

IS THE CLAIM MADE BY JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES TO BE GOD'S ORGANIZATION VALID?

THE FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE

- ❖ “Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom *his* master appointed over his domestics, to give them their **food at the proper time**? Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I say to YOU, he will appoint him over all his belongings” (*Matt. 24:45-47 NWT*).

During the mid-1890s, according to the book *Proclaimers of God's kingdom* p.143, “Brother Russell’s wife publicly expressed the idea that Russell himself was “the faithful and wise servant” as though it were a *personal appointment*. As explained later in this study this phrase scripturally applies to all faithful Christians. Later the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society [WBTS] claimed that a remnant of 144,000 has this personal appointment as “*the faithful and discreet slave*” and so dispenses the timely spiritual food to the membership. It also claims to have been appointed, since 1919, over all of Christ’s “belongings” namely, his **earthly interests**. In reality it maintains excessive control over what the members may believe and how they may act. Its major demand is for the members to display total loyalty to it.

THE WTS INTERPRETATION OF MATTHEW 24:45-47:

- Who really is the faithful and discreet slave **organization** whom **Jesus** appointed over his **disciples**, to give them their **spiritual** food at the proper time? Happy is that **organization** if **Jesus** on arriving **in 1914** finds him doing so. Truly I say to YOU, he will appoint **the WBTS [in 1919]** over all his **earthly interests**.

JESUS' INSPECTION IN 1918-1919

Pages 350-355 of *God's Kingdom of a Thousand Years Has Approached* say:

The serving of food, **the right sort of food** at the proper time **was the issue**. It had to be according to this that a decision must be rendered by the returning master [Jesus]...On **inspecting [the Society] in the year 1919 C.E.**...Jesus did find the appointed “slave” faithful and discreet in the feeding of his [disciples].

So according to the teaching of the governing body of Jehovah’s Witnesses Jesus, having arrived in 1914, began, in 1918, to make an inspection of all religions claiming to represent him. He completed this inspection in the spring of 1919 and determined that only the WBTS was dispensing the right spiritual food at the right time. He therefore appointed them as his ‘Faithful & Discreet Slave.’

So was the WBTS dispensing the right sort of spiritual food up to 1919?

TEACHINGS TAUGHT BETWEEN 1876 AND 1919 THAT ARE NOW DISCREDITED BY THE GOVERNING BODY

Yet according to Charles Taze Russell these were God’s dates. Furthermore, they were all still taught by the WTBS in 1918/19:

- 1799 was the beginning of “**The Last Days**”/“Time of the End.”
- 1829 was the beginning of an understanding of the **mysteries of prophecy**.
- 1844 was when the **Wise Virgins** went forth to meet the bridegroom.
- 1846 was when God’s **Sanctuary** was **cleansed**.
- 1873 was the end of 6,000 years of human existence.
- 1874 was the beginning of the 40 year **harvest**.

- 1874 was the beginning of the Battle of **Armageddon**.
- 1878 was when God's **Kingdom** was **set up** in heaven.
- 1878 was the fall of **Babylon the Great**.
- 1881 was the close of the '**Heavenly Calling**.'
- 1881 was when the **Resurrection** of all the dead in Christ took place.
- 1914 was the final date for Anointed Christians to be taken to heaven.
- 1914 was the end of the 40 year **harvest** – preaching work.
- 1914 was when the **Kingdom** would be firmly established in **the Earth**.
- 1914 was when **Jesus would be present** as Earth's new ruler.
- 1914 was for when the **Gentile nations** were to be **destroyed**.
- 1914 was when **Jerusalem and Israel** were to turn from blindness to **God's favour**.
- 1914 was when "**The Last Days**" would **end**.
- 1915 as a new date for when the **Kingdom** would be fully **established**.
- 1918 for when **Christendom** would be **destroyed** and millions of members killed.
- 1920 as the beginning of world-wide all-embracing **anarchy**.
- 1920 for when All earthly **Governments** would **pass away**.
- 1925 as a **new date** for when Anointed Christians would be taken to **heaven**.
- 2914 as the date for the end of 1,000 year reign of Christ.

THE CLAIM TO SPEAK IN JEHOVAH'S NAME

The WT 9-1-79, p. 29 stated:

Unlike the clergy class, those of the Jeremiah class [the WBTS] have been sent by Jehovah to speak in his name...True, the Jeremiah class back up their message by quoting words, "This is what Jehovah has said."

Whenever, the subject of the many WBTS failed predictions arises it states that it never claimed to speak in Jehovah's name.

THE TEST

The Bible itself establishes the rules for testing a prophecy at Deut 18:20-22, and 13:1-3. (2) it must come to pass. WT. March 1, 1965, p. 151. The above failed predictions are all documented in older WBTS publications, but please note the references below in the book *Proclaimers of God's kingdom* for other rejected teachings:

- **1874** was claimed as the date for **Christ's 2nd Coming**. This was taught for 67 years from 1876 to 1943 (*Proclaimers book* pp. 46-47 and 133).
- "**Millions Now Living will never Die**" because the 1,000 year reign was to begin in **1925**. This message began to be broadcast in 1918. Clearly the people living in 1918 have mostly all died. The *Proclaimers* book p. 425 admits that Rutherford was mistaken. It was a false message.
- Rather than *the remnant of anointed Christians*, it was **Russell** who was viewed as the **F&D Slave** for 30 years from 1897 to 1927—**8 years after** Jesus' inspection in 1918/19. The WTS now teaches that Russell never was the F&D slave but that the *remnant* always was. (*Proclaimers* book pages 142 and 143). So what was taught was false for 30 years. If Jesus had tried to appoint them then they obviously rejected that appointment for 8 years. Yet in contradiction of these facts page 16 of the Jan 15, 1994 Watchtower states that "In 1919 that slave was identified as the remnant of anointed Christians."
- Celebration of **Christmas** was still practiced by the WTS up to **7 years after** Jesus' inspection. (*Proclaimers* book p. 200).

- Celebration of **Birthdays** was still practiced **several years after** the 1919 inspection. (*Proclaimers* book, p. 201)
- **The Cross** appeared on the front cover of every issue of the WT magazine until 1931—**12 years after** the inspection. (*Proclaimers* book, p. 200)
- The **Great Pyramid** of Gizeh was still believed to be God's stone witness **9 years after** Jesus' inspection was finished. This was used to corroborate the date of 1874 by using each inch as equal to one year. (*Proclaimers* book, p. 201)
- To the early WBTS (prior to 1914) the end of the **Gentile Times** meant the actual destruction of all nations in 1914 (p. 99 of *'The Time Is At Hand'* published 1889). But nowadays it has the meaning of "the end of their uninterrupted rule." (1970 yearbook, p72) In other words the rule of the nations has been interrupted by the invisible rulership of Jesus, and yet there has been no destruction of any nations.
- The **1,600 furlongs** of Revelation 14:20 as supposedly the distance between the place where *'The Finished Mystery'* was written (Scranton, Pennsylvania) and the place where it was printed (Brooklyn, NY). This was supposedly a fulfilment of Revelation 14:20. (p. 230 of *'The Finished Mystery'* published in 1917).

For all of these 33 teachings the questions must be asked:

1. Was it the right teaching?
2. Was it the right time to be teaching it?
3. Was it a teaching that was revealed in God's word?

Evidently the answer to each question is 'no' even according to the modern day WBTS. These 33 teachings that are now fully rejected by the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses today are only a small number of the morsels that were **wrongly offered as spiritual food from 1876 to 1919**. The governing body now rejects entire chapters and complete books and magazines that were published by the WBTS during those years. These wrong teachings went out to hundreds of thousands and perhaps millions of people worldwide. Yet these years included the years of Jesus' inspection to ascertain which religious body was teaching the truth. **So would Jesus have possibly chosen the WBTS to be God's organization in view of their dispensing of all this wrong spiritual food up to 1919? The one mistake** that most Jehovah's Witnesses have made is to have failed to **examine the history of the WBTS, especially up to 1919**, to see if it matches its claim to have been chosen in that year to be Jesus' "Faithful and discreet slave."

THE SOCIETY IN BONDAGE FROM 1914 TO 1918

The November 15, 1980 Watchtower states of the early Bible Students who were called Jehovah's Witnesses after 1931 that they:

sold themselves because of wrong practices and came into bondage to the world empire of false religion. An outstanding instance of this occurred during World War 1 of 1914-1918.

The August 15, 1991 Watchtower stated: "In the year 1919...[the Society] came out of Satan's organization." So Before 1919 they were in Satan's organization at a time when Jesus' inspection was going on! In 1919 the WBTS had **not corrected any of the false teachings or practices** of the 1914/1918 period. This further shows that Jesus would not have selected them on the basis of what they were teaching at the time.

PROGRESSIVE LIGHT ON TEACHINGS

- ❖ “But the path of the righteous ones is like the bright light that is getting lighter and lighter until the day is firmly established” (*Prov. 4:18*).

Although this verse is not really talking about the gaining of understanding of the Scriptures it is true that those who personally continually study the Scriptures grow in understanding of them. However, early misunderstandings of significant doctrines are usually held for only a short time; although it is also evident that some aspects of the Scriptures are either ambiguous or lack sufficient data to form concrete conclusions about them at this time. Nevertheless, shouldn't a truth-seeking Christian be willing to make any adjustment to clearer understanding immediately? Yet *The Proclaimers book p. 708* says:

If a person has been in a dark room for a long period of time, is it not best if he is exposed to light **gradually**? Jehovah has exposed his people to the light of truth in a similar manner; he has enlightened them **progressively**.

This is very twisted psychology to back-up the doctrine of progressive light on teachings. However, is this the way it works when the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses applies it to their teachings that have been changed? No! It seems to be more like a light on/light off situation rather than an increasing of light.

Example 1: Who are represented by the “*Superior Authorities*” in Romans 13:1

1904-1929	“Superior Authorities”	= Secular Rulers	Light ON
1929-1962	“	= Jehovah and Jesus	Light OFF
1962 to date	“	= Secular Rulers	Light ON

The history of this teaching makes it evident that the choice made when the light was off was made for reasons of expediency and not because anything in the Scriptures would lead one to give that interpretation. If the 1929 teaching was new light there would never have been a return to the old light of 1904 onward.

Example 2: The ever-changing teaching concerning whether or not **the men of Sodom** will be resurrected has been like a light switching on and off some 8 or more times. Almost all other changes in teaching have operated as an on/off switch rather than any gradual intensifying of light. So the theory of *progressive light* based on Proverbs 4:18 is not, in fact, how the governing body's changes happened in reality; yet amazingly most individual Jehovah's Witnesses don't see this metaphorical sleight of hand happening!

EACH KEY TEACHING MUST ALWAYS REMAIN TRUE

Truth is paramount for the theory of Progressive Light to work. The progression would be a steady building on a basic truth, but not a running ahead by adding details that turn out to be false. Note that Paul says:

- ❖ “...at present we see in hazy outline by means of a metal mirror, but then it will be face to face. At present I know **partially**, but then I shall know **accurately** [“**fully**” as in other translations]”
(*1 Cor.13:12*).

The rendering “**accurately**” is contextually incorrect because it does not make the point that Paul was actually making, that is, the opposite of “*partially*.” However, the rendering “**fully**” is the opposite of “*partially*.” So the partial knowledge, which is always truth, is being built upon with added true details until arriving at a full or complete picture. Never would there be falsity if it comes from God. However, the ON/OFF light and the many pronouncements which have turned out to be false are excused by the governing body by saying that they got it wrong because they are **only imperfect men**. If that is the

case, then there should never be the claim to be dispensing God's spiritual food, because the real food from God is always truthful even if restricted. Hence no claim should be made of being God's organization. For such a claim to be made one would have to claim infallibility of teaching and with no excuses ever being made for wrong teaching. The fact that the apostles were imperfect men does not validate the excuse because everything the imperfect apostles wrote was **absolute unchangeable truth** just as the apostle John stated:

❖ “*the true light is already shining*” (1 John 2:8).

HOW PROVERBS 4:18 WAS MEANT TO BE APPLIED

It would seem that, in reality, Proverbs 4:18 should not be applied in the way that the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses applies it in an attempt to prove a progressive revealing of truth. Verse 18 gives the simple contrasting statement of: “*the way of the wicked is like deep darkness*” (verse 19 ESV). So **Old light** is simply darkness—it is not light at all. Evidently both the first president, Charles Russell and the second president Joseph Rutherford were in such “deep darkness” regarding many teachings for all of their lives. This is what is now acknowledged by the governing body regarding those teachings. The application of Proverbs 4:18 and Matthew 24:45 made by the governing body **operate in contradictory ways**. If one processes the above wrong and discredited teachings through the *Progressive light theory* then Russell and Rutherford are forgiven for getting it all wrong—they were just imperfect men—provided they did not claim to be God's channel of truth. If, on the other hand, one processes these wrong teachings through Matthew 24:45 then there is no excuse for them – they were giving false teachings as spiritual food in 1914-1919 and therefore **could not have been chosen in 1919 to be God's organization**. Again most individual Jehovah's Witnesses don't see this metaphorical sleight of hand happening!

As the WT 2-1881, p. 188 said:

If we were following a man...undoubtedly one human idea would contradict another and that which was light one or two or six years ago would be regarded as darkness now. But with God there is no variableness, neither shadow or turning, and so it is with truth...a new view of truth can never contradict a former truth. “New light” never extinguishes older “light,” but adds to it.

The WT 3-15-1986, p. 14 stated that: “If we keep listening to subtle arguments and specious reasoning, ‘twisted things’ can sound as though they were straight.” However, Christians who are really seeking the truth:

❖ “...won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth” (*Eph. 4:14 NLT*).

TEACHINGS STILL BELIEVED TODAY BY JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES.

- God is not a trinity
- Jesus is not God
- The soul is not immortal
- The dead are not conscious
- Hell is not a place of eternal torment
- The earth will not be destroyed.

However, all of these teachings were being taught by **many other religious groups** in 1918/19 at the time of Jesus' inspection. It is just as likely that those churches could have been selected as “the F&D slave” but they have never made the claim to be God's only organization. It was, in fact, **from these other groups that Russell acquired these biblically correct teachings**

QUESTIONS RAISED FROM THE PROCLAIMER'S BOOK

- Why didn't either of the first two presidents ever know that Jesus was to have returned in 1914 and not the wrong date of 1874 which they proclaimed?
- Why in 1919 did the Society deny being the F&D slave and not accept the appointment then?
- Why, during the time of Jesus' inspection, did Rutherford declare the lie that "Millions *now living* will never die?" There are no longer any millions of JW's from that time who are still alive!
- Why does page 60 of *the Proclaimers* book presents Russell's 25-year prophecy as being **the beginning of the war** in Europe in 1914 when, in fact, his actual prophecy was a foretelling of the '**End of all kingdoms** in 1914'. Page 13 of WT August 15, 1989 shows that *The World Magazine* of August 30, 1914 actually said that it was a prophecy about the "*End of all kingdoms in 1914.*" The prophecy was first given on p. 99 of the 1889 book *The Time Is At Hand* which said:

"Within the coming twenty-six years all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved...we consider it an established truth that the final END OF [ALL] KINGDOMS of this world...will be accomplished by the end of A.D. 1914" – 1889 Edition. (This is also quoted in the WT of March 15, 1955)

This was repeated in the July 1894 Watch Tower which said: "Bear in mind that the end of 1914 is not the date for the beginning, but **the end of the time of trouble.**" Also note the further misrepresentation of Russell's prophecy on p. 560 of the *Proclaimers* book. However, Russell's actual prophecy turned out to be false because no kingdoms came to an end in 1914 or even soon after.

- Why did the WTS, in 1919, still dispense '*food*' that was poisonous – namely the celebration of Christmas and birthdays, the cross and the Great Pyramid of Gizeh? As we have noted above regarding Proverbs 4:18, 19 these were the teachings of darkness. (*Proclaimers* book p. 200).

TACKING - ACCOUNTING FOR THE CHANGING DOCTRINES OF THE WTS

The WT 1 January 1981 introduced the illustration of a sailing boat which often changes course to accommodate the wind direction yet still reaches its destination as a way to account for the often changing teachings of the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses. However, this illustration of tacking contradicts the Apostle Paul's metaphor for a Christian's course as being with certainty. He says:

- ❖ "Therefore, the way I am running is not uncertainly ("not on a zigzag course" Anchor Bible)..."
(1 Cor. 9:26).

Volume 2 of *Insight on the Scriptures* states:

Being "the spirit of truth," God's holy spirit could never be the source of error but would protect Christ's followers from doctrinal falsehoods, p. 1132.

On that basis the many errors of Russell, Rutherford, and the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses over the past 130 years indicate that they do not have protection from doctrinal falsehood.

MISLEADING IMPRESSIONS OF WBTS HISTORY

Because the Jehovah's Witnesses book *Proclaimers of God's Kingdom* presents the WBTS history in a topical format rather than in chronological format, it is easy for the reader to form incorrect conclusions concerning this history e.g.:

- On page 204 it states that:
The operation of the organization of Jehovah's Witnesses has undergone significant changes since Charles Taze Russell and his associates first began to study the Bible together in 1870.

This gives the misleading impression that there was **an organization in 1870**, whereas when one examines pages 43-48; 120-122; and 132-135 it becomes clear that C.T Russell was only 17 years of age in 1870 and was associated with **Adventists from 1869 to the year 1878** when he broke away from Trinitarian Adventist Nelson Barbour and began publishing the WT. magazine, the first of which was the July 1879 issue.

- On page 147 mention is made of the doctrinal change from believing that **“the superior authorities”** of Romans 13 were Jehovah and Jesus to the belief that they are the secular governments as if this were “progressive understanding.” However, page 190 of the *Proclaimers* book shows that Russell and the Bible Students had previously held this belief. In fact, it seems that it was held at least from 1904 until 1929. So it was not, as stated on page 147, an example of “progressive understanding.”
- On page 201 a small note is presented concerning the fact that C. T. Russell taught that the Great Pyramid of Gizah was **God's stone witness**. However, a more honest presentation would have referred to older WTS publications revealing that, after Russell's death, second president of the WTS Joseph Rutherford continued to teach this idea for a further 12 years and that pyramidology was the basis of much of the WTS' prediction of future events. In other words they used occult spiritism for more than 40 years. Furthermore, on page 64 there is a photograph of Russell's rather insignificant headstone; yet any picture the massive stone pyramid (with an 'all seeing eye') marking Watch Tower burial plots is completely missing from the *Proclaimers* book.

THE IDEA OF CONTINUOUS UNINTERRUPTED EXISTENCE OF THE FAITHFUL & DISCREET SLAVE

The idea held by Jehovah's Witnesses that the *mid 1800s was the time for God* to use certain people to bring Christianity out of the 1800 year darkness and to spiritually feed the domestics **contradicts the governing body teaching that** the Faithful and Discreet slave has had a ***continuous uninterrupted existence*** since 33 C.E and has been shining an ever increasing light on the truths of the Scriptures with a continuous food supply. (See NOTE 1). During the early 1900s C.T. Russell was viewed as the Faithful and Discreet slave (WT 1st Dec. 1916 p356). Later it was claimed that 1919 was the time when Christ “the master” having returned in 1914 (after 2520 years since 607 B.C) chose one particular group as the Faithful and Discreet slave. However, because the **607 B.C** starting date has been thoroughly discredited in both the secular scientific and biblical worlds and with the **correct date for the destruction of Jerusalem being 586 B.C.E**, one would arrive at 1935 as the end of 2,520 years. This means that Christ had not returned in 1914 and therefore he, as “the master” did not appoint anyone. So those who claim such an appointment are **merely self-appointed**.

NOTE 1. There is no tracing in history of a Faithful and Discreet slave that has had a *continuous uninterrupted existence* since 33 C.E. There is no history of any groups that have had most of the JW beliefs. If there had been a Faithful and Discreet slave that has had a continuous uninterrupted existence since 33 C.E. then C.T. Russell would have received his knowledge of truth from this **“slave”** and would not have been the one who “revived these great truths taught by Jesus and the apostles”.

See “Divine Purpose” book p. 17. However, even Russell would not recognize many of the current beliefs of the governing body as being those that he held during his lifetime.

NOTE 2. STUDY 5 ‘WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF 607/1914?’ gives an explanation of why turning 1,260 days into years **and** then multiplying by 2 to get 2,520 years is stepping beyond what the biblical data allows for and is, therefore, inappropriate and misleading.

THE GOVERNING BODY HAS NOW EFFECTIVELY BECOME THE “FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE”

For most of the history of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society it taught that new light was provided when the members of the ‘anointed remnant’ (around 9,500 members) as the “faithful and discreet slave” mailed their thoughts on spiritual matters to the Jehovah’s Witnesses’ governing body (a body varying between 9 and 17 members) who then processed these spiritual ‘truths’ and later published such new teaching in the pages of their literature. In other words Jehovah’s Witnesses were led to believe that their governing body was following the guidance of the ‘anointed remnant’ as the ones receiving information from God. However, during the 1980s it started to be revealed by dissenting members of the governing body that this had not been the case, but rather that only the governing body itself provides the new light and that there is no new teaching from the ‘anointed remnant’ i.e. the “faithful and discreet slave.” This was eventually admitted in a 2009 Watchtower magazine when it stated that:

“the Governing Body represents the faithful and discreet slave class.” It also stated that **“Christians who have truly received this anointing do not demand special attention. They do not believe that their being of the anointed gives them special insights beyond what even some experienced members of the “great crowd” may have.”** *Watchtower magazine 15th June, 2009.*

This appears to be an official demoting of the ‘anointed remnant’ and stating that they do not have any **“special insights”** so that all decisions on what is ‘truth’ are now in the hands of the Governing Body. So the Governing Body has now placed itself in the role of the “faithful and discreet slave.” However, as bad as such a demoting is the situation is really even worse because it means that the previous ‘truth’ that the ‘anointed remnant’ dispensed all the ‘spiritual food’ was not true at least since the 1980s if not even further back in time. One wonders why the Governing Body or individual members did not reveal this fact many decades earlier.

Now because up to now, the members of the Governing Body are also of the ‘anointed remnant’ and yet **“they do not believe their being of the anointed gives them special insights beyond what even some experienced members of the “great crowd” may have”** then those of the **“great crowd”** class who are biblically studious potentially have special ‘spiritual insight’ equal to any member of the Governing Body. Nevertheless, from all of this it is rather evident that neither the ‘anointed remnant’/’faithful and discreet slave,’ nor the Governing Body have ever significantly had any **“special insights”** revealed to them by Jehovah.

JESUS IS NOW PRESENTED AS THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND THE GOVERNING BODY!

Because the Governing Body has for several decades taught that Jesus is not the mediator between God and mankind in contradiction of 1 Timothy 2:5, but that he is the mediator between God and the “faithful and discreet slave,” this must now switch to Jesus’ being the mediator between God and the Governing Body! So, because it demands that all other Jehovah’s Witnesses accept its teachings and its changes of teachings as being from God, the eternal future of rank and file Jehovah’s Witnesses is totally dependent on obedience to this Governing Body who must be trusted – the reason given is that:

Since Jehovah God and Jesus Christ completely trust the faithful and discreet slave, should we not do the same? *Watchtower magazine 15th Feb., 2009, p. 27.*

Clearly the evidence stated above is such that the Governing Body/’faithful and discreet slave’ does not warrant anyone’s trust at all. It engages in a definite form of dishonesty with the membership and promotes ideas which would usurp the true position of Jesus as the *“one mediator between God and men”* (1 Tim. 2:5), whereby all true Christians can have a direct relationship with Jesus. But what did Jesus really mean when he spoke of a “faithful and discreet slave”?

THE PHRASE “**FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE**”
REFERS TO INDIVIDUALS AND NOT TO AN ORGANIZATION

TWO TYPES AND FOUR TYPES OF SLAVE

❖ “Who really is the *faithful and discreet slave* whom his master appointed over his domestics **to give them their food** at the proper time? Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. Truly I will say to you, He will **appoint him over all his belongings**. But if ever that *evil slave* should say in his heart, ‘My master is delaying,’ and should start to **beat his fellow slaves** and should eat and drink with the confirmed drunkards, the master of that slave ... will punish him with the greatest severity ... weeping/ gnashing” (*Matt. 24:45-51*).

The parallel account in **Luke 12:42-48** shows **4 types** of slaves as follows:

- 1) The faithful steward.
- 2) The slave that should say in his heart “My master is delaying” was assigned a part with the unfaithful ones.
- 3) The slave that understood the will of the master but did not get ready was beaten with **many strokes**.
- 4) The one that did not understand was beaten with **few strokes**.

WHAT ABOUT “APPOINTED OVER ALL HIS BELONGINGS”?

The view that Jesus was referring to a “faithful and discreet slave” **class** i.e. a composite body of anointed slaves is because it was thought that it would be too much for any one slave to be appointed to deal with **all** of Jesus’ belongings.

However, Jesus’ own words are in conflict with such an idea. Throughout his Olivet discourse he refers to the slave in the singular, calling him a “discreet **one**.” There is no hint that a composite slave is involved. In fact, in the illustration in Matthew 25, Jesus says that these slaves would be assigned talents individually: “to **one** he gave five talents, to another two, to still another one, to **each one** according to **his own** ability.” Nowhere in the illustration does he allow for the slave to be considered as a group. This is why he praises each loyal individual slave with the words: “Well done, good and faithful slave! You were faithful over a few things. I will appoint you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.” (*Matt. 25: 21-23*).

Furthermore, none of Jesus’ parables were given to describe classes (*as organized bodies*) of people, but **individual** responses to the master and the kingdom. Otherwise *an evil slave organization*, *a many strokes organization*, and *a few strokes organization* would all have to be identified based on Luke 12:42-48. No such single organizations exist. There would need to be consistent *class* application for all the parables, requiring the identification of, for example, *a ten minas organization* and *a five minas organization* either within or separate from the Faithful and Discreet organization. Rather, each **individual** Christian should strive to be a faithful slave and to spiritually feed his fellow slaves as shown in the following completion of the parable:

❖ “...**everyone** to whom much was given, much will be demanded of him [*the individual*]; and **the one** whom people put in charge of much, they will demand more than the usual from **him**”

(Luke 12:48).

So in terms of *an evil slave* on the scene, the disciples within the same household could make choices, either to remain “faithful” or become “evil.” However, if we go with the “composite body” interpretation, it would actually mean – according to the layout of Jesus’ words in 24:48 - that the entire body would become “that evil slave” and so leaving no one faithful to care for the belongings. So it is clear when we combine all the relevant passages that Jesus spoke of individuals as the slaves

THE ILLUSION OF GOD'S ORGANIZATION

UNBIBLICAL TERMINOLOGY

The Society, The Organization, Jehovah's visible organization, God's theocratic organization, Jehovah's earthly organization, God's channel of communication, God's spirit-directed organization, The faithful and discreet slave organization. These are all terms that the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses uses to describe the 'Faithful and Discreet Slave.' Evidently their followers use the terms 'Governing Body' and 'Faithful and Discreet Slave' as the equivalent of **titles**. Yet such a practice is in contradiction of Jesus' words:

❖ "But YOU, do not YOU be called Rabbi, for one is YOUR teacher, whereas all YOU are brothers"

(Matt. 23:8).

The **illusion** for JW's is that they think they are being loyal to God by being loyal to *his organization*. The **reality** is that prior to 1976 they were being loyal to a man, the President of the WBTS, and after 1976 they were being loyal to the men of the Governing Body. During neither of these periods were they being loyal to God or Christ Jesus because there is no proof that the WBTS was selected by Jesus in 1919 as his representatives.

A PERFECT ORGANIZATION OF IMPERFECT MEN!!

The claim that the organization is *perfect* is used to make the membership believe that the organization is God's and so must, of necessity, be perfect and therefore must be obeyed. The contradictory claim that the men running the organization are *imperfect* is used by the Society to excuse its many mistakes, changes and false prophecies.

- These claims make no logical sense, in spite of the very contradictory reasoning presented by the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses. If the component parts of an entity are imperfect then logically the entity is imperfect.
- Since the governing body claims not to be inspired by God, how can God "channel" information through it as he did through the men He inspired to write the Scriptures?
- Since God inspired imperfect men to write the Bible, why does an organization need to be seen as perfect to be used by God to interpret the Scriptures?

Nevertheless the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses has occasionally stated that, unlike the Bible writers, the 'Faithful and discrete slave is **not inspired of God**. However, they also make the claim that whatever material appears in the WT magazine study articles is **from Jehovah**. This is another contradictory position because any thoughts from Jehovah must come through men who are inspired by him.

THE MYSTERIES IN THE 'FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE' TEACHING

- How does a person know that he is of "the anointed class" with a heavenly hope? Anointing with God's spirit happens the moment anyone sincerely believes and becomes a Christian. All true Christians must have God's spirit. (Please see STUDIES 10 and 12).
- How exactly does God put into the minds of the Governing Body the right slant on the Scriptures so that it becomes spiritual food?
- If God planned that the light for correct understanding of the Scriptures was only switched on in the 1880s why did God make the Bible available to people for all the centuries before?

THE DEMAND FOR UNQUESTIONING SUBMISSION TO "THE ORGANIZATION"

Jehovah's Witnesses understand that the demand for such unquestioning submission is proof that certain organizations must be cults. Yet, they do not make this connection regarding their own governing body as indicating that they, too, are a cult (Please see Appendix 1). The fact is that sometime after one has become a Jehovah's Witnesses one has actually *relinquished one's free-will* although not realizing it.

MISPLACED LOYALTY

It is often stated by the governing body that the rebellion of Korah, Dathan and Abiram against Moses (Num. 16) pictures rebellion of Christians against "the Faithful and Discrete slave" class. However, this is a mistaken interpretation and it is also a usurpation of Jesus' position because Moses does not picture any Faithful and Discrete slave class. The greater Moses is Jesus (Deut. 18:15, 18).

TWISTED PSYCHOLOGY TO KEEP MEMBERS IN

In 1998 a Circuit Overseer in Lincoln, UK commented on how Jehovah's Witnesses could understand the various incorrect understandings held for many decades by their governing body. His subject concerned Jesus words about "this generation." This CO said:

"Why did Jehovah allow us for 120 years to misunderstand Matthew 24 v 34 about the Generation? Why did He allow us, for He knew we got it wrong for 120 years. Why? I tell you why, because we never, ever, ever would have gotten His preaching work done. Nobody would have been missionaries, nobody would have gone abroad, nobody would have pioneered, they would have all raised children gone to university. There is a hundred years to go yet, well, no need to rush around...you would not have been in the truth today and I wouldn't, because nobody would have bothered all that much. It was 120 years ago, isn't that right? Marvellous, you fooled me Jehovah, they got it wrong, but it will do them good".

A transcript of the talk was printed in the *Reachout Quarterly* (Spring 2008).

This is really saying that Jehovah firstly lies to his faithful people and then maintains that lie for 120 years because he couldn't rely on them to make their best effort to accomplish the great commission (Matt. 18:19). So it obviously brings into question the level of dedication and the good motives of these faithful ones.

IS THE WBTS REALLY GOD'S CHANNEL?

Part of the claim made by the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses for itself as God's only channel of communication is based on their teaching that the Bible is *an organizational book* and cannot be understood by individuals without the teachings of the organization. On this basis we would not expect that Russell or Rutherford could possibly understand the Bible. Yet William Tyndale would have strongly disagreed with this view held by the governing body. He died to get the Bible translated into the language that a ploughboy could understand!

THE BIBLE IS A BOOK FOR INDIVIDUALS

Paul's made it clear that people repent **individually** and based on God's individual leading of them:

- ❖ "...you are inexcusable, O **man [an individual]** whoever you are...because you do not know that the kindly [quality] of God is trying to lead you to repentance?" (*Rom. 2:1, 6*).

So the Scriptures are written to individuals for them to understand so that they might repent. There are many other Scriptures that show that individuals are meant to be able to understand the Scriptures. However, it is recognized that scholarly input as to understanding, language and the background of the early centuries is most valuable.

NOT AN ORGANIZATION BUT **THE BIBLE** IS THE REAL TANGIBLE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION

God has seen fit to communicate to mankind through a book – the Holy Scriptures and the basic message of the Scriptures is not too hard to grasp. However, some parts of the Scriptures are difficult to understand as Peter said concerning Paul’s words (2 Pet. 3:15, 16). Furthermore, we are between 1,900+ and 3,500 years away from the time of original writing, which was done in a very different culture to our 21st century Western culture. This poses the problem of how to understand some of the details of these writings, the solution to which is to benefit from the discoveries of archaeology and the work of scholars in the biblical field. However, although the governing body of Jehovah’s Witnesses notes the discoveries of archaeology, it ignores real scholars in the biblical field and so loses that great aid to understanding. Therefore, over the years of its existence the WBTS has become less and less of a reliable channel of interpretation, notwithstanding its evident lack of God’s spirit as demonstrated by their failure to exhibit ‘the spirit of Christ.’ (See Appendices). So from the Scriptures and knowledge of their background the individual can come to obey the Messiah.

CHRISTIANS OBEY JESUS

- ❖ “And a voice came out of the cloud saying: ‘This is my Son, the one that has been chosen. **Listen to him**’” (*Luke 9:35*).

Because “*the faith was **once for all** delivered to the holy ones.*” and is contained within the writings of those “holy ones,” one can “*listen to him*” by obeying all that Jesus personally said to his disciples and further said through “*the apostles and prophets*” in the Greek Scriptures. Paul stated in 2 Corinthians 5:20b NWT: “As **substitutes for** Christ we beg: ‘Become reconciled to God’” or more accurately “We ask **on behalf of** Christ, be reconciled to God” (UBS Interlinear). However, this was not an appeal to existing Christians but an appeal to the world to be “*reconciled to God*” (verse 19). True Christians already were reconciled to God. So no one today is acting “*as substitutes for Christ.*” in the sense of controlling other Christians, but only “*on behalf of Christ*” asking the world to “*be reconciled to God.*” Furthermore, Jesus said “*I am with you **all the days until** the conclusion of the system of things (age)*” (**Matt. 28:20**). So to benefit from Jesus’ presence we have to:

- ❖ “...remember the sayings previously spoken by the holy prophets and the **commandment of the Lord** and Saviour *through your apostles.*” (*2 Pet. 3:2*).

Christians simply do not need any organization to “*plead for them*” because Jesus:

- ❖ “...is able also to save completely those who are approaching God through him, because he is **always alive** to plead for them” (*Heb. 7:25*).

Early Christians didn’t view accepting Jesus as equivalent to joining a religion. They were followers of a person—Jesus. So they gathered with other believers, not to identify themselves as members of a particular group, but because they felt drawn by family relationship to fellow believers. Certainly Christians can help, warn of danger, explain truth to and encourage one another; but they have no controlling rights over other Christians.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SPIRITUAL ARK FOR SALVATION

- ❖ “That which corresponds to this [*the ark*] is now **saving you**, namely **baptism**...through the resurrection of **Jesus Christ**” (*1 Peter 3:21*).

For Christians there is just “one baptism,” (Eph. 4:4) and they are to be “baptized into Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 6:3). The ark only enabled Noah and family to ride out God’s judgment and so it was a temporary provision. Yet if Noah’s wife = 144,000, and the sons and daughters = the great crowd, then

they were all in the ark at the same time and arrived at the same place; thereby showing that there cannot be 2 destinies.

SALVATION IS ONLY THROUGH JESUS

- ❖ “I [*Jesus*] am the door; whoever enters *through me* will be **saved**” (*John 10:9*) and so he is:
- ❖ “...the chief agent of **their salvation**” (*Heb. 2:10*).
- ❖ “There is **no salvation in anyone else**, for there is not another name under heaven which has been given among men by which we must **get saved**” (*Acts 4:12*). *Salvation cannot, therefore, come through any organization.*

EVERLASTING LIFE COMES ONLY THROUGH JESUS

- ❖ “The gift God gives is **everlasting life** *through Christ* our Lord” (*Rom. 6:23*).
- ❖ “He that exercises *faith in the Son* has **everlasting life**” (*John 3:36*).
- ❖ “And yet you do not want to *come to me* that you may have **life**” (*John 5:40*).

IS THERE AN “EVIL SLAVE” CLASS?

“But if ever that evil slave should say in his heart, ‘My master is delaying,’ and should start to beat his fellow slaves and should eat and drink with the confirmed drunkards, the master of that slave will come on a day that he does not expect and in an hour that he does not know, and will punish him with the greatest severity and will assign him his part with the hypocrites.” (*Matt. 24:48-51*).

After the death of Charles Russell there was a power struggle within the Watchtower organization between J.F. Rutherford and those of the Bible Students who had been appointed by Russell to continue his work after his death (see the history of the Bible Students). This resulted in the ejection from the organization of those rightful appointees. From then on Rutherford applied the expression “evil slave class” to them. So for many decades this phrase was applied only to them, but with time it came to be applied to any JW who ceased to recognize the authority of the WBTS.

However, is the WBTS’ application of the phrase “evil slave class” correct? Is there such a separate class at all? Noted Bible scholar G. H. Lang, who never had any connection to the WBTS, commented, in 1945, on Matthew 24:45-51 by stating that:

In the explication of this parable the Lord contemplated the business of His house going on so long that a **good slave might degenerate into a bad one**; for he says “My lord delayeth his coming,” which it would not occur to any one to say until some considerable lapse of time after the master had left and beyond the full time when he might have returned. **The good servant turning from his fidelity is the clear force of what is said.** It is only when he starts to entertain the notion of the delay of his lord that he “begins” his misconduct, which means that up till then he had done his duty. The pronoun “*that* evil servant” is emphatic: *What* evil servant? And no other person is mentioned than the good servant. The Lord might have said, If an evil servant, or If any evil servant: but He did not so speak. (boldening ours).

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, p.32.

So it is clear that, according to Jesus, the same servant goes from being faithful to being evil. So because the WBTS’ claim is that its own anointed members are “the faithful and discreet slave” the logical conclusion is that if they ever say, ‘My master is delaying’ and mistreat the other “slaves” then they have degenerated to become “that evil slave.” Evidently there is no separate group or splinter group that becomes “that evil slave.” Furthermore, as shown above, Jesus’ words about slaves concerns individuals and not classes. So the WBTS should never use the term “evil slave” in reference to others, but should fear that if it should begin to mistreat other “slaves” that it may be viewed by Jesus as an evil slave and later suffer the consequences described by Jesus.

CONCLUSIONS

A comparison of the WTS claims with its actual history reveals the following:

- The governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses was not appointed as God's organization in 1919 (or at any other time) because it provided unacceptable spiritual food to the domestics through the period of the WBTS' stated inspection by Jesus and his decision in 1919.
- The Governing Body has provided to its membership a distorted version of its history relating to the time of Jesus' inspection. But the true history can be pieced together by careful examination of WBTS' own publications, in particular the *Proclaimers* book.
- The Governing Body's repeated warnings to its membership about former members (*name-calling them 'apostates'*) stops individual Jehovah's Witnesses from discovering the truth about this history, which is a history revealing that there was no appointment of the WBTS by Jesus in 1919.
- These warnings turn out to be simply propaganda to protect the governing body of Jehovah's Witnesses from being revealed as something that misleads. And, indeed, this propaganda misleads the membership into trusting those *inside* who are not telling them the truth and to mistrust those from *outside* who are trying to tell them the truth.
- Matthew 24:45-47 and Proverbs 4:18 (*as wrongly interpreted by the governing body*) operate in contradictory ways. And therefore can be used independently to maintain the illusion that Jesus chose the WBTS, while at the same time justifying the false teachings of earlier times.
- The result of this false claim by the governing body is that large numbers of Jehovah's Witnesses, rather than having a relationship with God, have a relationship with the organization. In his book *Blood on the Altar* researcher David A. Reed notes the significance of the "faithful and discreet slave" doctrine:

The key to understanding Jehovah's Witnesses is found in this one doctrine: the alleged appointment of the "faithful and wise servant." JW leaders today claim to have inherited the position by virtue of being Russell's successors, and hence God's appointed mouthpieces to humankind. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of this one piece of information. Efforts to understand the sect doctrinally or sociologically—and to debate with members on their beliefs and practices—are doomed to failure when this point is not understood. Once they accept this doctrine, new JWs no longer require other teachings to be based on the Bible or even to be logical; all that is required is for the teaching to come through God's channel of communication. If the Faithful and Wise Servant teaches it, it *must* be true. p.46.

QUOTES FROM THE WT MAGAZINE

The following view taught by the Governing Body concerning *the Bereans* (Acts 17:11) destroys the very point that was made about them; that is, that **they did check the Scriptures** "*as to whether these things were so.*" However, in contradiction of this the Watchtower magazine stated:

...but nowhere do we read that those brothers first, in a sceptical frame of mind, checked the Scriptures to make certain that those letters had scriptural backing. (February 15, 1981, pages 18-19).

Based on double standards the Governing Body, in taking the following view toward others, does not allow its members to take this view with the organization itself when it get things wrong:

It is not religious persecution for an informed person to expose publicly a certain religion as being false, thus allowing persons to see the difference between false and true religion...it is a public service...it leaves the public free to chose. (November 15, 1963 volume, p.688).

Yet they admit that all is not well in paradise:

...some who have been prominent in Jehovah's organisation have succumbed to immoral practices, including homosexuality, wife swapping, and child molesting. (Jan 1, 1986, p.13)

However, the later history shows that these prominent ones, rather than being disfellowshipped, were simply moved out of Bethel homes and given important work in other localities.

The front cover picture of the May 15, 1984 WT magazine is of 16 real individual Jehovah's Witnesses and with the caption (repeated on p. 4) "1914: The Generation That Will Not Pass Away." However, it has recently been noted that all 16 of these individuals have now passed away, obviously before the New World has arrived. This is testimony to the false hopes that the Governing Body gives to its membership.

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SUGGESTED READING

Captives of a Concept by Don Cameron

Spiritual Food at the Proper Time (This gives the most comprehensive list of dates set by the Watchtower Society). Available from Freeminds.org

SUGGESTED WEB SITES AND WEB PAGES

Research on the Watchtower <http://Corior.blogspot.com> (especially 'Notes on the Proclaimers book').

<http://www.evangelicaloutreach.org/jw's.htm>

<http://www.watchman.org/jw/whist1.htm>

<http://www.watchman.org/jw/changesw.htm>

<http://www.jwfiles.com/>

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