

The Bible,  
The Watchtower,  
And Salvation

Dave Sherrill

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*Dave Sherrill*

weapons of your warfare against Him, bow to His Lordship, and surrender yourself to His control.

His blood can wash the foulest clean. His grace can support and uphold the weakest. His power can deliver the tried and tempted. "Behold NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). Yield yourself to Christ's claims. Give Him the throne of your heart. Turn over to Him the regulation of your life. "Trust in His atoning death. Love Him with all your soul. Obey Him with all your might and He will conduct you to heaven."

*"Believe on the LORD Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved"*  
(Acts 16:31)

*Arthur W. Pink*

It was his "church" which he "redeemed with his own blood," Acts 20:28; his "church" that "he loved and gave himself for it, that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church," Eph 5:25-27. They were his "sheep" he "laid down his life for," John 10:15, and "appears in heaven for us," Heb 9:24. Not one word of mediating for any other in Scripture.

*John Owen*

I would say then to every one just entering on the Christian life-study the Bible for yourself. Study it with humility, diligence, and prayer

*William B. Sprague*

But all false schemes, how much soever they differ among themselves, agree in promising eternal life to those who are destitute of true repentance

*Joseph Bellamy*

## What is the source of Jehovah's Witness Beliefs, the Bible or the Watchtower?

A Jehovah's Witness wrote:

"The rest of us like to look into the Bible and see if there is grounds for jumping, and then jump if it seems a good idea."

My response:

You seem to be saying that you look at what the Society says, evaluate their arguments in light of the Bible, and then either accept or reject the idea based on your understanding of the Scriptures. You are implying here that you are able to understand the Bible. I would say that your position on this is contradictory with the Society's stated position concerning your ability to understand the Bible. (I'm assuming that you are not of the "remnant".) They hold that you cannot understand the Bible without their literature. How then can you evaluate their literature in light of the Bible since you can't understand the Bible apart from what the Society's literature tells you? I will now document this with the following statements taken directly from Watchtower publications. I urge you to check out the quotes for yourself to make sure I am not misquoting them.

Furthermore, not only do we find that people cannot see the Divine Plan in studying the Bible by itself, but we see, also, that if anyone lays the *Scripture Studies* aside, even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years - if he lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he had merely read the *Scripture Studies* with their references, and had not read a page of the Bible, as such, he would be in the light at the end of the two years, because he would have the light of the Scriptures. (*The Watchtower*; 9/15/1910; pp. 298)

sublimities: here and there an adventurous traveler climbs a minor peak, and views glacier and alp at closer range; fewest of all are those who scale the topmost pinnacle and tread the virgin snow. So it is in the Church of God-- Every Christian abides under the shadow of divine love: a few enjoy and return that love to a remarkable degree: but there are few, in this age sadly few, who reach to seraphic love, who ascent into the hill of the Lord, to stand where the eagle's eye has not seen, and walk the path which the lion's whelp has never trodden, the high places of complete consecration and ardent self-consuming love. Now, mark you, it may be difficult to ascend so high, but there is one sure route, and only one, which the man must follow who would gain the sacred elevation. It is not the track of his works, nor the path of his own actions, but this, "We love him because he first loved us." John confessed that in this way he attained his love for God. For the highest love that ever glowed in human bosom there was no source but this-- God first loved that man. Do you not see how this is? The knowledge that God loves me casts out my tormenting dread of God: and when this is expelled, there is room for abounding love to God. As fear goes out, love comes in at the other door. So the more faith in God the more room there is for soul-filling love. Our soul is satisfied with marrow and fatness when we know that the whole heart of God beats towards us as forcibly as if we were the only creatures he had ever made, and his whole heart were wrapped up in us. Love to God produces a desire to be with him; a desire to be like him, a longing to be with him eternally in heaven, and this breaks us away from worldliness; this keeps us from idolatry, and thus has a most blessedly sanctifying effect upon us, producing that elevated character which is now so rare, but which wherever it exists is powerful for the good of the church and for the glory of God.

*Charles H. Spurgeon*

Bible, is not a sealed book. (*The Watchtower*; 7/1/1973; pp. 402)

They say that it is sufficient to read the Bible exclusively, either alone or in small groups at home. But, strangely, through such 'Bible reading,' they have reverted right back to the apostate doctrines that commentaries by Christendom's clergy were teaching 100 years ago... (*The Watchtower*; 8/15/1981; pp. 29)

No matter where we may live on earth, God's Word continues to serve as a light to our path and a lamp to our roadway as to our conduct and beliefs. (Ps. 119:105) But Jehovah God has also provided his visible organization, his "faithful and discreet slave," made up of spirit anointed ones, to help Christians in all nations to understand and apply properly the Bible in their lives. Unless we are in touch with this channel of communication that God is using, we will not progress along the road to life, no matter how much Bible reading we do. (*The Watchtower*; 12/1/1981; pp. 27)

We have the opportunity to show love for our brothers who take the lead in the congregation or in connection with Jehovah's visible organization worldwide. This includes being loyal to "the faithful and discreet slave." (Matthew 24:45-47) Let us face the fact that no matter how much Bible reading we have done, we would never have learned the truth on our own. (*The Watchtower*; 12/1/1990; pp. 19)

Channel to understanding the Bible... All who want to understand the Bible should appreciate that the "greatly diversified wisdom of God" can become known only through Jehovah's channel of communication, the faithful and discreet slave. (*The Watchtower*; 10/1/1994; pp. 8)

Based on these statements, I believe your claim of evaluating the Watchtower's beliefs in light of the Scriptures is

**impossible** within the authority structure of the Watchtower religion since the Society teaches that *you cannot understand the Bible apart from their guidance.*

A Probing Question for Jehovah's Witnesses:

One last question for you concerning this topic and then I will be done. I'm curious to know exactly which, if any, doctrines of the Society you have rejected based on your analysis of the Scriptures on a given point. I'm wondering if you can demonstrate that you really do disagree with the Society on something or if what you said earlier has never actually given birth to a difference. To say that you could disagree without ever actually disagreeing shows that it is somewhat of an empty theory.

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## What Jehovah's Witnesses Believe About God

*When Jehovah's Witnesses Talk About God. Who Do They Mean?*

When Jehovah's Witnesses (hereafter JW's) talk about "God" in a general sense, who are they talking about? This is important to grasp since their concept of God is quite different from that held by orthodox Christians. When speaking of God they are not referring to the Biblical Trinity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They do not accept the Trinity (which we will deal with in detail in a later article). Their references to God belong entirely to what Christians know as God the Father. They accept "Jehovah" as the personal name of God the Father, belonging only to him.

*The Watchtower Says*

The Bible refers to Jehovah by such titles as "God," "Sovereign Lord," "Creator," "Father," "the Almighty," and "the Most High." (Watchtower, 7/15/1993; p.6)

It has been well said that "true worship is based upon recognized greatness, and greatness is superlatively seen in Sovereignty, and at no other footstool will men really worship." In the presence of the Divine King upon His throne even the seraphim 'veil their faces.' Divine sovereignty is not the sovereignty of a tyrannical despot, but the exercised pleasure of One who is infinitely wise and good! Because God is infinitely wise He cannot err, and because He is infinitely righteous He will not do wrong. Here then is the preciousness of this truth. The mere fact itself that God's will is irresistible and irreversible fills me with fear, but once I realize that God wills only that which is good. My heart is made to rejoice. Here then is the final answer to the question— What ought to be our attitude toward the sovereignty of God? The becoming attitude for us to take is that of godly fear, implicit obedience, and unreserved resignation and submission. But not only so: the recognition of the sovereignty of God, and the realization that the Sovereign Himself is my Father, ought to overwhelm the heart and cause me to bow before Him in adoring worship. At all times I must say, "Even so, Father, for so it seems good in Your sight."

*Arthur W. Pink*

To feel love to God we must tread along the 'road of faith'. Truly, this is not a hard or perilous way, but one prepared by infinite wisdom. It is a road suitable for sinners, and indeed saints must come that way also. If you would love God, do not look within you to see whether this grace or that be as it ought to be, but look to your God, and read his eternal love, his boundless love, his costly love, which gave Christ for you; then shall your love drink in fresh life and vigor. Beloved, there are few of us who know much of the depths of the love of God; our love is shallow; ah, how shallow! Love to God is like a great mountain-- The majority of travelers view it from afar, or traverse the valley at its base: a few climb to a halting place on one of its elevated spurs, whence they see a portion of its

whom he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:3-7, NASB)

#### *Receive The Gospel Of God's Grace*

Perhaps you can see that your hopes of salvation from God have been based on a false "works gospel". Reject that futile, false gospel and receive the true gospel of God's grace in Christ.

"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation." (Romans 10:9-10, NASB)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith." (Romans 1:16-17, NASB)

"Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness..." (Romans 4:4-5, NASB)

*Dave Sherrill*

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Recommended Reading:

*Justification Before God: W.S. Craig*

*Apostolic Faith : Joseph Irons*

Free From:

*Agape Chapel Ministries, P.O.Box 59084, Norwalk, CA 90652 USA*  
*(Free List of Free Booklets)*

#### *What This Emphasis Results In*

The centrality of the Father is evident in the name of their group, Jehovah's Witnesses. They see themselves as a witness to obeying the commands of Jehovah. They can be understood in a general sense as "Christianized Judaism". Their emphasis of obedience to the laws of Jehovah is much like the Pharisees of Christ's time, except they dress up their speech with Christian phrases. Being aware of this will help you understand *one* of the reasons why they work so hard at being a good JW. It is an absolute necessity to prove your allegiance to Jehovah God by your untiring efforts to obey his laws. The Christian concept of grace (God's unmerited favor) is undeveloped in their theology. They have little use for grace since obedience takes the place of primacy in their scheme of salvation.

#### *The Watchtower Says*

Therefore if we want God to hear our prayers, a basic requirement is that we do his will, that we obey his laws. (You Can Live Forever In Paradise On Earth, 1982, p.228)

In a series of articles entitled "Gathering the Multitude," published in 1936, The Watchtower explained: "The Scriptures strongly support the conclusion that at Armageddon Jehovah will destroy the peoples of the earth, saving only those who obey his commandments to stand by his organization. (Jehovah's Witnesses - Proclaimers of God's Kingdom, 1993, p170)

#### *What About God's Omni-Attributes?*

The Bible presents God to us as having attributes which are limitless. You commonly hear of three main omni-attributes, God's omnipotence (all powerful), omniscience (all knowing), and omnipresence (everywhere present). These scriptural truths exalt our view of God, making him the all-sufficient provider of everything we need in all aspects of our life. The absence of any one of these attributes reduces God to being less than a reliable provider. For example if God was not omnipotent then

you could not know for certain if he could save you. He could suffer defeat at the hands of one more powerful than himself or he might simply run out of gas. He would not be a trustworthy savior in an absolute sense because he may not have the actual strength necessary to save you. His promises become nothing more than good intentions because he may not be able to make good on them. If God was not omniscient then he would be merely playing the odds, not knowing for certain what the outcome would be. Once again he would not be a trustworthy savior for he could never truly promise to save anyone absolutely. He becomes nothing more than a "heavenly bookie", stacking the odds in his favor but not truly knowing the outcome until it has played itself out to the end. If God was not omnipresent he cannot certainly save you, for he might not be able to find you. The denial of any of these attributes results in the "death of God" and a universe based ultimately on chance and probability. God's omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence are crucial to the Christian faith.

#### *JWs and God's Omni-Attributes*

Considering the importance of God's omni-attributes, it is a fair question to ask where JWs stand regarding them. In their publications, the Watchtower Society does speak of God's omnipotence and omniscience. However, they outrightly deny God's omnipresence. Their discussions of each point need further examination. Regarding God's omnipotence, this is the point of nearest agreement between JWs and Christians. JWs view Jehovah God - remember that this refers to God the Father - as possessing all might but utilizing it at his discretion. In their view his possession of all power does not make him like a hurricane or tornado of uncontrolled fury. His controlled use of omnipotence is what makes his promises trustworthy. This is demonstrated by the following statement. "Being almighty-omnipotent-Jehovah used his power to overcome any obstacle that could block fulfillment of his promise to Abraham, enabling that patriarch to become the father of

with works and everything to do with God. Truly, salvation is of the Lord.

"For we maintain that man is justified by faith apart from works of the law." (Romans 3:28, NASB)

#### *"Works Gospel" Rejected By Jehovah God*

The gospel of God's grace is one of the most God-honoring doctrines ever. To corrupt the gospel of grace with works is to destroy the gospel itself. It is a fatal error. God clearly condemned "works gospels" in the book of Galatians. Listen to the Lord's rebuke of those who wanted to mix grace and works.

"I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel, which is really not another, only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to that which you received, let him be accursed." (Gal 1:6-9, NASB)

#### *"Righteous" Works A False Hope*

Dear friend, real hope is not found in the Watchtower organization. The "faithful and discreet slave" cannot save you. Your good works cannot save you - they are filthy rags in God's sight. Your meeting attendance, door-to-door work, and Watchtower studies do not gain you acceptance in God's sight.

Concerning "righteous" works Jehovah God has said: "For we also were once foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

unknowingly and by chance doing good to one of the King's spiritual brothers that makes a person a sheep with a righteous standing before God and his King. Those of the sheep class know what they are doing, even though they do not see the reigning King with their literal eyes." (The Watchtower, 5/1/1993, pp. 20)

#### *Jehovah God Speaks*

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast." (Eph 2:8-9, NASB)

#### *Jehovah God's Answer -- Grace*

Jehovah God has spoken. The basis of God's favorable judgement of anyone, including you, is contained in one word - grace. Grace is unmerited favor. It is favor which may not, cannot, and will not be based in any way on works of merit. Whether those works are performed by men of their own inherent goodness (as some believe is possible) or in concert with God's empowerment (as others hold), they can never merit unmerited favor.

#### *An Illustration*

To mix grace and works is akin to saying "I will buy that free car from you and I'll pay you top dollar for it." You cannot pay for a free car. If you do then it is no longer free. Similarly, you cannot merit unmerited favor. If you do merit it, it is no longer unmerited. (Rom 11:6)

#### *Grace Excludes "Works Gospel"*

The Watchtower gospel is a system of works. Its gospel is not founded in God's grace. It is a false gospel. Grace by its own definition excludes all works of any kind. Salvation is not a gift based on your works, not a gift with a view to your works, and not a reward for your works. It has absolutely nothing to do

Isaac." (Watchtower 5/15/86 p. 4) His power is viewed as the guarantee of fulfillment of his promises to nations and individuals. This is not, when taken by itself, an anti-Biblical definition of God's omnipotence.

#### *JW's Affirm and Deny God's Omniscience*

In a fit of schizophrenia the Watchtower Society both affirms and denies the omniscience of Jehovah God. It would seem impossible to hold to both points of view but the Watchtower makes an attempt to do just that. This is a point of controversy that the Christian would do well to be aware of. Since the Watchtower approves of both sides of the coin, any discussion about God's omniscience can be adapted to fit the prevailing viewpoint and the opposing view can be lost in the shuffle. I mean that a JW can present God's omniscience to you in a positive affirming manner if they perceive that you believe in God's omniscience. If they think you doubt God's full omniscience then they can deny it along with you while remaining true to Watchtower indoctrination. Either way, it allows the JW to guide the conversation and appear to be agreeing with you when they really are not.

The Christian should not allow this to go unchallenged. Why? The JW view has a partially knowing God who knows only those things he chooses to know. But what if he chooses to know the wrong things? What if he does not know something that proved later to be really important? These objections cannot be dismissed as being impossible by the JW since the only way God could make the "right" choices about what to know would have to be based on full omniscience, which they deny that he has. The JW's cannot have their cake and eat it too. Either God is fully omniscient or he is not (which raises doubts about his ability to save anyone). Plus, let's face it, it is only a word game to say that God is selectively omniscient. Omniscient means all-knowing. If there is ANYTHING he does not know, HE IS NOT OMNISCIENT by definition. Their definition of omniscience falls apart when you consider

this: You are just as omniscient as their deity since you know what you know and you don't know what you don't know. Talk about demoting God to the level of man, that is exactly what has happened. But don't be surprised if they cannot respond to your questions adequately. After all, they are following the Watchtower's lead and the Watchtower has not been able to make up its mind concerning omniscience. Now in case we have some readers who think I'm just making this up I will provide a couple of quotes to substantiate my claims.

#### *The Watchtower Says*

"Why can the Author of the Bible, Jehovah God, accurately predict the future while man cannot? For two reasons. Jehovah is omnipotent. He is also omniscient. Man is not." (Watchtower; 5/15/1986; p.4)

"Because of such cruel slaughter in anger and fury, Simeon and Levi disqualified themselves of either one having his line of descent lead down to the Messianic 'seed.' So this honorable privilege must now go to some other son aside from Simeon and Levi and the natural firstborn son Rueben. (Genesis 49:5-7) Certainly Jehovah God had not planned matters this way. He now had to adapt himself to the new set of circumstances." (God's "Eternal Purpose" Now Triumphant For Man's Good; 1974; pp. 97)

"Jehovah can read hearts and minds, and he knows those who will *likely* respond to his love even though they may not yet know him." (Watchtower; 8/15/1994; pp. 17)

#### *Omniscience and Predestination*

We have yet to really touch on the reasons why the Watchtower rejects God's omniscience. I believe the primary "whys" are found in the Watchtower Society's statements on foreknowledge, foreordination, and predestination. We will be dealing with predestination in detail in a future article but I think it would be worthwhile to include their comments here too. The points they raise are some of the primary reasons why

their good deeds indirectly to the King. This is the basis upon which the King's favorable judgement rests." (This Means Everlasting Life, 1950; p.243)

"The goats as well as the sheep work out their destiny by the way in which they treat the remnant of the King's brothers, the remnant of the 144,000 spiritual Israelites. The reason why one's treatment of the remnant determines one's destiny is that the remnant have been anointed with Jehovah's spirit in these last days and are in line for a place on the heavenly throne with the King. Mistreatment of the remnant brings the greatest punishment, for it is an overt assault against the kingdom." (You May Survive Armageddon Into God's New World, 1955; p.190)

"The Jehonadab "sheep" are gathered to the right hand of the King Jesus Christ, because of the loving way in which they treat the anointed remnant of Christ's brothers." (Let Your Name Be Sanctified, 1961; p.358)

"Why are these sheeplike ones invited to "inherit the kingdom prepared for [them] from the founding of the world? The King tells them that it is because they did good to his "brothers" and thereby did it to him. By the expression "brothers," the King means the remnant of his spiritual brothers still on earth in this conclusion of the system of things." (The Watchtower, 9/1/1989; p.20)

"So, then, let all continue to zealously support the faithful and discreet slave. It is only by doing this that someday very soon all sheeplike ones will be able to hear these happy words: 'Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the founding of the world.'" (The Watchtower; 5/1/1993; p.21)

#### *Deliberate Action Critical*

"When we take into consideration Bible prophecies that apply at the time of Christ's presence, along with Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats, what do we see? This: It is not a case of



they reject God's full omniscience. The previous quotes were not the cause of their rejection of God's omniscience. Rather, they were the fruit borne out of the following concepts. Please note that the definitions are not accurate or complete when defining what predestination is.

*The Watchtower Says*

The view that God's exercise of his foreknowledge is infinite and that he does foreordain the course and destiny of all individuals is known as predestinarianism. Its advocates reason that God's divinity and perfection require that he be omniscient (all-knowing), not only respecting the past and present, but also regarding the future. For him not to foreknow all matters in their every detail would evidence imperfection, according to this concept.

But consider the implications of such a predestinarian view. This concept would mean that, prior to creating angels or earthing man, God exercised his powers of foreknowledge and foresaw and foreknew all that would result from such creation, including the rebellion of one of his spirit sons, the subsequent rebellion of the first human pair in Eden (Gen. 3:1-6; John 8:44), and all the bad consequences of such rebellion down to and beyond this present day. This would necessarily mean that all the wickedness that history has recorded (the crime and immorality, oppression and resultant suffering, lying and hypocrisy, false worship and idolatry) once existed, before creation's beginning, only in the mind of God, in the form of his foreknowledge of the future.

If the Creator of mankind had indeed exercised his power to foreknow all that history has seen since man's creation, then the full force of all the wickedness thereafter resulting was deliberately set in motion by God when he spoke the words: "Let us make man." (Gen. 1:26) These facts bring into question the reasonableness and consistency of the predestinarian concept; particularly so since the disciple James shows that disorder and other vile things do not originate from God's

*The Watchtower Says*

"Yes, believing in Jesus is crucial to our salvation, but more is needed." (The Watchtower, 9/15/89;p.6)

If you were to ask the Watchtower "What must I do to be saved?", what would the answer be? This is no small question for it deals with the very heart of the gospel message. The Watchtower has identified several essentials that are the basis for God's favorable judgement of you. Let's look at what they have said. Is the Watchtower gospel truly "good news" or is it a false gospel?

*Watchtower Says Works Are Essential*

"What things are involved in getting "saved"? (Acts 16:30) The prime requirement is: "Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will get saved." (Acts 16:31) This involves taking in accurate knowledge of God's purposes and his way of salvation. Then faith has to be exercised in Jesus Christ as the Chief Agent of salvation. (John 3:16; Titus 2:14) This places the Christian in a saved condition, but he must now persevere in doing God's will and continue to adhere to all of God's requirements for the rest of his life. Only then will he be saved to eternal life. (Matthew 24:13)" (The Watchtower, 12/15/1989; p.30)

"He speaks of these [other] sheep as righteous. Not that they are at present justified by God for their faith to be acceptable for sacrifice with Christ in his death; but that they, in faith, have taken the right attitude toward Jehovah's King and have acted right toward the King's brothers and have joined with them in keeping God's righteous commandments." (This Means Everlasting Life, 1950; p.242)

*The Remnant Is Key*

"The other sheep come to the help of these [remnant], not just for indiscriminate, charitable, humanitarian reasons, but because they are the King's ambassadors and preach the good news of everlasting life by God's kingdom. In this way they do

heavenly presence but are "earthly, animal, demonic" in source.-Jas. 3:14-18.

The argument that God's not foreknowing all future events and circumstances in full detail would evidence imperfection on his part is, in reality, an arbitrary view of perfection. Ultimately, God's own will and good pleasure are the deciding factors as to whether anything is perfect, not human opinions or concepts.-2 Sam. 22:31; Isa. 46:10.

To illustrate this, God's almightiness is undeniably perfect and is infinite in capacity. (1 Chron. 29:11, 12; Job 36:22; 37:23) Yet his perfection in strength does not require him to use his power to the full extent of his omnipotence in any or in all cases. Clearly he has not done so, or, not merely would certain ancient cities and some nations have been destroyed, but the earth and all in it would have been obliterated long ago by God's executions of judgment, as at the Flood and on other occasions. (Gen. 6:5-8; 19:23-25, 29) God's exercise of his might is therefore not simply an unleashing of limitless power but is constantly governed by his purpose and tempered by his mercy, where merited.-Neh. 9:31; Ps. 78:38, 39.

Similarly, if, in certain respects, God chooses to exercise his infinite ability of foreknowledge in a selective way and to the degree that pleases him, then assuredly no human or angel can rightly say: "What are you doing?" (Job 9:12; Isa. 45:9; Dan. 4:35) It is therefore not a question of ability, what God can foresee, foreknow and foreordain, for "with God all things are possible." (Matt. 19:26) The question is what God sees fit to foresee, foreknow and foreordain, for "everything that he delighted to do he has done."-Ps. 115:3. (Watchtower 8/1/1970 p.469-70)

#### *JW's Deny God's Omnipresence*

The Watchtower Society does not ride the fence on this one. They flatly reject it. This has been passed down from the original founder of the group, Charles Taze Russell. Their denial of this Bible truth stems from the fact that they require

should pray to or worship Jesus Christ(a created being in their theology) or the Holy Spirit(something akin to "divine electricity" which they call "God's impersonal active force").

#### *The Watchtower Says*

To whom should prayers be addressed? The Bible book of Hebrews speaks of a person that "approaches God." (Hebrews 11:6) Who is this God? There is but one almighty God, though there are many man-made and false gods. (1 Corinthians 8:5, 6) The almighty God of the Bible is named Jehovah. (Psalm 83:18) He is the Creator of all things, and for this reason prayer should be directed only to him. Jesus Christ clearly taught his followers to pray: "Our Father in the heavens." (Matthew 6:9) No, Jesus did not teach his disciples to pray to him, to his mother Mary, or to any other person. But God now requires that we recognize the position of his Son and offer all our prayers in Jesus' name. That is why Christ told his followers: "No one comes to the Father except through me."-John 14:6. For prayers to be acceptable to God, then, they must be addressed to Jehovah God through his Son, Jesus Christ. That is, they must be said to God in the name of Jesus. (Watchtower, 3/15/1988, p.6)

So Jehovah is unique; no one else shares his position. Jehovah stands in utter contrast to all such objects of worship as idols, deified humans, and Satan. All these are false gods. (Reasoning, 1989, p.150)

The Bible's use of "holy spirit" indicates that it is a controlled force that Jehovah God uses to accomplish a variety of his purposes. To a certain extent, it can be likened to electricity, a force that can be adapted to perform a great variety of operations. (Should You Believe In The Trinity, 1989, p.20)

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## **Jehovah's Witnesses Are Asking What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

length of the preceding six days. The Bible speaks of this "seventh day" as still continuing, because it is 7,000 years long. (What Has Religion Done For Mankind?; 1951; pp. 47) The creative week itself began about 46,025 B.C., according to the Bible's timetable. (New Heavens And A New Earth; 1953; pp. 43)

The Scriptures, in stating, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Ge 1:1), leave matters indefinite as to time. This use of the term "beginning" is therefore unassailable, regardless of the age scientists may seek to attach to the earthly globe and to the various planets and other heavenly bodies. The actual time of creation of the material heavens and earth may have been billions of years ago. (Insight vol.1, p.527)

The Bible does not specify the length of each of the creative periods. (Insight vol.1, p.545)

#### *God's Name*

Obviously, Jehovah's Witnesses believe that God's name is Jehovah. How important is this name to them? I'll let them speak for themselves on this one.

#### *The Watchtower Says*

Hence, the sanctification of God's name is far more important than any other issue. All of God's purposes are linked to his name. (Divine Name, 1984, p.29)

Our salvation on the day of judgement will be related to our knowing the name of God. To know his name includes knowing his attributes, works, and purposes and living in harmony with his high principles. (The Watchtower; 11/1/1993; p.4)

#### *Praying To and Worshipping God*

Who do Jehovah's Witnesses pray to and worship? They believe you should only pray to and worship Jehovah God - remember that this is God the Father. They do not believe you

everything to have a "body". It can be a physical or a spiritual body but it is a body nonetheless. This drives them to the conclusion that Jehovah God is a localized presence in some sense. The lengths they are willing to go with this line of reasoning have varied over the years. It has ranged everywhere from the very specific throne of Jehovah existing in the Pleiades constellation to a more general location in "the highest heavens". Amazingly, they use one of the verses intended to teach God's universal presence as the cornerstone proof text in concluding he is not everywhere present. Let's look at what they have said about this.

#### *Does God Have a Body At a Specific Location?*

But let none get the thought that the body is the soul: this is an error, as our Lord's words clearly show, - "God is able to destroy both soul and body." But on the other hand there can be no soul, no sentient being without a body - heavenly or earthly, spiritual or animal. (At-One-Ment Between God And Man, 1899; 1915 ed.; p.339).

While it would be unreasonable in the extreme to think of a God getting personally into a hundred, a thousand, or a million men, there is not the slightest unreasonableness in the thought that the power of the Highest, the power, the influence of Jehovah could be in and upon hundreds, thousands, or millions without in anywise interfering with the personal presence of Jehovah upon the throne of the universe. (At-One-Ment Between God And Man; 1899; 1915 ed.; pp. 269)

Actually, by teaching that God is omnipresent Christendom has confused matters and made it more difficult for God to be real to his worshippers. How could God be present everywhere at the same time? God is a spirit Person, which means that he does not have a material body, but a spiritual one. A spirit has a body? Yes, for we read, "If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual one." (1 Cor. 15:44; John 4:24) God being an individual, a Person with a spirit body, has a place where he resides, and so he could not be at any other place at the same

time. Thus we read at 1 Kings 8:43 that the heavens are God's "established place of dwelling." Also, we are told at Hebrews 9:24 that "Christ entered . . . into heaven itself, now to appear before the person of God for us."

Moreover, the disciple Stephen and the apostle John had visions of heaven in which they saw both God and Jesus Christ. So Jehovah God must be just as much a person, an individual, as Jesus Christ is. (Acts 7:56; Rev. 5:1, 9) Those Christians who have a hope of eventually living in heaven are assured that they will see God and also be like him, showing that Jehovah God truly is a person and has a body as well as a certain location. -1 John 3:2. (Watchtower, 2/15/81, p.5-7)

#### *Where Is God's Body?*

The face of the deep, of course, would be toward the Pleiades, which are claimed to be the habitation of Jehovah. (Creation; 1927; 2,175,000 ed.; pp. 94)

The constellation of the seven stars forming the Pleiades appears to be the crowning center around which the known systems of the planets revolve even as our sun's planets obey the sun and travel in their respective orbits. It has been suggested, and with much weight, that one of the stars of that group is the dwelling-place of Jehovah and the place of the highest heavens;... (Reconciliation; 1928; pp. 14)

The constellation of the Pleiades is a small one compared with others which scientific instruments disclose to the wondering eyes of man. But the greatness in size of other stars or planets is small when compared with the Pleiades in importance, because the Pleiades is the place of the eternal throne of God. (Reconciliation; 1928; pp. 14)

He has a location in the highest heavens, but his active force, his holy spirit, furnishes enlightenment, and its force can be felt everywhere, over all the universe. (Watchtower, 2/15/81, p.5-7)

So where does this leave us concerning God's omnib-attributes? How does the JW position shake out in plain English? I think it is a fair summary to say that the JW's have an all-powerful, semi-informed, dimensionally-challenged deity. This in no way compares to the all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere-present God of the Bible. It is a poor imitation. The glory of the one true God outshines the false glories of every imagined deity, including the puny, limited idol erected by the Watchtower Society.

#### *God As Creator*

Jehovah's Witnesses do believe that God is the primary creator of the universe. But even this doctrine is not without its problems. Briefly put, Jehovah God is referred to by the Watchtower as the creator of all things but the only thing he created directly was Jesus Christ. Once Jesus was created, Jehovah created all other things through him. There have also been some different ideas presented by the Watchtower concerning the duration of the creative days. Many years ago they were certain of the exact duration of each creative day. Presently, they reject a specific time frame for creation, speaking of it in terms of "creative periods".

#### *The Watchtower Says*

Throughout the Scriptures Jehovah God is identified as the Creator. He is "the Creator of the heavens, . . . the Former of the earth and the Maker of it." (Isa 45:18) (Insight vol.1, p.526)

Jehovah's first creation was his "only-begotten Son" (Joh 3:16), "the beginning of the creation by God." (Re 3:14) This one, "the firstborn of all creation," was used by Jehovah in creating all other things, those in the heavens and those upon the earth, "the things visible and the things invisible." (Col 1:15-17) (Insight vol.1, p.527)

That "seventh day" on which God desisted from work and which he consecrated was not a 24-hour day, but it is of the