Last week in knocking doors we came across a member of this denomination. He was in fact head of the Spanish branch of their group. He was personable, friendly and verbally agreed to have a study in his home. When I called to set up a time, he launched into an extended monologue about what we would study \textbf{IF} I came to his house. It included the reason why they evangelize, which is that this world system is going to end... soon. Christ will come and set up "paradise on earth," this is why they hand out their magazines titled "Watchtower".

He mentioned specifically that Christ would set up a kingdom on this earth, so I asked him about 1 Thess. 4:17 which says that when Christ comes His saints will "meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." This clearly shows that Christ is not coming to the earth, but only to the clouds where He will call up His saints forever. His reply was that he has been a Jehovah's Witness for 40 years and his parents too. He then proceeded to repeat what we would talk about \textbf{IF} I came to his house. It included the reason why they evangelize, which is that this world system is going to end... soon. Christ will come and set up "paradise on earth," this is why they hand out their magazines titled "Watchtower".

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I asked if he was familiar with Russell & Rutherford. He laughed and asked why I was attacking his beliefs. I asked if he was familiar with their many failed predictions of the end of the world. He chided me for pointing this out instead of trying to "build faith in your church." I pointed out that before you can plant crops, you must first plow the field, and before you can build you must first remove that which hinders building. Just as it is written, "See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant." (Jer. 1:10)

He again chided me for "attacking" his beliefs, so I asked him what he thought of Jesus when He called people hypocrites and vipers. Also, if we cannot discuss historical facts, like failed prophecies of the Watchtower Society, then it indicates a closed mind. At this point he said I was wasting his time. So, I let him know that our door is open for study and that he should remember that "the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you" (Luke 10:9). We closed the phone call at that point.

This is typical of "discussions" with Jehovah's Witnesses. They are trained to be closed minded and unwilling to consider any rebuttal to their views. Every challenge to their faith is considered arguing, attacking, insulting & mean spirited persecution. I have seen them pull up stakes & head for the door at the first questioning of their views. They have no stomach for "wasting their time" by discussing the facts.

So, why talk to them at all? Well, we have an obligation to teach truth even if other people will not hear (Ezk. 3:16-18). Paul drew from Ezekiel 3 when he declared himself free from the blood of all men because he had declared the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:26-27).

Also, when they come in pairs to our doors, typically they have one who is not as thoroughly indoctrinated as the main speaker. So, it is an opportunity to put forward the evidence of the failed prophecies of Rutherford, Russell & the Watchtower Society to one who may still be receptive. Ask how can they believe anything the society teaches or even use the New World translation when the society has repeatedly shown itself to be a false prophet? For as recently as 1976 the Society predicted the end of the world... but we are still here. And what ever happened to their book, "Millions now living will never die"? They do not publish that anymore... for obvious reasons.

It is written: "But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that
shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him." (Deut. 18:18-22).

From the Old Law we learn how to tell when someone is a false prophet. If they predict something that does not happen, then they are speaking presumptuously. We shall not fear them, their doomsday predictions, paradise on earth, earthly kingdom & supposedly inspired Watchtower Society literature... the Truth is not in them.

One of their own wrote: "We need to examine, not only what we personally believe, but also what is taught by any religious organization with which we may be associated. Are its teachings in full harmony with God's Word, or are they based on the traditions of men? If we are lovers of the truth, there is nothing to fear from such examination." (The Truth that Leads to Eternal Life, Brooklyn: The Watchtower Bible & Tract Society of Pennsylvania, 1968, p. 13).

If only they practiced what they preached regarding open minded study. Truth has nothing to fear from open examination. That is why they indoctrinate themselves against it, call it an "attack", etc. If they were open to examine the facts available, then it would be much easier to convert them to the truth. But Satan is active in many lives, building barriers and walls that hinder people from listening to Truth (Luke 8:9-12).

May we always remember & imitate the example of the noble Bereans: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

**THINGS TO REMEMBER**
- Door to Door - every Tuesday at 6pm.
- Men's & Ladies Classes - Tues, July 11 @ 7 pm.
- Home Bible Study – Sat., July 22.
- Business Meeting – Sun. July 30 @ 5pm.

**PRAY FOR**
Mag Bumbalough, Thelma Cunningham, Holly Jernigan (Joyce Gardner’s niece), John Ross Key (Mary Cox’s son), Marc Miller (Alisa Fletcher’s mother), Monie Petty, Dave Poteet, Rose Taylor, Horace Jones (Doris William’s brother), Ruth Williams (Betty England’s niece), Robert England (at home again), Misty Poteet, Pauline Hickey, Nancy Witaker, Dylan Roberts (grandson of Marilyn’s friend). Those in Iraq: Jason Zelenak (Alisa Fletcher’s brother), Cary Matheny.

**We Invite You To All Our Services!**
- Sunday Bible Study 9 am
- Sunday Morning Worship 10 am
- Sunday Evening Worship 6 pm
- Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

**North Sparta church of Christ**
359 North Spring St.
Sparta TN 38583
(931) 836-3321

Speaking As The Oracles Of God (1 Pet. 4:11)