

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. X

November 11, 2001

No. 45

The Jehovah's witnesses' false testimony of Jesus

By: Jerry Fite

The Jehovah's Witnesses are a zealous religious organization that often contact you by coming to your door. They want to give you their testimony, and place their Watchtower Society material in your hands. Are these people offering Jehovah's true testimony to you? I submit the following to prove that their testimony about essential matters is false.

They testify in their writings that Jesus is not Deity, but is the first of God's creations. In their Watchtower Society's New World Translation, John 1:1 reads, "In the beginning the Word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god." By making "the Word" (which is the Christ who became flesh-Jn.1:14) "a god" they seek to make the Bible conform to their belief that Jesus was not "God" or Deity.

But the Greek text literally reads, "God is the word". Jehovah witnesses argue that the definite article is not in front of "God", so they are justified to translate the passage as "a god", instead of "God". If this is their criteria, they are not consistent. For the NWT would render Matthew 5:9 as "Blessed are the peacemakers:

for they shall be called sons of a god" because the definite article is not found before "God". Phillippians 2:11 would read, "...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of a god the Father". But the Jehovah Witnesses know that these passages are speaking of God, the Father even though the definite article is absent from the text. The same is true in John 1:1, but the Jehovah's Witnesses' doctrine will not allow it. So, they try to pass off their "translation" which is simply a perversion of true Scripture to bolster their false doctrine concerning Jesus.

When Thomas saw the evidence for the resurrected Christ, he claimed Jesus as "my Lord and my God". The definite article is present in the Greek text. Here is a place where Christ is referred to as "the God". Without rebuke, Jesus accepted the testimony of Thomas. Such understanding of the nature of Jesus is consistent with inspired writers of the New Testament. The Hebrew writer applies Psalm 45:6 to Jesus which reads, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever" (Hebrews 1:8).

Paul exalts Jesus as being one "who is the image of the in-

visible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him were all things created..." Colossians 1:15-16). Jehovah's Witnesses take verse 15 out of its context and teach that since Jesus is the firstborn of all creation, then Jesus was part of God's creation.

They refuse to acknowledge the fact that the term "firstborn" is used in Scripture to emphasize one's preeminence over others, not always that one was born first in time. For example, David was the youngest of several brothers, but God says, "I will make him my firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth" (Psalms 89:27). Likewise, Paul in Colossians 1:15-16 describes that Christ has the preeminence and priority by being the Creator of all, not that he is a created being. Concerning Christ, Paul sums up: "That in all things he might have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:18).

Jesus said, "...For except ye believe that I am He, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24,58). Jesus is God or the "I Am" of Exodus 3:14. In refusing the testimony of inspired Scripture, the Jehovah's Witnesses will remain in their sins. What a tragedy!