

## CAN THERE BE TWO CLASSES OF TRUE CHRISTIANS?

This radical notion was first expressed by Charles Russell, the first President of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society (WBTS) in the late 1800's with the claim that "*the great crowd*" of Revelation 7 was a separate class of true Christians as **distinct from the body of Christ** (the 144,000). Further development of the teaching came in 1935 when the second President, Joseph F. Rutherford claimed that *the great crowd* has a different destiny to that of the 144,000, that is, to have everlasting life (not immortality) on earth and be ruled over by the 144,000. These proposals were in spite of the fact that no late 1<sup>st</sup> or early 2<sup>nd</sup> century Christians taught this idea. Yet today this pattern is, in effect, so that of the around seven million active Jehovah's Witnesses only some 9,000 to 10,000 are the remaining ones of the body of Christ i.e. the 'anointed' remnant.

### THERE IS NO SCRIPTURE WHICH DIRECTLY TEACHES THIS IDEA

As with concepts such as the Trinity, the idea that there are two classes of Christians is not directly taught in the Scriptures i.e. there is no Scripture which says there are two classes of Christians. Yet the 'two classes' concept has been illustrated by the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses with the idea that the Scriptures, especially the Christian Greek Scriptures, are a letter written only to the 144,000 and, although of interest to *the great crowd*, it is not personally for them. This has the effect of leading "the great crowd" class, when reading the Christian Greek Scriptures, to say to themselves: "this does not apply to me." These ones are required to receive their instruction from the Governing Body of the remnant of the 144,000 rather than directly from the Scriptures. Mostly such direction uses certain Scriptures as a basis but with the WBTS' unique interpretation and application of the relevant Scriptures without the full context being taken into account. However, not only is there no explicit teaching that true Christians are separated into two classes, but there are no statements which even imply that there are two classes of true Christians.

### THE PROOFS OFFERED BY THE WBTS FOR THIS TEACHING

1. That Hebrews 3:1 speaks of "**the heavenly calling**" and so there must be a separate 'earthly calling.'
2. That Jesus spoke of a "**little flock**" in Luke 12:32, therefore there must be a larger flock i.e. a second class of true Christians.
3. That Jesus also spoke of "**other sheep**" in John 10:16 in addition to the original sheep of the "**little flock**".
4. That John's vision in Revelation 7 shows a contrast between the "**144,000**" and "**the great crowd**" which must therefore be a second class of true Christians

### THESE 'PROOFS' ARE BASED ON INCORRECT INFORMATION OR UNCONNECTED TEXTS

#### A HEAVENLY CALLING

From the Greek text Hebrews 3:1 does not speak of "**the heavenly calling**" but of those "...who share in a heavenly calling." So it is pure conjecture to assume that there is a separate 'earthly calling,' — a phrase which the Bible never uses. This is a calling that comes from heaven — it is God's calling of individuals to become Christians. It is not a calling of Christians to go to heaven but is a calling which is shared in now. Neither is it a special calling of some elite group of Christians. God is not partial so that "**everyone believing** that Jesus is the Christ has been **born from God**" (1 John 5:1) which is why Acts 17:30 says: "...yet now he [God] is telling **mankind** that they should **all** everywhere

repent” (Please see Volume 3 STUDY 3) “WHEN ARE INDIVIDUALS CALLED, DRAWN AND CHOSEN BY GOD?”

“LITTLE FLOCK” — DESCRIBES THE SMALL BODY OF DISCIPLES IN 30-33 C.E.

- “Have no fear **little flock** because your Father has approved of giving you the kingdom”  
(Luke 12:32).

Here Jesus described *his band of disciples at that time* with the use of the double diminutive to indicate how small they were in number compared to Israel. But eventually “*the children [Christians] of the desolate woman [Sarah = New Covenant] are more numerous than [those] of her who has the husband [nation of Israel]*” (Gal. 4:27). So from this small band of followers who were with Jesus a great number would come. There is no biblical or logical reason to imagine that they would become two classes of true Christians.

“OTHER SHEEP” — DESCRIBES GENTILE ANOINTED CHRISTIANS

- “I have **other sheep** which are not of this fold (*Israel*); those also I must bring, and they will *listen to my voice*, and they will become **one flock**, one shepherd” (*John 10:16*).

Also note that these *other sheep* listen to the voice of Jesus in obedience to God’s command to “*Listen to him.*” (Luke 9:35). There is no intermediary between the *other sheep* and Jesus and he brought the Gentiles together with the Jews:

- ❖ “...he who made the two parties [*Jews and Gentiles*] one and **destroyed the wall** in between that fenced them off” (*Eph. 2:14*).
- ❖ “You are all, in fact, sons of God through your faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither **Jew nor Greek**...for you are **all one** in Christ Jesus” (*Gal. 3:26-28*).

*144,000 IS MOST LIKELY A SYMBOLIC NUMBER*

Because the Book of Revelation has a great amount of symbolism in it chapter 7:4-8 is capable of a **wide range of interpretations** as demonstrated in Volume 5 STUDY 19. Yet the one interpretation which cannot be applied to it is that which is given by the WBTS because such an interpretation is self-contradictory. Either, both the number and Israel are literal or both the number and Israel are symbolic. Yet the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses mixes up both literal and symbolic details. So although there is sufficient scriptural proof that the 144,000 are Christians i.e. spiritual Israelites, it would appear that a numerically literal 144,000 cannot represent the entire body of “the Israel of God” for the following reasons:

- It is a clear contradiction to say that 144,000 is a literal number, but that each of the tribes is figurative. This makes the number 12,000 become meaningless.
- It seems rather contradictory for the Governing Body to take the number 144,000 as literal when they, in fact, take the 144 cubits of Rev. 21:17 as figurative as also they take many other numbers as figurative in Revelation e.g. 12,000 furlongs.
- Christians will be **greater in number** than the numbers of national Israel which has always amounted to vastly more than 144,000:
  - ❖ “...for the **children** (*Anointed Christians*) of the desolate woman are **more numerous than** those (*the Israelites*) of her who has the husband” (*Gal. 4:27*).

There were 52,465 of this elite class alive in 1935 according to the WBTS. This means that in the early 1800+ years only 91,535 (91,535 + 52,465 = 144,000) were chosen as true Christians; whereas within only a few decades of early WBTS history God was able to choose 52,465. This is a quite

unreasonable proposal in view of the dynamic work of the apostles and other early Christians (Acts 2:40-47; 5:12-16).

- All **144,000 positions should have been filled** by the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Even in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries there were already 100's of thousands of *anointed* Christians. B. Reike gives one of the conservative estimates that there were about 40,000 Christians in A.D.67, with a total of 320,000 at about the turn of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Some give the higher estimates of up to 100,000 in Jerusalem before the diaspora and upward of 26,000 in Ephesus. So if the WBTS interpretation was correct then all 144,000 positions were clearly filled long before the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. So the explanation by Jehovah's Witnesses that the foretold great apostasy meant that not many remained as anointed Christians in the early centuries falls down because the Matt. 24/2 Thess. 2 apostasy is a future event and did not apply to the early centuries. Please see Volume 5, STUDIES 2 to 7. Furthermore, how could the WBTS have known that there were any vacancies by the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries let alone knowing the exact number? Nevertheless, it must be asked: Why would God deny the vast majority of 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians the same destiny as the 144,000 so that this destiny may be granted only to those living between 1879 and 1934?
- There is no account of the apostles or the early Christians keeping records to know when the number of 144,000 was completed. Why didn't Jesus let his disciples know that there were only going to be 144,000 in total?
- If Jesus returned invisibly in 1914 why didn't the remaining ones of the 144,000 stop taking the memorial emblems at that time as 1 Corinthians 11:25, 26 says:
  - ❖ "He did likewise respecting the cup also, after he had the evening meal, saying: "This cup means the new covenant by virtue of my blood. Keep doing this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this loaf and drink the cup, you keep proclaiming the death of the Lord **until he arrives** (Gk *elthe*)."

(Please see STUDY 4 which shows that Jesus returns just once. If his *parousia* began in 1914 then he has already arrived (*elthe*) and Christians no longer need to continue "proclaiming the death of the Lord.")

- In Revelation 7 the 144,000 appear on the scene after the opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> seal, just prior to the Great Tribulation and so do not picture all of anointed Christians since the first century.
- Each individual is "*sealed with holy spirit*" the moment he is baptized as a Christian; yet the WBTS Revelation book, p.115, states that the sealing of the 144,000 in Revelation 7 is that of being "*sealed with holy spirit*" as anointed Christians from the time of Pentecost of A. D. 33. However, Revelation 7 is set in a time of the end context and does not show this particular sealing by the angel to be a long process as would be needed if it were the sealing by holy spirit. Hence it is more likely that this sealing is a marking of the 144,000 for identifying them as belonging to God so that they will be protected during the Great tribulation. This mirrors the description in Ezekiel 9:4-6.
- The next study demonstrates that the 144,000, the holy ones and the **great crowd** come from the same background, have the same destiny and have the same standing and position before Jehovah.

In its early years the WBTS connected texts together where there is no biblical or logical connection. So there is no biblical reason for the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses to teach that there is an elite class of Christians with a different destiny to all other true Christians. Other Christian groups can understand this, but sadly each new Jehovah's Witness is introduced to this false concept early in their study of WBTS information and so accept it, without proper exegesis of the texts or consideration of the rest of the Scriptures on this issue.

## TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE CONSISTENTLY SHOWN TO BE OF ONE CLASS

Throughout the Scriptures true Christians are consistently shown to be of one class. They are all shown to be baptized into Christ, born again sons of God as Christ's brothers, anointed with God's spirit, declared righteous, a holy priesthood, members of the household of God who are in the New Covenant and are, therefore, branches in the True Vine whose prayers are to their Father as "*Abba, Father.*" This is because:

- ❖ "God is **not partial**, but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him" (*Acts 10:34, 35*).

**All others described in the Christian Scriptures are unbelievers** (which includes false brothers). Everyone who wants to be a Christian must accept Christ according to the terms he sets out. Basically, the two classes in the Scriptures are "the righteous" and "the unrighteous."

## ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

- ❖ "**One body** there is, and one spirit, even as you were called in the **one hope** to which you were called; one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**; one God and **Father of all...**" (*Eph. 4:4*).

There is no mention of two baptisms or two destinies — earthly or heavenly. Jesus offered all disciples entry into the kingdom of God:

- ❖ "...do you not know that all of us who were **baptized into Christ** Jesus were baptized into his death?" (*Rom. 6:3*).

*So Christians are not baptized into any spirit-directed organization or church but into Christ Jesus.* There is no teaching anywhere in the Scriptures to indicate that there is a second class of Christians who are baptized into someone other than Christ or Christ's body.

## 2. ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE SONS OF GOD BORN FROM ABOVE

The following verses show that "**everyone**" who believes and receives Jesus experiences the new birth so that they are "born from God" and are His children:

- ❖ "**Everyone believing** that Jesus is the Christ has been **born from God**" (*1 John 5:1*).
- ❖ "You are all **sons of God** through your faith in Christ Jesus" (*Gal. 3:26*).
- ❖ "...as many as did **receive him**, to them he gave authority to become *God's children...* and they were **born...from God**" (*John 1:12, 13*).
- ❖ "**Unless anyone is born again** (lit. 'born from above'), he cannot see the kingdom of God" (*John 3:3*).
- ❖ "For you have been given a **new birth**...through *the word* of the living God [*i.e. the good news* according to verse 25]..." (*1 Peter 1:23*).

Therefore it is only unbelievers who do not experience a spiritual rebirth because the "*word makes no progress among*" them (*John 8:37*). If one is not a son of God then he has no right to address Jehovah as his Father. One cannot accept Christ unless one accepts him on the terms one is offered in the Scriptures. These include that one becomes a son of God, which is actually a new birth.

## 3. THOSE WHO ARE LED BY GOD'S SPIRIT (Not just 144,000) ARE GOD'S SONS

As will be demonstrated later in this study 'anointed' Christians are not limited to 144,000, but all

true Christians are led by God's spirit, and there is not a separate group who receive God's spirit in some different way; but if anyone has God's spirit rather than the mindset of the flesh, then he is one of God's sons:

- ❖ “For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those **in accord with the spirit** on the things of the spirit. **For the minding of the flesh means death**, but *the minding of the spirit means life* and peace; because the minding of the flesh means enmity with God, for it is not under subjection to the law of God, nor, in fact can it be. So those who are in harmony with the flesh cannot please God. However, you are not in harmony with flesh, but with the spirit, *if God's spirit truly dwells in you*. But if anyone does **not have Christ's spirit**, this one does **not belong to him** ... ..<sup>13</sup>for if you live **in accord with the flesh YOU are sure to die** ...  
<sup>14</sup>For **all** who are *led by God's spirit*, these are **God's sons**” (Rom. 8:5-9, 14).

Paul is writing to Christians all of whom are anointed. The context is: “*All those...as God's beloved ones, called to be **holy ones***” (Rom. 1:7). If this applies only to 144,000 then nothing in Romans applies to the “other sheep.” However, there is no indication in any of the apostle Paul's writings to indicate that there are two classes. Being “*in accord with the spirit*,” and “*the minding of the spirit*” are the same as being “*led by God's spirit*,” so, we are **either** *led by the sinful flesh leading to death* OR are *led by God's spirit and are God's sons*. One cannot be a Christian without being a son of God or without being anointed with God's spirit. Paul said: “*I certainly think I also have God's spirit*” (1 Cor. 7:40):

- ❖ “For **all** who are *led by God's spirit*, these are **God's sons**. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery causing fear again, but you received a spirit of adoption as sons, by which spirit we cry out: **Abba, Father!**” (Rom. 8:14, 15).

Because all true Christians refrain from the minding of the death-producing *flesh* they are God's sons and have a full relationship with Him.

*IF ONE IS NOT LED BY GOD'S SPIRIT ONE HAS NO RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM*

There is no disconnection between Romans 8:15 and Matthew 6:9 where Jesus said:

- ❖ “*You must pray then this way: ‘**Our Father** in the heavens.’”*

If the so-called *other sheep* class are not allowed to “*cry out: **Abba, Father!***” neither should they, for consistency, pray: “*Our Father in the heavens.*” They would then have no relationship with God. There is no basis for saying that a separate *anointed* class with a different destiny have a closer relationship with God.

*IS THE TERM “ABBA” TO BE USED ONLY BY A SELECT GROUP OF CHRISTIANS?*

The term “abba” is an intimate, informal but respectful term with a meaning part way between the English expressions ‘daddy’ and ‘my father.’ Yet it is recorded that Jesus used the term “abba” only once in private prayer (Mark 14:36). However, the anointed Christians to whom Jesus gave the Lord's prayer were directed by him to use the term “Father” [Gk *pater* (Matt. 6:9)]. Is there really any difference in the meaning of these two terms or of who may use them? There are 16 recorded instances of Jesus addressing his Father in prayer. So are we to assume that out of these 16 instances Jesus' used “abba” only on the one occasion of Mark 14:36? This hardly seems likely, but rather there is linguistic grammatical evidence showing that it is “probable that the Aramaic “abba” was the original form of address used in each of these prayers,” *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1, p.3. So it is unlikely that Paul, in Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6 was giving anointed Christians a more intimate term to use in prayer to Jehovah than Jesus had already given in the Lord's prayer.

*To call God **Father** one must be a son or daughter of God.*

#### 4. ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE CHRIST'S BROTHERS

Jesus stated that:

- ❖ “**Whoever** does the will of God, this one **is my brother** and sister and mother” (Mark 3:35)

(See also Matthew 12:50 and Luke 8:21).

So because the “other sheep” do God’s will by preaching the Kingdom, they also must be related to Christ in the way he described; and in being a brother or sister of Christ one is therefore a son or daughter of God.

#### 5. ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS MUST BE IN THE *NEW COVENANT* WITH CHRIST AS *MEDIATOR*

The Questions from Readers in the *Watchtower*, 4/1/79, p. 31 asks:

Is Jesus the 'mediator' only for anointed Christians? ... At a time when God was selecting those to be taken into that new covenant, the apostle Paul wrote that Christ was the “One mediator between God and men” (1 Tim. 2:5). Reasonably Paul was here using the word 'mediator' in the same way he did the other five times, which occurred before the writing of 1 Timothy 2:5, referring to those then being taken into the new covenant for which Christ is “mediator.’ So in this strict Biblical sense **Jesus is the “mediator” only for anointed Christians.** *The new covenant will terminate with the glorification of the remnant who are today in that covenant mediated by Christ.* “This great crowd” of “other sheep” that is forming today is not in the new covenant. However by their associating with the little flock of those yet in that covenant they come under benefits that flow from that new covenant.

The Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses teaches that it is the attitude of the “other sheep” (in JW interpretation of “other sheep”) toward the remnant of 144,000 that will determine whether or not they will gain everlasting life or be destroyed. Because the Governing Body denies the “other sheep” entry into the New Covenant they deny them the actions of Jesus as their mediator and high priest. This denial puts “the other sheep” outside of a true relationship with Jehovah which can only come through Jesus (John 14:6).

##### *ONE MUST BE IN A COVENANT*

- ❖ “...formerly you were people of the nations as to the flesh; ‘uncircumcision’ you were called by that which is called ‘circumcision’...that you were at that particular time **without Christ**, alienated from the state of Israel and *strangers to the covenants* of promise and you had no hope and **were without God** in the world” (Eph. 2:11, 12).

*God has always dealt with people through various covenants. Hence, the “other sheep” have to be in a covenant so that they are not ‘without God.’ If one is not in the New Covenant one is outside of the saving arrangement of God through Jesus Christ.*

##### *THERE ARE ONLY TWO MAIN COVENANTS*

- ❖ “...these women mean **two covenants**...Hagar means Sinai...in slavery (= Old Covenant)...the Jerusalem above is free...the children of the desolate woman (Sarah = New Covenant) are more numerous” (Gal. 4:24-27).

*In which of these covenants are the “other sheep”? To say one is a Christian, but deny that one is in a covenant with God is a contradiction of terms.*

##### *JESUS — THE MEDIATOR OF ALL CHRISTIANS*

- ❖ “...there is *one God* and **one mediator** between God and men, a man Christ Jesus” (1Tim. 2:5).

*Just as there is only one God for all Christians so there is only one mediator between the one God and all Christians.* However, this mediatorship is available to all of mankind if they wish to come into

relationship with God. So it does not involve just “men” of the 144,000. There cannot be one mediator for a select group of 144,000 only and then they act as if they are an extra mediator for a different group of Christians - the “other sheep.” Furthermore, true Christians have an immortal human high priest in heaven acting as mediator and not 144,000 spirits as the Governing Body teaches that the 1918 resurrected ones are supposed to be. (Please see STUDIES 1, 12- 14).

*THE PROMISES COME TO THOSE WHO HAVE JESUS AS MEDIATOR*

- ❖ “...now Jesus has obtained a more excellent public service, so that he is also the **mediator** of a correspondingly better **covenant**...upon better promises” (*Heb. 8:6*).
- ❖ “So that is why he is a mediator of a **new covenant**, in order that, because a death has occurred for [their] release by ransom from the transgressions under the former covenant, the ones who have been called might receive the **promise of the everlasting inheritance**” (*Heb. 9:15*).

*ACCESS TO THE FATHER IS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE JESUS AS MEDIATOR*

- ❖ “Let us, therefore, approach with freeness of speech **to the throne** of undeserved kindness, that we may obtain mercy and find undeserved kindness for help at the right time” (*Heb. 4:16*).

❖ “I am the way and the truth and the life. *No comes to the father except through me*” (*John 14:6*). *Jesus is the only mediator for all Christians and he alone acts as the greater Moses (Acts 3:20-23) to whom all Christians must directly listen.* So a body of men cannot replace Jesus as one’s mediator. If Jesus is not one’s mediator then who is it that mediates one’s prayers to God? Does Jesus act as one’s High Priest and yet not as one’s mediator? These *other sheep* listen to the voice of Jesus (*John 10:16*) and he is with them:

- ❖ “For where there are two or three gathered in my name, there I am in their midst” (*Matt. 18:20*). *So even a small number of “other sheep” Christians who are isolated from any organization benefit from Jesus’ care.*

*IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN – YOU ARE IN THE NEW COVENANT*

- ❖ “...Drink out of it, all of you; for this means my blood of **the covenant**; which is to be poured out in behalf of many **for the forgiveness of sins**” (*Matt. 26:27, 28*).

*So one cannot be in relationship with God and have ones sins forgiven unless one is in the New Covenant:*

- ❖ “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in yourselves. He that **feeds on my flesh** and drinks my blood has **everlasting life**, and I shall **resurrect** him on the last day” (*John 6:53, 54*).

Because, according to the Governing Body interpretation, the *other sheep* do not feed off Jesus, but off *the Faithful and Discreet slave i.e. the ‘anointed’ remnant*, they cannot, on that basis, have everlasting life or be resurrected. There is, in fact, a faulty argument on this subject presented in the ‘Reasoning’ book p.268.

## 6. ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE OF GOD’S HOUSEHOLD

- ❖ “For if he suffers as a **Christian** ... For it is the appointed time for judgment to start with **the house of God**” (*1 Peter 4:16, 17*).

Is one really a Christian if one is not part of the house of God? Yet the so-called *other sheep class* are not considered by the WBTS as part of the house of God. Neither are they considered to be “*branches in the True Vine*”—*Jesus* (*John 14*), which makes it impossible for them to bear real Christian fruit.

## 7. THOSE WHO ARE BELIEVERS ARE A HOLY PRIESTHOOD

Rather similar to the arrangement in Roman Catholicism, the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society has stated that only a select group are the priesthood within true Christianity. These are the 144,000. However, the apostle Peter shows that all who **exercise faith** by being believers are this holy priesthood:

- ❖ “...you...are being built up a spiritual house for the purpose of a **holy priesthood**: ... ‘Look I am laying in Zion a stone, chosen, a foundation cornerstone, precious; and **no one exercising faith in it** will by any means come to disappointment.’ It is to you, therefore that he is precious, because **you are believers**; *but to those not believing*, ‘the identical stone that the builders rejected has become the head of the corner and a stone of stumbling and a rock-mass of offence’” (1 Pet. 2:5-8).

*The contrast here is between those who **are believers**; and those not believing. The great crowd claim to be believers and therefore should accept that they are part of the holy priesthood and not of a separate class of Christians.*

## 8. ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS (not just 144,000) ARE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS

The WBTS teaches that only the 144,000 have been declared righteous. However, according to the apostle Paul, if someone accepts the ransom sacrifice of Christ through his death, then he is reconciled to God and so is “declared righteous” which simply means that he now has God’s approval i.e. he is accepted by God:

- ❖ “...it is the *free gift* that they are being **declared righteous** by his undeserved kindness *through the release by ransom* [paid] by Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:23, 24).
- ❖ “For if, when we were enemies, we became **reconciled** to God *through the death of his Son*, much more, now that we have become reconciled...” (Rom. 5:10).

One cannot be a Christian if one does not accept the ransom sacrifice of Jesus as applicable to them. Therefore, the moment a Christian accepts God’s gracious gift of the ransom he becomes reconciled to God by being declared righteous. So, a Christian’s being declared righteous cannot require the passing of any special test at a later date, for example, at the end of the thousand year reign of Christ.

## 9. ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE THE SEED OF ABRAHAM

The WBTS teaches that only the 144,000 are the seed of Abraham. However, Paul stated that:

- ❖ “...that he [Abraham] might be father of **all those having faith**” (Rom. 4:11).
- ❖ “Surely you know that those who **adhere to faith** are the ones who are the **sons of Abraham** ... Consequently those who adhere to faith *are being blessed* together with faithful Abraham ... **the promises** were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. It says not: ‘And to seeds,’ as in the case of many such, but as in the case of **one**: ‘And to your seed,’ who is **Christ**” (Gal. 3:7, 9, 16).
- ❖ “You are all in fact *sons of God* **through your faith in Christ Jesus**. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ...you are all one person in union with Christ Jesus. Moreover, **if you belong to Christ**, you are really **Abraham’s seed** with a promise” (Gal. 3:26-29).

So “the great crowd” must belong to Christ through their **faith in him** which makes them sons of God as shown in #2 above. This, therefore, makes them Abraham’s seed, he being their father because they have faith. The nations (Gentiles) that were to be blessed through Abraham’s seed were those who become Christians because of the blessing of Christ, the prime seed of the promise. This blessing was already flowing to them in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

## 10. ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS MUST REMAIN WRITTEN IN “THE SCROLL OF LIFE”

Both *the book of life* (Gk *biblos*= *record book*, Bauer) and *the Lamb’s scroll of life* (Gk *biblion*= *a long written composition*, Bauer) rather than “*little book*” as in KIT) imply the granting of everlasting life to all Christians. The Lamb’s scroll is “the roll of the living” (Barclay). There is no significant distinction between the two books regarding whose names are written therein because the contexts for both concern anointed Christians. And so:

- ❖ “There was granted it [*the wild beast*] to wage war against **the holy ones** and conquer them, and authority was given it over every tribe, and people, and tongue and nation. And **all who dwell on the earth will worship it**; the **name of not one of them stands written in *the scroll of life of the Lamb*** who was slaughtered, from the founding of the world” (Rev. 13:7, 8).

All apart from the “holy ones” are found to be worshipping the *wild beast* and therefore fail to have their names “written in the scroll of life of the Lamb” so that they won’t be granted life. Therefore, all Christians must be “the holy ones” and therefore in the New Covenant:

- ❖ “He that conquers will thus be arrayed in **white outer garments**; and I will by no means blot out his name from *the book of life*, but I will make acknowledgment of his name before my Father and before his angels” (Rev. 3:5).
- ❖ “After these things I saw, and, look! **a great crowd**, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, **dressed in white robes**; and there were palm branches in their hands ... So right away I said to him: “My lord, you are the one that knows.” And he said to me: “These [*the great crowd*] are the ones that come out of the great tribulation, and they have **washed their robes and made them white** in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 7: 9, 14). Also see 7:9.
- ❖ “Yes, it has been granted to her to be arrayed in **bright, clean, fine linen**, for the fine linen stands for the righteous **acts of the holy ones**” (Rev. 19:8).
- ❖ “Furthermore, whoever was **not found written in *the book of life*** was hurled **into the lake of fire**” (Rev. 20:15).
- ❖ “But anything not sacred and anyone that carries on a disgusting thing and a lie will in no way enter into it [*the city*]; **only those written in *the Lamb’s scroll of life*** [will]” (Rev. 21:27).

All Christians must be able to enter the city, in which case all must be “written in the Lamb’s scroll of life.” So the **great crowd** are **dressed in white robes** (7:9, 14) which stand for the righteous **acts of the holy ones** (19:8). Having these **white outer garments** enables them to keep their names in *the book of life* (3:5). If they don’t then they will be hurled **into the lake of fire** (20:15). So evidently all Christians must keep their names written in “the scroll of life of the Lamb”.

## 11. ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS WILL HAVE THE SAME QUALITY OF FUTURE LIFE

The idea that 144,000 will receive immortality and that *the great crowd* will only receive everlasting life makes an unnatural distinction with no foundation in Scripture. For someone to live everlastingly they would need the “**imperishable (incorruptible) body**” that is described in 1 Corinthians 15 for those having immortality. The term ‘everlasting life’ is *zoe aionion* meaning ‘life of

the coming age.’ This was the term Jesus applied to **all** *who would follow him*. He also gave one statement showing that **immortality** was involved when he said:

- ❖ “...those who have been counted worthy of gaining that system of things and the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. In fact, **neither can they die anymore**, for they are like angels” (*Luke 20:35, 36*).

Later, Jesus, through the apostle Paul, revealed more about the quality of ‘the life of the coming age’ and its endlessness because of one’s having an imperishable body (1 Cor. 15). However, even this is a derived immortality because only God has absolute immortality (1 Tim 6:16 and 1 Tim. 1:17). Being *incorruptible* is the prime quality of immortality/everlasting life.

#### SUMMARY OF THE SCRIPTURES SHOWING THAT TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE CONSISTENTLY SHOWN TO BE OF ONE CLASS

- ❖ “**Everyone believing** that Jesus is the Christ has been **born from God**” (*1 John 5:1*).
  - ❖ “**One body** there is, and one spirit, even as you were called in the **one hope** to which you were called; one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**; one God and **Father of all...**” (*Eph. 4:4*).
  - ❖ “**Unless anyone is born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (*John 3:3*).
  - ❖ “**Whoever does the will of God**, this one **is my brother** and sister and mother” (*Mark 3:35*).
  - ❖ “But if anyone does **not have Christ’s spirit**, this one does **not belong to him** ... <sup>13</sup>for if you live **in accord with the flesh YOU are sure to die** ... For **all** who are *led by God’s spirit*, these are **God’s sons** ... by which spirit we cry out: **Abba, Father!**” (*Rom. 8: 9, 13-15*).
  - ❖ “...you were at that particular time **without Christ**, alienated from the state of Israel and *strangers to the covenants* of promise and you had no hope and **were without God** in the world” (*Eph. 2:12*). There are is only the new covenant for all Christians - **Galatians 4:24-27**.
  - ❖ “...there is *one God* and **one mediator between God and men, a man** Christ Jesus” (*1Tim. 2:5*).
  - ❖ “I am the way and the truth and the life. *No comes to the father* **except through me**” (*John 14:6*).
  - ❖ “So that is why he is a mediator of a **new covenant**, in order that, because a death has occurred for [their] release by ransom from the transgressions under the former covenant, the ones who have been called might receive the **promise of the everlasting inheritance**” (*Heb. 9:15*).
  - ❖ “...Drink out of it, all of you; for this means my blood of **the covenant**; which is to be poured out in behalf of many **for the forgiveness of sins**” (*Matt. 26:27, 28*).
- So one cannot be in relationship with God and have ones sins forgiven unless one is in the New Covenant.*
- ❖ “For if he suffers as a **Christian** ... For it is the appointed time for judgment to start with **the house of God**” (*1 Peter 4:16, 17*).
  - ❖ “...you...are being built up a spiritual house for the purpose of a **holy priesthood**: ... ‘Look I am laying in Zion a stone, chosen, a foundation cornerstone, precious; and **no one exercising faith in it** will by any means come to disappointment.’ It is to you, therefore that he is precious, because **you are believers**; but to **those not believing**, ‘the identical stone that the builders rejected has become the head of the corner and a stone of stumbling and a rock-mass of offence’” (*1 Pet. 2:5-8*).
  - ❖ “You are all in fact *sons of God* **through your faith in Christ Jesus**. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ...you are all one person in union with Christ Jesus. Moreover, **if you belong to Christ**, you are really **Abraham’s seed** with a promise” (*Gal. 3:26-29*).

- ❖ “There was granted it [*the wild beast*] to wage war against **the holy ones** and conquer them, and authority was given it over every tribe, and people, and tongue and nation. And **all who dwell on the earth will worship it**; the **name of not one of them stands written in *the scroll of life of the Lamb*** who was slaughtered, from the founding of the world” (*Rev. 13:7, 8*).

#### SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR A SINGLE CLASS OF TRUE CHRISTIANS

Evidently, one who claims to be a Christian must accept all that Jesus and the writers of the Christian Scriptures have stated that defines a Christian. These definitions include that:

1. There is only “one **body**” of true Christians (Eph. 4:4); yet the “other sheep” are not viewed by the WBTS as in that body.
2. The one ‘body of Christ’ is not limited to 144,000 (Gal. 4:27);
3. There is only “one [*Christian*] **baptism**” – “baptism into Christ” (Eph. 4:5) which is not applied by the WBTS to the “other sheep.”
4. There is only “one **hope**,” namely, the promises made to the Hebrew fathers (Rom. 15:8; 4:13; Acts 13:32) which consistently concern life on earth;
5. There is no logical connection between “other sheep” and “great crowd”;
6. The logical connection of “other sheep” is with the incoming Gentiles of the first century and onward. (Eph. 2:14; Gal. 3:26-28);
7. There is no logical biblical connection between “little flock” and the 144,000; the likelihood is that, in Luke 12:32, Jesus refers to his small band of early followers; whereas 144,000 is a symbolic number for all Christians at the time of the end. If, however, the number 144,000 is taken as literal then, for consistency, it must refer to literal Israelites;
8. “Everlasting life” and “immortality” are not two different destinies. Jesus offered “everlasting life” to his ‘anointed followers.’ Paul simply gave more detail in calling it “immortality and “imperishability” (note 2 Tim. 1:10). Jesus offered “everlasting life” to his disciples – the first Christians.
9. One must be **born again** if one is to “see the kingdom” (John 3:3 compare 1 Cor. 6:9); yet if one believes in Jesus Christ then one is “born from God” (1 John 5:1; John 1:12, 13).
10. There is nothing in the Scriptures indicating that there is a kingdom in heaven and a separate ‘earthly aspect.’ It is all on earth (please see STUDY 15).
11. Only two options: If one lives in accord with the flesh one will die, but if one has Christ’s spirit and so is led by the spirit he is one of “God’s sons” (Rom. 8:13- 15). One or the other applies to all of mankind. There is no in-between class of true Christians.
12. “Whoever does God’s will” becomes Jesus’ **brother** (Mark 3:35) i.e. a Son of God.
13. To call God **Father** one must be a son/daughter of God (Rom. 8:15; Matt. 6:9).
14. Ones’ prayers are only answered if Jesus is one’s **mediator** (1Tim. 2:5; John 14:6).
15. One must be **in a covenant**; otherwise one is “without God” (Eph. 2:12b).
16. The covenant for all true Christians is ‘the New Covenant’ (Gal. 4:24-27; Heb. 9:15).
17. One only receives forgiveness if one is in the New Covenant (Matt. 26:27, 28).

18. All persons “**reconciled** to God” *through the death of his Son*, (Rom. 5:10) are “**declared righteous**” *through the release by ransom* (Rom. 3:24); yet the “other sheep” are not “declared righteous” in the WBTS’ view until a future time.
19. All true Christians belong to Christ and so are “**Abraham’s seed** with a promise” (Gal. 3:29); yet the “other sheep” are not viewed by the WBTS as Abraham’s seed.
20. All believers are part of the holy **priesthood**. The choice is between “believers” and “*those not believing*” (1 Pet. 2:7), but no in-between class.
21. All “Christians” are of the **household of God** (1 Peter 4:16, 17). One is not a Christian if one is not of that household. This is similar to all faithful Israelites being in God’s household of that earlier time (Heb 3:5, 6).
22. One cannot bear fruit unless one remains a **branch** in the True Vine, namely Jesus (John 15:4).
23. In all of the early post-apostolic writings there was never an issue concerning two classes of true Christians — everyone knew that they were anointed as Christians and history shows that the numbers soon exceeded 144,000.

There is no passage of Scripture which directly teaches the idea that there are two classes of faithful Christians. Also “*God is not partial*. Yet the proof offered by the WBTS concerning “**the heavenly calling**,” of Hebrews 3:1 is based on incorrect translation which should read: “**a heavenly calling**” as meaning a calling from God to be His Christian people. Also the WBTS’ interpretations of the “**little flock**” as amounting to “**144,000**”, and the “**other sheep**”/“**the great crowd**” as a second class of true Christians are no proofs because these are completely unconnected texts. Yet there is significant evidence that “the great crowd” (7:9, 14) is the same as “the holy ones” (19:8) i.e. anointed Christians. So there is no genuine proof at all that there must be a second class of true Christians.

Because of the false teaching of ‘two classes of true Christians promoted by the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses the vast majority are unaware of what their proper relationships with Jehovah and Jesus should be. This is:

- Because the ‘other sheep’ are considered by the WBTS to be not in any covenant, and especially not in the New Covenant, even though Jehovah treats only those who are in a covenant with Him as His people (Eph. 2:12b). So these ‘other sheep’ are **left without the scripturally approved mediatorship of Christ Jesus as high priest**, the one who is the only “**mediator between God and men**” (1Tim. 2:5). One cannot be a ‘beneficiary’ of a covenant one is not part of and no organization can be one’s mediator with Jehovah.
- Because the ‘other sheep’ are not viewed by the WBTS as “sons of God” they cannot have a relationship with God as their Father. So they **cannot legitimately call Jehovah ‘heavenly Father.’** So if they call Him ‘Father’ they are at the same time denying that relationship by denying a ‘sonship’ relationship with Him. This situation proposes the following contradiction because one would really be saying to Jehovah: “You are my father, but I am not your son (or daughter).” Yet all Christians are adopted and metaphorically “*born from God*” (1 John 5:1; John 1:12, 13) and therefore are a ‘son (or daughter) of God.’ Note also that ‘abba’ is not a term to be used by some exclusive group of Christians (144,000), but is the term used by Jesus and all other Christians as meaning something part way between ‘daddy’ and ‘my father’.
- Because the ‘other sheep’ are not viewed by the Society as brothers of ‘the Son of God’ – Jesus, they are being **denied the same parentage as Jesus** i.e. Jehovah – ‘the Father’ even though they are **attempting to do God’s will** which is the mark of a child of God (Mark 3:35).
- Because the ‘other sheep’ are not viewed as “*of the household of God*” they **cannot be classed as “Christians.”** (1 Peter 4:16, 17).

It is vital that one accepts Jehovah and Christ Jesus on the terms they set out in the Scriptures and not what any organization says. As Jesus said:

- ❖ “If you love me, you will observe my commandments” (*John 14:15*). *And Jehovah said:*
- ❖ “This is my son,...; **listen to him**” (*Matt.17:5*). Jesus’ words and those of his emissaries are in the Scriptures and, for the most part, are easily understood.

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