

There is no doubt that the average Jehovah's Witness believes that they possess the truth. They believe that God has and still does speak to them through the "faithful and discreet slave of Matthew." This leads them to make two assumptions. The first is that they alone understand the Bible correctly. The second is that the message that they receive from the Watchtower is a message from God. In fact, salvation itself is contingent on a good relationship with the Watchtower. Below are a number of truth claims made by the Watchtower that reflect this idea and support the understanding that God has chosen the Watchtower and its board.

As you had correctly pointed out the idea of organization is critical to the discussion. What is God's arrangement? Is there any justification for the claims? In order to assess that I have done some research. I believe it to be accurate and fairly exhaustive. I look forward to any corrections or additional references.

Only those who follow the Watchtower can understand the Bible:

"Consider, too, the fact that Jehovah's organization alone, in all the earth, is directed by God's holy spirit or active force. (Zech. 4:6) Only this organization functions for Jehovah's purpose and to his praise. To it alone God's Sacred Word, the Bible, is not a sealed book. . . . How very much true Christians appreciate associating with the only organization on earth that understands the 'deep things of God!'" Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Praise Jehovah With His People," *Watchtower*, July 1, 1973, 402, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1973%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

"As the canon of books of God's Word was expanded and the Christian Greek Scriptures were added to complete the Bible, each book was written directly to the Christian congregation or to a member of the Christian congregation in its behalf. Thus, the Bible is an organizational book and belongs to the Christian congregation as an organization, not to individuals, regardless of how sincerely they may believe that they can interpret the Bible. For this reason, the Bible cannot be properly understood without Jehovah's visible organization in mind." Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Finding Freedom with Jehovah's Visible Organization," *Watchtower*, October 1, 1967, 587, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1967%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

The Watchtower represents God is God' only visible organization on earth.

"The Scriptures and the facts clearly establish that the commission given to the 'faithful and wise servant' is grounded in the Word of the Lord. There is only one organization on earth today fulfilling the righteous requirements outlined in this commission from the Lord. The Society, represented by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, is the only one." Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, "Righteous Requirements," *Watchtower*, July 1, 1943, 204, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1943%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

There is no room for personal opinion or disagreement.

“We must show our understanding in these matters, appreciating our relationship to the visible theocratic organization, remembering the fate of those like Korah and Achan and Saul and Uzziah and others who forgot the theocratic order. Are we assigned as individuals to bring forth the food for the spiritual table? No? Then let us not try to take over the slave’s duties. We should eat and digest and assimilate what is set before us, without shying away from parts of the food because it may not suit the fancy of our mental taste. The truths we are to publish are the ones provided through the discreet-slave organization, not some personal opinions contrary to what the slave has provided as timely food. Jehovah and Christ direct and correct the slave as needed, not we as individuals. If we do not see a point at first we should keep trying to grasp it, rather than opposing and rejecting it and presumptuously taking the position that we are more likely to be right than the discreet slave. We should meekly go along with the Lord’s theocratic organization and wait for further clarification, rather than balk at the first mention of a thought unpalatable to us and proceed to quibble and mouth our criticisms and opinions as though they were worth more than the slave’s provision of spiritual food. Theocratic ones will appreciate the Lord’s visible organization and not be so foolish as to pit against Jehovah’s channel their own human reasoning and sentiment and personal feelings.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Jehovah’s Theocratic Organization Today,” *Watchtower*, February 1, 1952, 79-80, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1952%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

We need the Watchtower to explain the Bible to us.

“We all need help to understand the Bible, and we cannot find the Scriptural guidance we need outside the 'faithful and discreet slave' organization.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Do We Need Help to Understand the Bible?”, *Watchtower*, February 15, 1981, 19, accessed June 9, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1981%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

Watchtower publications are the means by which Jehovah has chosen to reveal his will.

“It should be expected that the Lord would have a means of communication to his people on the earth, and he has clearly shown that the magazine called The Watchtower is used for that purpose.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “The Watchtower,” *1939 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, 1939), 85, accessed August 4, 2018, [http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Yearbooks/1939%20Yearbook%20\(yb39-E\).pdf](http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Books/Yearbooks/1939%20Yearbook%20(yb39-E).pdf).

“All who want to understand the Bible should appreciate that the "greatly diversified wisdom of God" can become known only through Jehovah's channel of communication, the faithful and discreet slave.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Channel to Understanding the Bible,” *Watchtower*, Oct 1, 1994, 8, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1994%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

We must not deny the Watchtower. That would be denying God.

“We cannot claim to love God, yet deny his word and channel of communication.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Following Faithful Shepherds with Life in View,” *Watchtower*, October 1, 1967, 591, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1967%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

To study only the Bible leads to error.

“They say that it is sufficient to read the Bible exclusively, either alone or in small groups at home. But, strangely, through such ‘Bible reading,’ they have reverted right back to the apostate doctrines that commentaries by Christendom’s clergy were teaching 100 years ago, and some have even returned to celebrating Christendom’s festivals again, such as the Roman Saturnalia of December 25! Jesus and his apostles warned against such lawless ones.” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “Serving Jehovah ‘Shoulder to Shoulder,’” *Watchtower*, August 15, 1981, 28-29, accessed August 4, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1981%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

The Watchtower has the rediscovered Gospel.

“This is something that they unwittingly do this article. Let the honest-hearted person compare the kind of preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom done by the religious systems of Christendom during all the centuries with that done by Jehovah’s Witnesses since the end of World War I in 1918. They are not one and the same kind. That of Jehovah’s Witnesses is really “gospel,” or “good news,” as of God’s heavenly kingdom that was established by the enthronement of his Son Jesus Christ at the end of the Gentile Times in 1914. (Luke 21:24)” Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, “If God Has an Organization, What Is It?” *Watchtower*, May 1, 1981, 17, accessed July 30, 2018, <http://www.watchtowerwayback.org/jw-wb/English/Magazines/The%20Watchtower/1981%20The%20Watchtower.pdf>.

The Watchtower is our place of safety and salvation.

"...there is but one place of safety, and that is to be in and to abide in the organization of Jehovah God." Riches (New York: Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 1936), 101.

"That they (JW's) must adhere absolutely to the decisions and scriptural understandings of the Society because God had given it this authority over his people." *Watchtower*, May 1, 1972, 272.

"Consider too, the fact that Jehovah's organization alone in all the earth is directed by God's holy spirit or active force." *Watchtower*, July 1, 1973, 402.

"Come to God's organization for salvation"!! *Watchtower*, November 15, 1981, 212.

"To receive everlasting life in the earthly paradise we must identify that organization and serve God as part of it." *Watchtower* February 15, 1983, 12.