

In the Truth?

Have you ever said or heard someone say, “How long have you been in the truth?” This is a common expression used by the disciples of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. I find it an interesting expression because it tends to imply that people who are thought of as being “In the truth” are honest and desirous of knowing and communicating truth. So my challenge to not only Jehovah’s witnesses but to all who read this book is; let’s examine what we call truth and investigate the method by which we arrive at the conclusion which we consider to be true. Honesty is the residual effect of truth and should be the method used for establishing the truth. If a person is dishonest then their conclusions will most likely be untrue.

In the process of establishing truth the most equitable method to use would be that of a jury. The jury hears both sides of the argument and ALL of the evidence before a decision is made. To allow one person or group to present all of the evidence in a case, or present the opposition’s argument is not at all in the nature of honesty or fairness. If I am searching for the truth then I shouldn’t be afraid of or offended by someone that holds a different opinion than mine. That is why when I present the Watchtower’s evidence in this book it will be based on what they have put into print allegedly under the directed of Jehovah God. I want to let them speak for themselves. I will try to be as fair and honest as I can in representing their written materi-

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al, their history, and their interpretation of scripture. In this way I am allowing them to present what they believe to be true, and for me the ability to present what I believe to be true, and then the reader (which I hope is an honest person) will be able to render an accurate and correct decision based on what is fact and truth.

We have a responsibility to do this because of the biblical mandate seen in many places to “Test all things and hold to that which is true¹,” and to “Test the spirits to see which are of God².” The Bereans were considered more noble than the rest because of their honest approach to evaluating unfamiliar teaching. They received Paul’s teaching openly but then tested it against the scriptures to see if it were true³. They didn’t say, “We only read literature published by the synagogue” or “We only hear teaching from the Pharisees in the temple.” They listened to what Paul had to say because they were desirous to know the truth and were honest in their approach. My prayer is that everyone who reads this book will do the same thing as the Bereans: listen to what I have to say, look at all of the evidence and then test it by scripture. I pray that the eyes, ears, and mind of the reader will not be blinded by the god of this world but will be illuminated by the Spirit of God so that the truth will be known with absolute certainty. I pray that the person who opens the cover of this book will read it through to the end.

¹ | Thessalonians 5:19-21

² | John 4:1

³ Acts 17:10,11

TWO

Prophetic Dishonesty

Beware of false prophets!

In the 'Reasoning from the Scriptures' book (page 137) it reads: "If Someone Says—'My minister said that Jehovah's Witnesses are the false prophets' you could say: 'I'm sure you'll agree that specific evidence should back up such a serious charge.'" They are correct, "specific evidence" should be presented to substantiate such a serious charge. Unfortunately the disciples of the Watchtower won't even look at the evidence from the society's own publications that occupies the libraries of every kingdom hall in the world. That behavior epitomizes their dishonesty. If I claim that a person or organization is guilty of false prophecy and I can substantiate that claim then the evidence I have must be seen and heard. It will show that I'm not making the claim in ignorance, or doing it vindictively, but I am only trying to shed light on the truth. On February 1, 1992 the Watchtower society published their magazine with the title, "Beware of False Prophets." In this magazine they told the readers the criteria they thought should be used in evaluating whether someone was a false prophet or not. They published the same message in Aid to bible understanding (pg. 1,348), the Awake October 8, 1968 (pg. 23), and Reasoning from the scriptures (pg.132). In these publications they tell the readers that the main way to identify a false prophet is by examining the prophecy to see if it had been fulfilled or not. Did the thing or event prophesied come to pass as was predicted? If it didn't then they are

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lacking the evidence that God was directing them. They are a false prophet.

This method of evaluation was presented by the Society because it is biblical. Deuteronomy 18:21,22 tells us how to know if the prophet is a true or false prophet by the simple fact that the message comes from Jehovah God and He does not error, and does not lie. For that reason if it doesn't come to pass it is not from Him and the one who spoke it is a false prophet. The 'Reasoning From the Scriptures' book not only uses the test of true and false prophets from Deuteronomy eighteen but also from Jeremiah twenty-eight (page 133). Both of these passages explain the difference between a true and false prophet. In Jeremiah twenty-eight Hananiah prophesied of peace within a certain period of time yet it did not come to pass. Jeremiah spoke against Hananiah and prophesied of Hananiah's death which took place within a few months of the prophesy. This proved Hananiah to be the false prophet and Jeremiah to be the true prophet. In Hananiah's case his prophecy failed which proved him to be the false prophet; not directed by God. In Jeremiah's case his prophecy came to pass which proved that he was the true prophet of God. I recommend you read the entire chapter to fully appreciate this point.

The new testament reveals the same truth. Jesus warned us, "Beware of false prophets" (Matthew 7:15-20 and 24:11). He said the way to know the difference between a true and false prophet is the same as the old testament criteria. He adds to the law of Deuteronomy an illustration to explain the reason why a true prophet can't prophecy incorrectly. He said a true prophet cannot bring forth false prophecy just as a good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, and a false prophet cannot bring forth correct prophecy just as a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit, therefore you

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will know false prophets by their prophesy; “you will know them by their fruit.”

A TIME TO *Lift Up Your Head* in CONFIDENT HOPE



THE evidence that we are far along in the “last days” can be either good news or bad news to you, depending on the position you take. If you long to be free from a rule that has proved both unsatisfactory and unrighteous and that is torn more and more by discord and confusion; if you really love what is right and have a sincere desire to do the will of your Creator, then this evidence should make you rejoice. Why? Because, as Jesus Christ said: “As these things start to occur, raise yourselves erect and lift your heads up, because *your deliverance is getting near.*”—Luke 21:28.

A perfect government, heaven-based and with heaven’s blessing and heaven’s power backing it up, will soon take complete control of this earth. In this way God will answer the prayer: “Let your kingdom come.” What better news could there be?

Still some persons may say: “How can you be sure? Maybe it is later than many people think. But maybe it is not as late as some persons claim. People have been mistaken about these prophecies before.”

The Difference

True, there have been those in times past who predicted an “end to the world,”

even announcing a specific date. Some have gathered groups of people with them and fled to the hills or withdrawn into their houses waiting for the end. Yet, nothing happened. The “end” did not come. They were guilty of false prophesying. Why? What was missing?

Missing was the full measure of evidence required in fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Missing from such people were God’s truths and the evidence that he was guiding and using them.

But what about today? Today we have the evidence required, all of it. And it is overwhelming! All the many, many parts of the great sign of the “last days” are here, together with verifying Bible chronology.

Take a simple illustration: Suppose on a hot day at the beginning of summer, someone told you that winter was coming within a week because he had seen some trees without leaves. But those trees could have died from disease or age. So, by itself that would not be enough evidence that winter was approaching. Especially so when none of the other trees had shed their leaves, when the heat continued day after day, and when the calendar told you it was just the beginning of summer. You