; Colossians 1:16). The word "firstborn" means Christ is "first in rank" and "preeminent" over all creation.
- 11 Christ was not Michael because: He created .the angels (Colossians 1:16); no angel can be called God's son (Hebrews 1:5); and no angel can rule the world (Hebrews 2:5). Christ rules all (Revelation 19:16).
- 12 God Almighty -- all by Himself -- directly .created everything in the universe (Isaiah 44:24). Since the New Testament portrays Christ as the Creator (Colossians 1:16), this points to His identity as God Almighty.
- 13 Both the Father and Jesus are called "Mighty .God" in Scripture (Isaiah 10:21; 9:6). Likewise, both the Father and Jesus are shown to be Almighty God in Scripture (Isaiah 45:5; 40:3). They are equally divine.
- 14 Jesus is equal with the Father in His divine .nature (John 10:30). He was positionally lower than the Father from the standpoint of His becoming a servant by taking on human likeness (Philippians 2:6-11). Positionally the Father was "greater" than Jesus.
- 15 Just as a husband is functionally the head of .his wife even though both are equally human (Genesis 1:26-28), so the Father is functionally the head of Christ even though both are equally divine (John 10:30).
- 16 Jesus is *eternally* the Son of God (John 3:16- .17; Proverbs 30:4; Hebrews 1:2). This means He eternally has the same nature -- a *divine* nature -- as the Father.
- 17 It is in his *humanity* that Christ acknowledged .the Father as "my God." In His divine nature He could never refer to the Father as "my God," for He was fully equal to the Father regarding His divine nature (John 1:1; 10:30; 20:28).
- 18 Jesus was speaking from the limited .perspective of His humanity. Had He been speaking from His divinity, He wouldn't have said He didn't know the day or hour. Other verses show that Christ, as *God*, knows all

things (Matthew 17:27; Luke 5:4-6; John 2:25; 16:30; 21:17).

19 Jesus is not to be worshiped like the Father is, but is to be shown only obeisance [214-215].

19 The same Greek word (*proskuneo*) used of worshiping the Father (John 4:23) is used of worshiping Jesus (John 9:38; Hebrews 1:6; Matthew 8:2). Jesus was often worshiped in the New Testament.

20 Following His crucifixion, Jesus was raised from the dead as an invisible spirit creature (with no physical body) [334-335].

20 Jesus was raised in a visible, physical body of flesh and bones (Luke 24:39).

21 Jesus did not appear to His disciples in the same body in which He died, but rather "materialized" to the disciples in various bodies to prove He had "resurrected" [335].

21 Jesus appeared to the disciples in the exact same body that was buried in the tomb. It even retained the crucifixion wounds (John 20:27; sf. Acts 2:31; 1 Corinthians 15:35-44).

22 Christ's spiritual and invisible second coming took place in 1914. He has been ruling as King since then through the Watchtower Society [340-345].

22 Christ's second coming is yet to come and will be visible to every eye (Daniel 7:13; Zechariah 9:14; 12:10; Matthew 16:27,28; 24:30; 2 Timothy 4:1). He will come again as "King of kings" in a blaze of glory (Revelation 19:16).

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23 The Holy Spirit is not a person [380-381].

The Bible Teaches

23 The Holy Spirit *is* a person, for He has all the attributes of personality -- mind (1 Corinthians 2:10), emotions (Ephesians 4:30), and will (1 Corinthians 12:11). He does things only a person can do, such as praying (Romans 8:26) and speaking to people (John 15:26).

24 The Holy Spirit is not God, but is God's impersonal "active force" for accomplishing His will in the world [381].

24 The Holy Spirit is not only a person (see No. 23), but He is also fully God. He is called God in Acts 5:3,4. He also has all the attributes of God, including omnipresence (Psalm 139:7), omniscience (1 Corinthians 2:10), and omnipotence (Romans 15:19).

25 Because the Holy Spirit doesn't have a name, "it" is not a person [380-381, 407].

25 Spiritual beings are not always named in Scripture. They are often identified by their character. Demons, for example, are called "unclean" or "wicked" spirits. Likewise, the Holy Spirit is identified by His holy character (John 16:7-14).

26 Because different people can be "filled" with the Holy Spirit at the same time, this proves the Spirit is not a person [380].

26 Ephesians 3:19 speaks of being filled with God Himself. Obviously God is a person. Ephesians 4:10 speaks of Christ filling all things. Obviously Christ is a person. So is the Holy Spirit.

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27The word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible, and .hence the doctrine cannot be true [405-426].

28Because God is not a God of disorder or .confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33), the doctrine of the Trinity cannot possibly be true since it is so unreasonable [407-426].

29There can't be "three Gods in one God" or ."three Gods in one person" [405-426].

30The doctrine of the Trinity was adopted by the .church some 300 years after Christ died [405].

The Bible Teaches

27Through the word "Trinity" is not in the Bible, .the concept is clearly taught (Matthew 28:19). There is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), yet there are three persons (2 Corinthians 13:14) who are called God -- the Father (1 Peter 1:2), the Son (John 20:28), and the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3,4).

28For humans to be able to understand .everything about God, they would need to have the very mind of God. Scripture indicates that humans cannot understand everything about God (Romans 11:33; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Isaiah 55:8,9).

29Trinitarians do not believe there are three Gods .in one God or three Gods in one person. They believe in *three persons in one God* (Matthew 28:19).

30The doctrine of the Trinity is derived *directly .from Scripture* (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14). It has continuously been affirmed by the church ever since Christ died.

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31Only 144,000 Jehovah's Witnesses go to .heaven. These are the "Anointed Class" [166-168].

32After the 144,000, all remaining Jehovah's .Witnesses are God's "other sheep," and will live forever on a paradise earth [116-117].

33Only members of the Anointed Class are ."born again" [76-80].

The Bible Teaches

31Christ never restricted the kingdom of heaven .to a mere 144,000 people. He taught that *all* people should seek the kingdom, and that *whoever* sought it would find it (Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 1:14,15; Luke 12:22-32).

32A heavenly destiny awaits *all* who believe in .Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:19; Philippians 3:20; Colossians 3:1). Jesus affirmed that all believers will be together in "one flock" under "one shepherd" in heaven (John 10:16).

33Scripture says that *everyone who believes* that ."Jesus is the Christ is born of God..." (1 John 5:1). "Everyone who believes" is all-inclusive.

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34Salvation depends on works. "Grace" is more .or less the *opportunity* for human beings to earn their salvation by total obedience to the Watchtower Society. Grace does not involve a free gift of salvation [356-359].

The Bible Teaches

34Salvation is by *faith* through *grace*, with no .works involved (Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; Galatians 2:16). The word "grace" refers to God's unmerited favor. God freely gives us salvation as a gift -- and this gift is received by believing in Jesus (Acts 16:31).

- 35"Faith" is necessary for salvation -- but works must be added to it [132].
- 35Close to 200 times in the New Testament .salvation is said to be by faith alone -- with no works in sight (for example, John 3:15; 5:24; 11:25; 12:46; 20:31; Acts 16:31).
- 36"Faith" involves calling on the name of Jehovah .(Romans 10:13 is cited) [149].
- 36Romans 10:13 refers to calling upon the *Lord Jesus* -- not Jehovah -- for salvation (see verses 9-12 for the context). (The Watchtower Society has mistranslated this verse in their translation of the Bible.) Acts 16:31 is a good cross-reference: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (New International Version).
- 37There is no assurance of salvation [358-359].
- 37Believers are secure in their salvation. .Ephesians 4:30 says we are sealed for the day of redemption by the Holy Spirit. No one can snatch us out of Christ's hand (John 10:28).



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38Man does not have a soul distinct from the .physical body that can survive death [375, 379].

39Since man has no immaterial nature that .survives at death, he is obviously not conscious of anything following death [169-175].

40Hell is not an eternal place of suffering, but is .the common grave of humankind [170-171].

41Unbelievers are annihilated at death [172-174].

The Bible Teaches

38Man *does* have a distinct soul. The moment a .Christian dies his soul (or immaterial nature) goes to be in the presence of God (Philippians 1:21-23; 2 Corinthians 5:8). The moment a non-Christian dies, his soul goes to a place of great suffering (Luke 16:19-31).

39Human beings are conscious following the .moment of death. An example is Revelation 6:9,10 where disembodied "souls" of believers are under God's altar carrying on a conversation with Him. (See also Luke 16:19-31).

40Hell is a *place* of suffering (Revelation 20:15), .and those who go there suffer *eternally* (Matthew 25:46). The sufferings of the wicked are just as eternal as the eternal life of believers. [The same Greek word for "eternal" is used in both cases (see Revelation 14:9-11).]

41Annihilation *avoids* punishment, rather than .encountering it. Torment cannot, by definition,

be anything but conscious distress (Revelation 14:9-11). A punishment that is not felt is not a punishment. Scripture indicates *conscious* eternal torment for the wicked (Matthew 25:46).

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42A blood transfusion is the same as eating .blood because it is so similar to intravenous feeding. References to "eating blood" in the Bible (Genesis 9:4, for example) thus prohibit blood transfusions [70-76].

43Birthdays should not be celebrated because in .two birthdays mentioned in Scripture (Genesis 40:20-22); Matthew 14:6-10), someone was put to death. Birthdays are therefore evil [68-70].

44Wearing a cross is a form of idolatry [89-93].

45Jesus was crucified not on a cross but on a .stake [89].

The Bible Teaches

42The Bible does prohibit eating blood. But a .blood transfusion *is not* equivalent to intravenous feeding because the blood does not function as food. A transfusion merely replenishes the body's supply of essential, life-sustaining fluid.

43These verses prove only that the men involved .(Pharaoh and Herod) were evil -- not that birthdays are evil. While Scripture does not command us to celebrate birthdays, neither does it forbid it.

44Wearing a cross is not a form of idolatry .because the cross itself is not worshiped. Rather, the cross represents a worshipful attitude toward Christ and a commitment to the message of the cross (that Christ died for us).

45Jesus was crucified on a cross (Greek: .*stauros*). John 20:25 says *nails* were used in His crucifixion -- one for each hand. (Only one nail would be used on a stake.) Also, Jesus described crucifixion as involving *outstretched* arms (John 21:18,19).