

Youth Group - 2/10/21 - Jehovah's Witnesses

Review - 4 things that separate Christianity from all other religions

Jehovah's Witnesses AKA The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society

Facts

- Over _____ members worldwide. Almost 20 million weekly attendees.
- Started by _____ in the late 1800's.
 - Russell was raised in a Christian family but wavered from the faith.
 - Started teaching that things he didn't like about the Bible were not true (i.e. trinity, hell).
 - He claimed the Bible could only be understood according to his interpretations.
 - Had several failed prophecies about the end of the world.
 - Deuteronomy 18:21-22 "And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the Lord has not spoken?' — when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken."
- The _____ is still circulated with about 800,000 copies printed per day. Circulates 42 million copies each month which makes it the largest circulation of any magazine in the world.
- Known for their door-to-door visits
 - Funny story: Rev. 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.", Rev. 21:6 "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.", Rev. 1:17-18 ""Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."
- Places of worship are called Kingdom Halls.

Scripture

- _____ of the Bible completed in 1961.
 - They took the KJV and changed the things they didn't like (i.e. John 1:1).
 - John 1:1 ESV "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
 - John 1:1 NWT "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a God."
- They didn't actually translate, none of the 5 on the translation committee knew Greek or Hebrew.
- They say it's right because they are the only one to translate God's name correctly as _____ (from YHWH).
 - Regarding YHWH - Our Old Testaments typically translate this as LORD with small capital letters. The difficulty with YHWH is that Ancient Hebrew has no written vowels. Jehovah is technically not correct: they added the vowels from Adonai (which means lord) into YHWH.

- Russell's published commentaries are considered _____ and authoritative.

Beliefs

- Believe that the Watchtower Society rules in place of God on Earth.

- Jesus is the angel _____ (created/not God), was only a man on earth (not God), and ceased to exist when he died (no resurrection).

- 1 Corinthians 15:14 "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain."

- Jesus' death is not sufficient for sins if He is not God and didn't rise from the dead.

- Deny the Trinity and the Holy Spirit

- Salvation is by works and maintaining a good relationship with the watchtower society.

- When we die, we cease to exist until the end of time.

- The wicked cease to exist forever (annihilation).

- Only _____ people will get to live with Jehovah in heaven and rule with Jesus in his kingdom (misunderstanding Revelation 7).

- Revelation 7:3-4 "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel"

- Anyone born after 1935 (because that is when the number of Jehovah's witnesses hit 144,000) who is "saved" only gets to be on earth forever, not heaven.

- If they knock on our door, how should we interact with them?

(8 million), (Charles Taze Russell), (Watchtower magazine), (New World Translation), (Jehovah), (sacred), (Michael), (144,000)

The following is an article on the Jehovah's Witnesses website. <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/are-jehovahs-witnesses-christians/>

(References given are to the New World Translation)

Are Jehovah's Witnesses Christian?

"Yes. We are Christians for the following reasons:

- We try to follow closely the teachings and behavior of Jesus Christ.—1 Peter 2:21.
- We believe that Jesus is the key to salvation, that "there is not another name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must get saved."—Acts 4:12.
- When people become Jehovah's Witnesses, they are baptized in the name of Jesus.—Matthew 28:18, 19.
- We offer our prayers in Jesus' name.—John 15:16.
- We believe that Jesus is the Head, or the one appointed to have authority, over every man.—1 Corinthians 11:3.

However, in a number of ways, we are different from other religious groups that are called Christian. For example, we believe that the Bible teaches that Jesus is the Son of God, not part of a Trinity. (Mark 12:29) We do not believe that the soul is immortal, that there is any basis in Scripture for saying that God tortures people in an everlasting hell, or that those who take the lead in religious activities should have titles that elevate them above others.—Ecclesiastes 9:5; Ezekiel 18:4; Matthew 23:8-10."

- What is wrong here? What reasons would we give for saying we are Christian?