

Anchor Of The Soul  
P.O. Box 401  
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

# Anchor Of The Soul

Hebrews 6:19

October 2007

## Jehovah's Witnesses Are WRONG (No. 1)

By Casey Head

In the September issue of "Anchor of the Soul," we advertised a free booklet entitled, "Jehovah's Witnesses, a Quick Reference Guide." Based on the wording of the advertisement, it may have appeared that this booklet was supporting the doctrines of the Jehovah's Witnesses. We want to make it abundantly clear, however, that in no way do we support the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses! In fact, this booklet shows the error of many of their doctrines and prepares you for any discussion that you may have with them. In that way is it a "quick reference guide." We apologize for the misunderstanding.

However, I want to take this opportunity to begin a series of articles on the error of the Watchtower Society of the Jehovah's Witnesses. The Jehovah's Witnesses are very evangelical, and I'm sure that they have knocked on your door in the past. Perhaps you were unprepared before. I hope that this series of articles will not only inform you of their doctrines, but also provide you with biblical rebuttals to their talking points.

First, let's overview the Jehovah's Witnesses denomination. The Watchtower Society of the Jehovah's Witnesses was established by Charles Taze Russell in 1872. Originally, Russell preached in Protestant churches across America, but his increasingly divergent teachings forced his followers to separate from other church bodies and to establish a denomination of their own. The members of this denomination were not called Jehovah's Witnesses until 1931.

Most religious people today identify the Jehovah's Witnesses as a cult. They are under the strict oversight of the Watchtower Society, which is based in Brooklyn, NY. They are most known for their rejection of Jesus Christ as deity and their doctrine of paradise earth. Throughout this series of articles, I will address these FALSE doctrines, and others in an effort to show the error of the Watchtower Society.

## Why No Fellowship Hall or Gym?

By Ron Halbrook

One of the questions increasingly asked by those who visit our service is, "Why do you not have a fellowship hall or gym where the church can sponsor social meals, parties, and recreational programs?" That is a good question- one that is worthy of a biblical answer. It can be answered in just a few words. "We do not have such facilities because God has not authorized the church to sponsor social meals, parties, and recreational programs." All that one does is to be done "in His name" (or by His authority, Col. 3:17). Since He has not told the church to sponsor such activities, we do not have the right to assume it is alright to serve Him by means of the fellowship hall or gym.

That answers the question but below is more information to help one understand why we do not use social meals, parties, and recreational programs in the work of the church. **It is NOT because:**

**1. We do not like food and fun.** Members of churches of Christ like food and fun as well as anyone else. Often social meals, parties and recreational activities are enjoyed at home or in situations other than the work of the church.

**2. We cannot afford them.** When we are getting new congregations started by preaching the gospel, often people suggest that we do not have social activities and recreational activities in our work because we are few in number and the church is getting started. No, we could have afforded them then and we could afford them now- that is not the reason.

**3. We do not have anyone to conduct them.** Some of the best cooks in the world worship with the church of Christ. Many members play ping pong, softball, and other games. Some even make their living as teachers of home economics and as athletic coaches. But, they do not play these roles when they gather to worship God and conduct the work of the church.

**4. We just want to be different.** Not using a fellowship hall or gym makes us different from most religious groups, but that is not the reason we do not use them. We do not mind being different but we do not refrain just to be different or difficult.

There are other religious groups who do not use fellowship halls or gyms in their services or work. Several Baptist churches do not use social or recreational activities and it is for the same reason which we do not. They say that they are not authorized in the New Testament. Remember also that these people emphasize being a New Testament

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church- the church established when the Bible was first written.

In fact, most denominational groups did not use recreational activities until less than 100 years ago. Leading authorities in many denominations can be quoted as to why they oppose their denomination using recreational programs.

**5. It is just our personal preference.** It is not a matter of our choosing the opinion of the church’s mission as gospel preaching, worship and spiritual edification, and caring for our needy over social meals, parties, and recreational activities. It is a matter of faith. That is, it is a matter of what God has authorized. What one does in the worship and work of the church must be according to what God has authorized. God has not left the acts of worship or the church’s work to the opinion of men. It is a matter of faith (legislation from God) not opinion of man.

**Why no fellowship hall or gym?** Whether or not something is right or wrong is not determined by opinion. Different people may have different opinions as to what the speed limit ought to be but the laws of the land determine what it will be. When one violates that law, his opinion about what the speed limit ought to be will not satisfy the courts of the land.

The same principle is true with regard to one’s relationship to God, even to the worship of God and the work He assigned to the church. There may be a variety of ideas as to what will make God happy, but the only way that one can know what God desires in the work and worship of His people is to read what God has written on the subject.

The New Testament is our authority for what God desires in the work and worship of His people. The New Testament does not authorize fellowship halls and gyms in the work of the church any more than instrumental music in the worship. Even though historically both Jews and Gentiles “sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play” in the name of religion, they did not when they became Christians.

There are several passages in the New Testament which tell about the work of the church and all of them authorize gospel preaching, spiritual edification and worship of God, and caring for needy saints- none authorize fellowship halls or gyms for social meals, parties and recreational activities. Consider 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Thess. 1:8; Ac. 2:42-45; 6:1-7; 20:7; 1 Tim. 5:16; Phil. 4:15; 1 Cor. 11:17-34; 14:26 and 2 Cor. 11:8.

Why no fellowship hall or gym? Because it is not authorized by God. We are to talk by faith- which means we walk by the instructions which God gives (Rom. 10:17). Where God has not spoken we do not have authority to act.

Preaching	Believed	Repented	Confessed	Baptized	Saved
Pentecost Ac. 2:14-47		Repented vs. 38		Baptized vs. 38, 41	Remission of sins vs. 38, 4
Samaria Ac. 8:5-13	Believed vs. 12			Baptized vs. 12-13	
Eunuch Ac. 8:35-39	Believed vs. 36-37		Confessed vs. 37	Baptized vs. 38	Rejoiced vs. 39
Saul Ac. 22:6-21				Baptized vs. 16	Sins washed vs. 16
Cornelius Ac. 10:34-48	Believed vs. 43			Baptized vs. 48	Remission of sins vs. 43
Jailor Ac. 16:25-34				Baptized vs. 33	Rejoiced vs. 34
Lydia Ac. 16:14-15	Attended vs. 14			Baptized vs. 15	
Rom. 10:17	Heb. 11:6	Lk. 13:3	Rom. 10:9	Gal. 3:26-27	Mk. 16:16

If you have any questions about the above chart or would like to know more about the plan of salvation as it is revealed in the Bible, call us at (828)467-1463.

## -Daily Bible Reading Schedule- October 2007

<u>Date</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1	Is. 1-2	Prov. 29-30
2	Is. 3-4	Prov. 31
3	Is. 5-6	Eccl. 1-2
4	Is. 7-8	Eccl. 3-4
5	Is. 9-10	Eccl. 5-6
6	Is. 11-12	Eccl. 7-8
7	Is. 13-14	Eccl. 9-10
8	Is. 15-16	Eccl. 11-12
9	Is. 17-18	Song. 1-2
10	Is. 19-20	Song. 3-4
11	Is. 21-22	Song. 5-6
12	Is. 23-24	Song. 7-8
13	Is. 25-26	Jer. 1-2
14	Is. 27-28	Jer. 3-4
15	Is. 29-30	Jer. 5-6
16	Is. 31-32	Jer. 7-8
17	Is. 33-34	Jer. 9-10
18	Is. 35-36	Jer. 11-12
19	Is. 37-38	Jer. 13-14
20	Is. 39-40	Jer. 15-16
21	Is. 41-42	Jer. 17-18
22	Is. 43-44	Jer. 19-20
23	Is. 45-46	Jer. 21-22
24	Is. 47-48	Jer. 23-24
25	Is. 49-50	Jer. 25-26
26	Is. 51-52	Jer. 27-28
27	Is. 53-54	Jer. 29-30
28	Is. 55-56	Jer. 31-32
29	Is. 57-58	Jer. 33-34
30	Is. 59-60	Jer. 35-36
31	Is. 61-62	Jer. 37-38

**NOTE: For previous Bible reading schedules, please contact us and we will provide them to you free of charge.**

## Salvation- You Better Be Right

By Byron Smith

A characteristic of God's word is unity; perfect harmony in teaching throughout. Whether the author is Isaiah or Jeremiah, Peter or Paul, there are no conflicts in their teachings whatsoever. Whether the subject is worship to God or treatment of others, there are no contradictions to be found. The Bible is a perfect unfolding of God's plan to save man from his sins through Jesus Christ and all that is involved therein. The denominational world is in contrast to this perfect unity. A casual observation of the denominations of men shows a wide divergence of teaching on most Bible subjects. Not only should we find this to be disappointing but this should raise serious concerns about our own standing with God. Am I believing and practicing the truth, or have I fallen prey to the false teachings of men?

To demonstrate what I am speaking about, consider the subject of salvation. There is nothing more critical than knowing and accepting God's plan of salvation. Have I done what God requires of me, or have I been deceived into believing error? The teachings of men conflict with one another and more importantly **with the Bible**. This should be a serious concern for all.

Please consider the following: where in the scriptures do we ever read of an infant being baptized? Of water sprinkled or poured on the subject of baptism? Of a lost sinner being urged to say the "sinner's prayer?" Of accepting the Lord as your personal Savior, **apart from obedience to His terms of pardon?** Of the call of the lost to an altar or mourner's bench? Of a scheduled baptismal service at the end of the month or some other appointed time? Of a church voting on a candidate for baptism? Of baptism as an "outward sign of an inward grace?" Of a miraculous salvation experience **where the person is saved by the experience?** Of a lost sinner being saved by faith **only**, grace **only** or baptism **only?** **Nowhere does God's word teach ANY of these things**, yet they are regularly taught in the various denominations of men, and they relate directly to one's salvation. Serious indeed!

I challenge you to read through the book of Acts and note what individuals did in the first century in their conversion to the Lord as the apostles preached to them (see chart on next page). The Bible teaches that **believers** (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:1) who would **repent** of their sins (Lk. 13:3; Ac. 3:19) and **confess** their faith (Rom. 10:9-10) were to be **baptized** to have their sins forgiven (Mk. 16:16; Rom. 6:3-5; Ac. 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21). When it comes to salvation **you better be right!**

“Anchor Of The Soul” is distributed monthly by the **Spruce Pine church of Christ**. We are a non-denominational church whose primary goal is to follow the New Testament pattern. Below, you will find our meeting times and the location of our building. Call us at (828)467-1463 if you have any questions, or visit us online at [www.LookingToJesus.com](http://www.LookingToJesus.com).

Meeting Times

**Sunday**

Bible Class.....10:00 AM  
Morning Worship.....11:00 AM  
Evening Worship.....6:30 PM

**Wednesday**

Bible Class.....7:00 PM

Directions

Our building is located at 36 McHone Rd just behind the Mitchell Veterinary Clinic in Spruce Pine. If you turn onto 226 South from Hwy 19, drive past Don Smith Ford/Subaru to the top of the hill. McHone Road will be on your right. Once you turn onto McHone Road, we are the second driveway on the right. You will see the sign on the top of the hill.

**The Jehovah’s Witnesses, Catholicism, Calvinism, Modern Christianity, Premillennialism and the Theory of evolution...**

**What do they all have in common?**

**They are all FALSE!**

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**Lightning Lesson**

Earlier in this issue of “Anchor of the Soul,” there was a two-page article on the subject of fellowship halls and gyms. To confirm what was written in that article, let us consider one passage in the New Testament- 1 Corinthians 11:22-34. The church in Corinth, when they assembled together to partake of the Lord’s Supper, turned what should have been a solemn event into a common meal. What was the remedy? Paul told them in vv. 34, “And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation.” When the church assembles together, it should not be to enjoy fried chicken or to have pizza parties, but to worship God in spirit and in truth. Let us leave common meals and social activities where they belong- at home or at the restaurant! Jesus didn’t die to build a YMCA or banquet hall, yet so many people have turned the church into exactly that!

## Did Jesus Fail? (No. 4)

By Casey Head

In the final article of this series, I want to show that the Christians of the first century were in the kingdom. If I can prove that there were already Christians in the kingdom when the church flourished in the first century, then it should be clear and unmistakable that the kingdom of God is in existence now.

First of all, Paul told the Christians in Colossae in Colossians 1:13, "Who *hath* delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." So, these Christians in the first century had been previously added to the kingdom. When they were converted (delivered from the power of darkness), they were translated, or transferred into God's kingdom.

The apostle John also wrote to the seven churches in Asia in Revelation 1:9, "I, John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, *and in the kingdom* and patience of Jesus Christ." John was in the kingdom at the conclusion of the first century, just as the Colossians were, and just as the members of the seven churches in Asia were (as he was their companion in the kingdom).

Hebrews 12:28 says, "Wherefore we *receiving a kingdom* which cannot be moved." You see, they received it in the first century. The kingdom is not some future, millennial reign of Christ on earth. It was already being received by the early Christians.

What does all of this tell us? That the people of the first century could access the kingdom of God through the blood of Christ! The kingdom was, and is, spiritual in nature (Jn. 18:36-37; Rom. 14:17). It is the church of our Lord (Mt. 16:18-19).

### Let's review the main points of this series:

1. It was God's plan all along that Jesus die on the cross (Is. 53).
2. The kingdom was established in the 1<sup>st</sup> century (Mk. 9:1).
3. The kingdom was/is spiritual (Jn. 18:36-37).
4. Jesus' reign is not from Jerusalem, but heaven (Jer. 22:30).
5. Christians in the 1<sup>st</sup> century were in the kingdom (Rev. 1:9).
6. We access the kingdom when we are saved (Col. 1:13).

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