

Christian Witnesses

Christian Witnesses is about sharing the Gospel in various venues.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (ESV)

April and May 2012

Jehovah's Witnesses have a belief about John 10:16. I will provide a response to their view.

The Watchtower 1/15/2008

"Members of that great crowd are among those referred to by Jesus as his 'other sheep.' (John 10:16) Their hope is to live forever on a paradise earth. They are confident that Jesus 'will guide them to fountains of waters of life' and that 'God will wipe out every tear from their eyes.'"

Below is my response.

THE OTHER SHEEP

It is clear John 10:16 is referring to the Gentile believers, and it is also clear that the two flocks will become one fold as illustrated in the following verses. Ephesians 2:11-22 says that Jews and Gentiles are reconciled into one body in Christ: "**His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.**"(VERSES 15-16)(NIV) Galatians 3:28 says that "**There is neither Jew nor Greek [Gentile], slave nor free, male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**"(NIV) Colossians 3:11 says that "**there is no Greek [Gentile] or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free, but Christ is all, and is in all.**"(NIV) If the Other Sheep in John 10:16 are the "the Great Multitude" in Revelation 7:9, then, where is the Biblical evidence for this interpretation?

THE GREAT MULTITUDE

The great multitude will be a group of people too many to number, from every nation, and they will be before the throne and in front of the Lamb (Revelation 7:9). ***Enopion*** is the Greek word "before" in Revelation 7:9. ***Enopion*** is used in several verses in the book of Revelation to mean the "physical presence" of those who are before God's throne. ***Enopion*** is used in the following passages. Revelation 5:8 says: "**the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb.**" (NIV) Revelation 7:11 tells us, "**All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God.**"(NIV) Revelation 14:3 says this about the 144,000, "**And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders.**"(NIV) In the light of the usages of the word ***Enopion*** to mean physical presence in Revelation 5:8, 7:11, and 14:3, what is the basis for not interpreting the word "before" as physical presence in Revelation 7:9? Where in Revelation 7:9 does it exclude the great multitude from heaven?

Where in the Bible does it say the great multitude will live on earth? The destiny of the great multitude will not be on a restored earthly paradise. Its destiny will be to serve God day and night before His throne (Revelation 7:13-17). However, the throne of God is in heaven (Revelation 4:2; 11:19; 14:17).

In conclusion, there is no biblical basis for saying that there is an "Anointed Class," distinct forever from the "other sheep," which will be in heaven while the "other sheep" will be on earth. It is very clear in John 10:16 that there will be "one flock" under "one shepherd": "**They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.**" (NIV) One should be careful not to limit the kingdom of God to 144,000 in light of the counsel that Jesus gave in Luke 11:52: "**Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.**"(NIV)* End of response

*The ideas for my response came from a book entitled "Reasoning from the Scriptures with Jehovah's Witnesses" by Ron Rhodes

I had a special project that took a chunk of my spare time for the last month and a half. Please pray for a Jehovah's Witness that I had contact with this last month and a half. He needs to be born again.

Events

On May 23rd, I spoke to a small group of kids at a local high School. The topic was The Reliability of the New Testament Manuscripts.

Our annual tract outreach at the La Habra Corn Festival is coming up. The dates are August 3, 4, and 5. Click [here](#) to go to The La Habra Corn Festival's website.

Articles

[The Reliability of the New Testament Manuscripts](#)

[Can We Know What the Original Gospel Manuscripts Really Said?](#)

[When Were the New Testament Gospels Written?](#)

[The Great Crowd](#) By C Schatz MM Outreach

AUDIOS FOR THIS MONTH

[The Reliability of the New Testament Manuscripts](#) by Josh McDowell

Reliability of the New Testament, [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#) by Dr. Douglas Groothuis

Your donations are tax-deductible. Jude 3 Missions handles our finances.

Christian Witnesses

Box 729

La Habra, CA 90633

cw@christianwitnesses.net

<http://www.christianwitnesses.net>

In Christ, *Jeff*

