

The Gospel

The Cults & The Occult

The Gospel

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures. *1 Corinthians. 15:3-4*

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. *Ephesians. 2:8-9*

The Gospel

For ALL have sinned, and come short of the glory of God:

Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23

The Gospel

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Titus 3:5-6

The Cults

Jehovah's Witnesses

The Watchtower & Tract Society

- Founder: Charles Taze Russell, Feb 1852 -1916
- Born to Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. Spent most of his life in Pennsylvania.

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- By age 15 he left the Presbyterian church and joined a Congregational Church. By 17 he had become a complete skeptic of God and Biblical Christianity.
- He had a problem with predestination and with eternal punishment. He did not like either.

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- He said he left Christianity because he thought too much: (??? Is thinking too much a problem for a Christian????)
- In 1870 he became greatly influenced by a Seventh Day Adventist Bible study group. He says he then returned to his faith in the Bible.

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- Now, almost instantly, Russell started his own Bible study, in Pittsburgh, Pa. (1870-1875)
- He basically taught Seventh Day Adventist doctrine. But he disagreed with the SDA over Jesus' physical return.
- He then wrote a pamphlet called, "The Object and Manner of the Lord's Return." He wrote: Jesus does not physically return.

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- Russell and his little group left the SDA church: he and his group teamed up with a Rochester, N.Y. group led by N.H. Barbour. They were basically a group of apostate Adventists.
- Together the groups created the magazine “Herald of the Morning.”
- Russell and Barbour wrote a book together: “Three Worlds, or The Plan of Redemption.” Their book declared that Jesus returned spiritually and of course, invisibly, in 1874. The book also taught that 1914 would end the “times of the gentiles.”

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- Russell & Barbour finally separated over Barbour's doctrine that Jesus' death paid the full ransom for mankind. Russell absolutely denied that.
- In 1879 Russell founded his own magazine, "Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence."
- By 1880 Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society had grown to 30 congregations in seven states. They became incorporated on Dec. 13, 1884.
- From 1889-1909 the society's headquarters was in Allegheny, Pa.

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What did Russell teach?

- Russell wrote a seven volume set called “Studies in the Scriptures.” Printed in 1886. Six million of these were distributed.
- Russell believed and taught that **no one** could remain in “the light” or really understand Scripture apart from using his books as a guide (not the Bible).

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What did Russell teach?

- Russell wrote that, if necessary, one should choose to continue reading his works over, or instead of, the Bible:
- “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 his writings, *Studies in the Scriptures*; aside even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years, if he then 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.”

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What did Russell teach?

- “On the other hand, if he had merely read the Scriptures Studies with their reference, and not read a page of the Bible, as such, he would be in the light at the end of two years, because he would have the light of the Studies in the Scriptures.” (The Watch Tower, Sept. 15, 1910, pp. 298-299)
- According to Russell: you can do without the Bible but you can not do without his “Studies in the Scriptures.”

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- Joseph Franklin Rutherford. (No. 1869-Jan. 1942)
- He was Russell's immediate successor as leader/president of the society. He educational and vocational background was law. He served as a fill-in judge in Boonville, Mo. Where he was born. He joined the JW's in 1906 and in 1907 became their legal advisor.
- As soon as he took over he dismissed many leaders to clean the place out.

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- Rutherford initiated door to door evangelism. He required those going door to door to make weekly reports. With his emphasis on evangelism $\frac{3}{4}$ of the original members left the society at that point.
- Rutherford also gave the name Jehovah's Witnesses to the society members. Taking that name from Isaiah 43:10
- He served as the President for 25 years. He was a prolific writer during that time and wrote an estimated 50,000 pages.

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- Nathan Homer Knorr: 1905-1977
- The 3rd president of the JW's. He left the reformed church to join the JW's in Allentown, Pa. He became a full time JW preacher, and joined the Brooklyn headquarters staff in 1923 at age 18.
- He founded the Gilead Watch Tower Bible School, at 10 month training course. He also saw to it that "Theocratic Training Schools" were established in every local congregation.

The Cults

- Knorr along with a translation team: wrote the “New World Translation” of the Bible, which contains the Old and New Testaments. It is very obviously “translated” to support JW’s doctrines.
- The NWT was first published in 1950. In the forward the translation committee claims they have a peculiar freedom from what they define as “the misleading influence of religious traditions that have their roots in paganism” as evidenced in all translations from John Wycliffe to modern day (p.7).
- Clearly the Watchtower considers its “scholars” far superior to the likes of Wycliffe and Tyndale, not to mention the brilliant work of the men who produced the King James Bible.

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- Frederick W. Franz: the Watchtower Society's fourth president, was one of the main translators of the writers of the NWT.
- In a court case; from the direct transcripts of the court; Nov. 24, 1954 p7, paragraphs A-B examining Fred W Franz, of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society; one of the lead translators of the NWT; and the representative of the translation committee:

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- Q: Have you also made yourself familiar with Hebrew?
- A: (Franz) Yes.
- Q. so that you have a substantial linguistic apparatus at your command?
A. (Franz) Yes. For use in my Biblical work.
- Q. You are able to read and follow the Bible in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Spanish, Portuguese, German, and French?
- A. (Franz) Yes.

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- Further along in the questioning: Q: You, yourself, read and speak Hebrew, do you?
- A: (Franz) I do not speak Hebrew.
- Q: You do NOT?
- A: (Franz) No.
- Q: Can you, by yourself, translate that into Hebrew? (Pointing to Genesis 2:4)
- A: (Franz) which?
- Q: The forth verse of the second chapter of Genesis?
- A: No.

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- After Dr. Walter Martin; read these court manuscripts: he went to Biola University/Talbot Theological Seminary and asked the Professor that taught Hebrew at the Seminary: “Is Genesis 2:4 These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. Is this verse difficult to translate?”
- The professors answer was plain and simple: This verse is so basic and so simple in Hebrew, I would never pass a first year Hebrew student who could not translate this verse.

The Cults

What do the Jehovah's Witnesses believe & teach?

- The “true” scriptures (their version) speak of God's Son, the Word, as A god: He is A mighty god but not THE Almighty God, Jehovah. (The Truth Shall Make You Free: Watchtower Bible & Tract Society, 1943, p. 47)
- Immortality (Salvation) is a reward for faithfulness. (Let God Be True, p. 74)
- The firstborn from the dead (Jesus) was raised from the grave, not a human, but a spirit. (Let God Be True, p. 276)

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What do the Jehovah's Witnesses believe & teach?

- Jehovah God raised him (Jesus) from the dead, not as a human Son, but as a mighty immortal spirit Son...For forty days after that he materialized, as angels before him had done, to show himself alive to his disciples. (Let God Be True, p. 40)
- Christ Jesus returns, not again as a human, but as a glorious spirit person... Since no earthly men have ever seen the Father, they will be unable to see the glorified son. (Let God Be True, p. 196-197)

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What do the Jehovah's Witnesses believe & teach?

- The JW's hold that the Bible is their sole source of authority. (But only THEIR version of the Bible: The New World Translation)
- They do not Celebrate Christmas
- They refuse blood transfusions
- They will not salute the flag of any nation
- They do not vote nor hold public office
- They assume complete neutrality in wartime
- They are conscientious objectors for both combatant and non-combatant military service.