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THE "JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES"

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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 **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 if I came to his house. But, heritage and length of time in a certain view do not make things true. Saul was raised to be a Pharisee and had spent a good portion of his life in that system of belief, but he had to give it all up in order to gain Christ (Phil. 3:5-7).

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

