

Synopsis

The zeal and dedication of Jehovah's Witnesses mask a highly disciplined organization that has a troubled history. Moreover, their thorough knowledge of their own scriptures gives a pretense of having spiritual truth. The movement has grown from about 1.1 million worldwide in 1965 to 4.4 million today. Yet all is not what it seems in the Watchtower Society. How do the teachings of the Jehovah's Witnesses run counter to orthodox Christianity? What drives adherents to give hundreds of hours a year to "witnessing"? What draws converts to a cult of strict control by religious leaders? Why this series? This is an age when countless groups and movements, old and new, mark the religious landscape in our culture, leaving many people confused or uncertain in their search for spiritual truth and meaning. Because few people have the time or opportunity to research these movements fully, these books provide essential information and insights for their spiritual journeys. Each book has five sections: - A concise introduction to the group - An overview of the group's theology -- in its own words - Tips for witnessing effectively to members of the group - A bibliography with sources for further study - A comparison chart that shows the essential differences between biblical Christianity and the group -- The writers of these volumes are well qualified to present clear and reliable information and help us discern religious truth from falsehood.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Robert M. Bowman is director of research of the Atlanta Christian Apologetics Project, and author of

books such as *Understanding Jehovah's Witnesses: Why They Read the Bible the Way They Do*, *20 Compelling Evidences That God Exists: Discover Why Believing In God Makes so Much Sense*, *Faith Has Its Reasons: Integrative Approaches to Defending the Christian Faith*, etc. He writes in the Preface to this 1995 booklet, "This is an introductory booklet on Jehovah's Witnesses. It is therefore written for persons who want to understand the distinctive beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses and why those beliefs are rejected by orthodox Christians. Also, whenever possible, I have gone into depth on questions that have not been adequately addressed in Christian literature which seeks to respond to the Witnesses. I have tried to refine the answers to Watchtower arguments that I and other Christians have used for years.... Because this book is limited in length, it focuses on analyzing and refuting the Witnesses' primary doctrinal system---their views on God, Christ, salvation, and the future." Here are some quotations from the booklet: "Since Nathan Knorr's presidency] The Society now published its books anonymously (previously the books had carried either Russell's or Rutherford's name)." (Pg.

Jehovah's Witnesses has a sometimes strange way of interpreting the Bible, and it may be hard at times to understand why they believe what they believe. Robert Bowman provides a guide to the theology of the Witnesses. He also cites some of the reasons they give for their distinct beliefs, and then he refutes the arguments and gives reasons for interpreting the Bible in an evangelical way. Bowman discusses the Witnesses views on (I) authority, (II) the Trinity and Christ, (III), death and hell, (IV) resurrection, (V) salvation, and (VI) Christ's return. In all these areas Bowman shows how the Witnesses misinterpret the Scriptures and gives verses that contradict Jehovah's Witnesses views. One of the best things with this book is that Bowman, unlike some other authors who write about Jehovah's Witnesses, always is matter-of-factly with a respectful tone. Bowman seems to have heeded his own advice on how to witness to a Jehovah's Witness. Know your Bible, be courteous and respectful, and remember that the person you're dealing with is - although he is indoctrinated - still a person. Might seem obvious, but we often fail in some regard. My main problem with the book is that it is very concise. It's not a book to read cover to cover, although it's quite short. After a section on, say the Trinity and Christ, I would like to reflect and think about what my beliefs really mean. In a short book like this, one seldom gets that sort of discussion but is instead thrown into the next topic. I also miss some bible verses that more clearly would show what the Bible teaches at times (e.g. John 10:17 would counter the argument that Jesus could not rise bodily since that would mean taking back the ransom he paid).

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