

[concluded from 254202]

speaking to His apostles, not to all disciples and not to anyone today. This is in Acts 1:8; please read the context in verses 2-11. Notice the qualifications to be met by the one who took the place of Judas as an apostle. The reason for this? He was to be "a witness with us of his resurrection" (Acts 1:21-22). On the day of Pentecost the apostles were witnesses of the fact that "this Jesus did God raise up" (Acts 2:14, 32). Other passages that speak of the apostles as witnesses or speak of their testimony in witnessing are Acts 3:15; 4:33; 5:30-32; 10:39-43; 13:30-31. Acts 22:14-15 and 26:16 speak of the apostle Paul's witnessing about seeing Christ and hearing His words. Today's popular "witnessing for Christ," which is really not a matter of true witnessing at all, but more a matter of someone telling what they think or feel Christ has done for them or in their lives (totally subjective), is not in these passages at all.

Other Biblical examples of true witnessing can be found in the case of John the Baptist (Jn. 1:6-8, 15, 32-34), Jesus (Jn. 3:11, 32; 5:31-36; 8:13-14, 17-18), the apostle John (Jn. 19:35; 21:24; 1 Jn. 1:1, 3), the apostle Peter (1 Pet. 5:1; 2 Pet. 1:16-18). But nowhere can we find Christians being called upon to go out and "witness for Christ" in the sense in which they are taught today. They were to teach the word of God, the gospel of Christ, the truth, in a sincere effort to save souls from sin, but they were not expected to function as witnesses in the sense that the apostles and others were witnesses -- simply because they did not qualify as witnesses.

The gospel is called "the testimony of Christ" (1 Cor. 1:6), "the testimony of God" (1 Cor. 2:1), "the testimony of our Lord" (2 Tim. 1:8). It was given by God through the Holy Spirit and by the agency of the apostles, all of whom were in the true sense of that word "witnesses."

Conclusion

"Jehovah's Witnesses" are not that. Rather, they are deluded slaves of the Watchtower organization. Those who sincerely think they are "witnessing for Christ" are only telling people what they think Christ has done for them -- they are testifying about their subjective feelings, experiences and opinions. What is needed is to teach others -- all men -- the testimony of God's word, to convey the testimony of those who truly were witnesses. As Christians we must be teachers of the word, but we are not witnesses of Christ.

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