

LESSON 20

Intrusion of false Teachings into the Christian Society - III

Jehovah Witnesses

Objective : Jehovah witnesses deny the trinity, hell and the divinity of Jesus Christ. Let us hold on to the truth by understanding the false teachings of Jehovah witnesses.

Bible Portion : Jn.1:1-18, Rev. 20:10-15

Memory Verse : Jude:4

For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Introduction

Have you ever heard about ‘Jehovah witnesses? Have you ever read their books or pamphlets? Their teachings attract. They deny holy trinity, the divinity of Jesus Christ, the personality of holy spirit and the hell as a reality. Their teachings are dangerous. We should have certain awareness about them and keep us away from their teachings.

Historical Background

The group emerged from the Bible student movement founded in the late 1870s by Charles Taze Russell with the formation of Zion’s Watch Tower Tract Society. Born in 1852, he started a Bible class in Pennsylvania at the age of 18. When he died in the year 1916, the leadership was taken by Joseph Franklin Rutherford, spread the teachings

by books and missionaries. They received the name ‘Jehovah Witnesses’ in the year 1931. When he died in 1942, Nathan Knorr* took the leadership. The chief functions of this group include house visiting and the distribution of publications. In order to justify their teachings, they had published the new world translation of Christian Greek Scriptures. This is a translation of the New Testament. They cheat the ordinary men claiming that their translation is the greatest one. Greek Scholars see the translation as an ugly one.

Important false teachings

1. Jehovah Witness denies the holy trinity.

They claimed that the teachings of trinity had come from Babylon and Egypt.

The teaching of trinity is the truth which breaks the human intelligence. It cannot be explained before common men. The divine quality of God is very rich. The trinity is vivid from the old and new testament. In Hebrew, the plural form of the term ‘Elohim’ is used for God. It is used in 2500 times in Old Testament to reveal the trinity aspect of God. (Gen.1:26). In the New Testament, it is used in Acts 17:29, Rom 1:20, and Col 2:9. The pronouns ‘We’ and ‘Us’ are used for God in the Bible (Gen. 1:26,3:22, 11:7,Is.6:8). In Hebrew language ‘Ahad’ and ‘Ihad’ are used for the term one. ‘Ahad’ is used as a unified oneness. Num.13:23 (A single cluster of grapes), Gen.2:24 (They will become one flesh). For showing the unity of God, the word ‘ahad’ is used in the Bible. ‘Ihad’ is used as the oneness that cannot be separated. This word is never used in the Bible for telling about God. In some verses, the father, son and the Holy Spirit are described as ‘one’ (Mt. 28:19, 2 Cori. 13:14, 1 Cori. 12:4-6, Mt. 3:16-17, John 14:16, 2 Cori. 1:21-22). The word of God, thus very clearly tells about the trinity. It is biblical. See the earlier lesson which deals about trinity.

2. Jehovah witnesses deny the divinity of Jesus Christ

Jehovah witnesses follow Arius view of Christ. He was a deacon of the church of Alexandria in 4th century. To him, Jesus is not an ordinary man, not real God and he is the first and foremost creation of God. Jesus was pre-existent, but has no future existence. Jesus is divine

but not a God like God, the Father (Yahweh). In their transaction of New Testament it is said ‘the word was a God’ instead of ‘the word was God’.

Jude 4 very clearly says about them that there are godless men secretly slipped in among you and change the grace of God into the license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only sovereign and Lord. Bible has many verses talks about the divinity, Christ and his unity with God. Jn.1:1, 17:5, Col. 1:17, 1 Jn. 5:20, Rev. 1:17, 22:13, Act. 10:36, 1 Cori. 2:8, Is. 9:6, Heb. 1:8, Mt. 1:22, Tit. 2:12, Rom. 9:5.). Their interpretation of ‘the beginning of the creation of God’ as ‘the beginning of the creations of God’ is deceitful and makes abuse of God. ‘The First born’ here gives more emphasis than the beginning of creation. Christ is born of God is like the light of sun is coming from sun. The son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being is Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:3). Like God, Christ has got eternal existence. Jesus said once, that God is greater than me, and in another occasion, that my Father and I are one shows the above mentioned relationship.

3. Jehovah witnesses deny the personality and divinity of the Holy Spirit

They teach that the Holy Spirit is the invisible works of God. The word of God is very clear in the view that Holy Spirit has desire, emotion, thinking and the power of decision (the personality) and also it has equal divinity with God and son. Holy Spirit advocates (Gen. 6:3), counsels (Jn. 14:26), exhorts (Act. 9:31), remembers (Jn. 14:26), wishes (1 Cori. 12:11), Speaks (Act. 8:29), helps (Rom. 8:26), guides (Jn. 16:13), sends (Act. 13:34), Stops (Acts. 16:6-10), loves (Rom. 15:32) and intercedes (Rom. 8:26). The personality of Holy Spirit cannot be neglected as the works of it is described in the Bible. Holy Spirit is the personality who comforts, counsels and stops and the male gender ‘he’ is used. Acts. 5:3-4 clearly reveals that Holy Spirit is God. The names such as Holy Spirit and the Spirit of God reveal the divinity of the Holy Spirit see the earlier chapters which talk about the Holy Spirit.

4. Jehovah witnesses deny the Biblical teachings of Hell

They profess the view that the eternal Hell is unjust and not Biblical.

(a) The teaching of Hell is Biblical. Jesus himself talks about it in many times (Mt. 5:22, 29, 30, Mt. 10:28, 18:8,9, Mt. 25:41, 46, Mk. 9:44-49, Lk. 12:5). He reveals the danger of Hell through the life event of the rich and Lazarus (Lk. 16:23-24). Jesus asked the teachers of law and Pharisees that how they will escape from being condemned to Hell (Mt. 23:33).

The epistles the book of Revelation also talks about the burning hell (2 Pet. 2:4, Rev. 14:9-11, 19:20, 21:8). If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. They will be tormented day and night. We cannot deny the biblical teaching of Hell.

b. Jehovah witnesses profess that there is no hell. According to their reason, it is unjust and not matching to the love of God. The man without the spirit does not accept the things that come from the spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him (2 Cori. 2:14). There is no doubt that God is love. The sins have to be judged because God is just and holy. To save the sinners, God opened a way through Calvary death of Jesus Christ. When a sinner confesses and accepts the Lordship of Jesus Christ, his name will be written in the book of life. The riches of God's love are revealed in the Calvary death. One who neglects this love and salvation are ready to be with Satan and his angels (Jn.3:18-19). If the sin is not condemned, how can God be holy and just? The Greek word for hell is 'Gehenna'. Jehovah witnesses give it another meaning, i.e., 'eternal destruction'. But the real meaning is eternal condemnation (Mk. 9:46-49). "Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched."

5. Jehovah witnesses deny Jesus' visible appearance of second coming

They profess that Jesus' second coming had happened in 1914 and the invisible rule of Christ is going on in the world. They claim it with the new inventions by scientist.

The second coming of Jesus Christ is clearly seen in the 9th lesson of the Sunday school text. So we know that Jesus has not come and he will appear soon. At the first phase of the second coming of Jesus Christ, the dead will rise and the one who is alive will be transformed. Thus Anti-Christ will rule the earth for seven years and Jesus Christ will