

Denominational Doctrines – Part 11

Jehovah's Witnesses

Introduction:

- A. Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916)
 - 1. Book writer and seller.
 - 2. Became wealthy.
 - 3. Claimed Jesus and apostles came in 1874
- B. Watchtower Bible and Tract Society.

Discussion:

I. Date Setting.

- A. 1874.
 - 1. Jesus and apostles came, but invisibly¹
 - 2. Every eye shall see him (Rev. 1:7).
 - 3. Dead saints raised, living translated – did not happen in 1874 (1 Thess. 4:13-14).
- B. 1914 and 1976.
- C. All date setting futile (Matt. 24:36)

II. The Kingdom.

- A. J. W.'s: Begins as end of this age.
- B. Bible:
 - 1. At hand in Jesus' and John's day. (Mt. 3:2; 4:17).
 - 2. In life time of 1st century generation (Matt. 16:28; Mk. 9:1).
 - 3. People in it in first century. (Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9).

III. Death

- A. J. W.'s: Destruction, annihilation, unconsciousness, nonexistence.
- B. Bible:
 - 1. Matt. 10:28
 - 2. Matt 22:32
 - 3. Matt 17:3
 - 4. Heb. 12:22, 23

IV. Soul

- A. J. W.'s: "Soul" only means "life" or "living being")
 - 1. Bible:
 - a. Sometimes a living being.
 - b. Other times inward man (Matt. 10:28; Acts 2:27-31; Heb. 10:39; 1 Pet. 2:11)

V. Hell

- A. J. W.'s:
 - 1. Hell is just the grave.
 - 2. No eternal punishment – just eternal annihilation.
- B. Bible:
 - 1. Difference in "Hell," "hades", and "sheol".
 - a. Gehenna (12 times) (Matt. 5:22, 25, 30; 10:28; 18:9; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Lk. 12:5; Jas. 3:6)
 - b. Hades (10 times) (Lk 16:23; Acts 2:27, 31; Rev. 20:13, 14)

Conclusion:

- A. J. W.'s are masters at muddying the water – take a definition they like and make it apply in all cases.
- B. J.W.'s prey on the lonely, weak, uninformed and dysfunctional.
- C. J.W.'s will not publicly or privately discuss their positions with informed opponents.

1. “1874 was the exact date of the beginning of the times of restitution and the our Lord’s return” (SS v. 2, pp 170, 171)

And while we therefore conclude that their resurrection is now and accomplished fact, and hence that they as well as the Lord are present in the earth, the fact we do not see them is no obstacle to faith when we remember that, like their Lord, they are now spirit beings, and, like Him, invisible to men.” (SS, v. 2, p. 234).