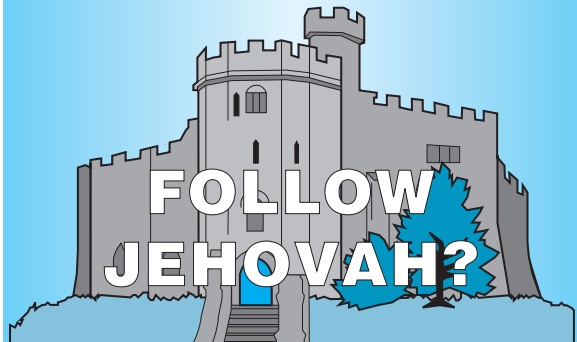


DO “JEHOVAH’S WITNESSES”



God said of our Lord Jesus Christ, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; *hear Him*” (Matthew 17:5).

Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and *they follow Me*” (John 10:27). “He who *has the Son* has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:12). “No one comes to the Father *except through Me*” (John 14:6). “All things were created through Him (Jesus Christ), and *for Him*. And He is before all things, and *in Him* all things consist (are held together)” (Colossians 1:16-17).

These Scriptures express in a few words the teaching of the entire Bible – that everything hinges upon Jesus Christ. All God’s thoughts and purposes revolve around His Son. Therefore unless we have a right relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, we do not need to concern ourselves with secondary points of doctrine. Without Christ we are lost and can never reach the kingdom of God anyway. Therefore I am limiting this brief discussion to who Jesus Christ really is.

First I will mention two very basic rules or guidelines for Biblical interpretation. Both are taken from the Scripture itself.

The first one is found in 2 Peter 1:20: “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation.” That is, it is not to be isolated from the rest of the Bible. When interpreting a particular passage, all other passages that speak on the same topic must be considered. Many have reached wrong conclusions because they failed to do this.

The second one is taken from John 16:13: “When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears he will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” Unless we have the guidance of the Holy Spirit we cannot even discover the thoughts of God from His Word since “the natural man does not

receive the things of the Spirit of God ... because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14). The Holy Spirit lives in every true, born-again Christian (Ephesians 1:13), and if we are yielded to the Lord He will teach us His truth.

Several pitfalls confront us when we interpret the Holy Scriptures. We tend to substitute human leadership and reasoning for a personal study of the Word of God, a conscious dependence upon God, and a consistent walk in fellowship with Him. Reasonable arguments abound, but many of them do not convey the truth of God. We must search the Scriptures ourselves, praying that God will reveal Himself and His truth to us (see 1 John 2:26-27).

When you read and study the Bible you cannot help but see the important place God gives to His Son, Jesus Christ. Any religion that gives Him a lower place cannot be right. It may call Him a good man, a prophet, or a created being of the highest order; but this is not enough. The Bible is emphatic that He is God revealed in the flesh (John 1:14,18). This fact is easily established by just a few passages with which all others agree.

- Matthew 4:10 (quoted from Deuteronomy 6:13-14): “Jesus said to him (Peter), ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “*You shall*

worship the *LORD your God*, and *Him only shall you serve.*”” God alone is to be worshipped.

- Hebrews 1:6: “When He (God) again brings the firstborn (Jesus Christ) into the world, He says: *‘Let all the angels of God worship Him.’*” God instructs the angels to worship the Lord Jesus.
- Isaiah 43:11 (Darby translation): “I, I am Jehovah; and *besides me there is no savior.*” Jehovah is the only Savior.
- Matthew 1:21: “She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name *JESUS*, for *He will save His people from their sins.*” Jesus is the Savior from sins.
- Acts 4:12: “*Nor is there salvation in any other*, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Jesus is the only Savior.
- 1 John 4:14: “We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as *Savior of the world.*” Jesus is the Savior of the world.
- 2 Peter 1:1: “By the righteousness of our God and *Savior Jesus Christ.*”
- Hebrews 1:8: “But to *the Son* He (God) says, ‘Your throne, *O God*, is forever and ever.’” Here Jesus is addressed as God by God the Father.
- 1 John 5:20: “We know that the *Son of God*

has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the *true God and eternal life.*” Here Jesus Christ is called the true God and eternal life.

In the Gospel of John the Lord Jesus declared in several places that He is equal with God the Father. One notable Scripture is John 5:23: “All should honor the Son *just as they honor the Father.* He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.” In John 8:58 “Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’” Here Jesus takes up the very same name as God in Exodus 3:14 when speaking to Moses. God told Moses to tell the children of Israel, “I AM has sent me to you.”

Sometimes John 14:28 (“My Father is greater than I”) is quoted as proof that Jesus was not equal with God the Father. However it was only in reference to His manhood that Jesus said this. Hebrews 2:9 records: “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death.” When the Son of God became a man He assumed a lower life-form. Nevertheless, He is still God, the Son.

It is claimed that it is unreasonable to believe that God is a Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy

Spirit – and that it originates in pagan philosophy. Actually, human reasoning is too weak and ineffective when it comes to apprehending our great and wonderful God. The Scriptures declare: “The world through wisdom did not know God” (1 Corinthians 1:21). God is not open to mere intellectual perception and reasoning. He wants to be believed, loved, and obeyed. The ancient pagan idolatry involving a triad of gods is simply a counterfeit of the one true God. Satan, who is well aware of the nature of God, is a master at counterfeiting. Right in the very first chapter of the Bible God revealed His plurality by saying, “Let *Us* make man in *Our* image” (Genesis 1:26). There are many other Scriptural evidences of it.

Scriptures such as Colossians 1:15 and Revelation 3:14, where Jesus is referred to as “the firstborn over all creation” and “the Beginning of the creation of God” are also often misinterpreted to prove that Jesus is a created being. However nowhere in the Bible does it say that God created Christ. A look at the definitions of the original Greek words for “firstborn” and “beginning” will show that these terms also mean first in rank, excluding any reference to time or origin entirely. They convey the truth that Jesus Christ has the highest position in the entire universe. He has “the name which is

above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11). He is “far above all principality and power and might and dominion” (Ephesians 1:21).

After voluntarily humbling Himself, even to death by crucifixion, the Lord Jesus well deserves to be exalted and glorified. His Father saw to it that He was. May we do the same in our hearts.

We regret to report that the “Jehovah’s Witness” movement does not accept the truth of these Bible verses. This religion lowers our Lord Jesus Christ to the place of a created being. This created being cannot be the Christ of the Bible, since in John 1:3 (as well as Colossians 1:16) it states that “*All things* were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” And remember, without the Christ of the Bible, nobody can be saved and reach the Kingdom of God, no matter how hard he may work to earn a place in it. For the Scriptures say, “By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

A number of religious groups claim, as the “Jehovah’s Witnesses” do, that anyone who is not a member of their particular church or group will undergo God’s judgment. This in itself is an

indication of its error, for the Bible clearly teaches that Jesus Christ is the only One who can save us. He said Himself, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). I repeat again, Jesus is the *only* Savior.

From the foregoing comparison of some of the teachings of “Jehovah’s Witnesses” with the Bible, and in spite of their claims of following the Scriptures, I can only conclude that they preach a perverted gospel about which the Apostle Paul warns: “But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed” (Galatians 1:8).

Our warning is: Don’t blindly follow blind leadership or else “both will fall into a ditch” (Matthew 15:14) – and be lost forever!

– *S. Hadley*

Scriptures from *The New King James Version*, © 1994, Thomas Nelson, Inc. By permission.

Free tracts and biblical counsel available by request. Write:
Grace & Truth • 210 Chestnut Street, Danville, IL 61832
or • P.O. Box 4902, Kaduna Junction P.O., Kaduna, Nigeria
Email: tracts@gtpress.org / Web: www.gtpress.org

PRINTED IN USA