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DAWN BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
East Rutherford, New Jersey, 07073

Dear Brethren: Loving Christian Greetings! (Jude 2)

Please allow me to take this opportunity to express my rejoicing and appreciation of the Truth as shown to us through the Grace of Jehovah in the writings of "That Faithful and Wise Servant", our beloved Brother Russell.

The reason of my inquiry is this: I should like to have a list of your publications, and their accompanying prices. I already have these following jewels of Truth literature:

MILLENNIAL DAWN:

- I. THE DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES
- II. THE TIME IS AT HAND
- III. THY KINGDOM COME
- IV. THE DAY OF VENGEANCE
- V. THE AT-ONE-MENT BETWEEN GOD AND MAN
- VI. THE NEW CREATION

THE WATCH TOWER (1919)

- I. 1879 - 1887
- II. 1888 - 1895
- III. 1896 - 1900
- IV. 1901 - 1905
- V. 1906 - 1910
- VI. 1911 - 1915
- VII. 1916 - 1919 and INDEX

TABERNACLE SHADOWS of the BETTER SACRIFICES

THE LAODICEAN MESSENGER (MEMOIRS OF PASTOR RUSSELL) - published after the Pastor's death in the flesh, by BIBLE STUDENTS' BOOK-STORE of CHICAGO

Finding the Truth has taken years for me, and much trial has come from my blind stubbornness! As a little child I rejected the Trinity, seeing that it was incomprehensible. Next I rejected the idea that a God of Love could torture eternally those condemned by a short century or less of sin. By the time I was seven I had told my parents' Episcopal Priest that I would have none of their Church, that I would learn about God from my Bible. That did not set well at all, but I was very stubborn about it, once I was convinced that it was right. When I was in my 20's I was the target of the "Jesus-people", and I could not accept their beliefs either; although they succeeded in making me feel guilty. Eventually, I came into contact with the "Jehovah's Witnesses", and I recognized the "ring" of Truth about what they believed, and what they were telling me. I became well-associated with them for a number of years, gladly proclaiming their version of the Kingdom message.

It was while proclaiming that message that I became acquainted with a friendly grey-haired man who told me that the "Witnesses" did not have the Truth, and that he could prove it to me. No "trinitarian" or "hellfire" preacher, he - no "born-again-Christian" --- I was used to those. This Brother was associated with the DAWN BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION, and he gave me the little booklet, "WHEN PASTOR RUSSELL DIED". I dismissed it as the vain utterances of the "Evil-Slave"; however, being a fair-minded man, and one not disposed to being fearful about information, I read it. It profoundly moved me. It did not seem to be either vain nor evil; in fact, it exuded a warmth that I saw was missing from my Watchtower fellowship. But I was resistant to it, and determined to prove it wrong. I next wrote

a letter to you Brethren, asking for any literature which might make clear to me your differences with the "Jehovah's Witnesses". One item you sent (which I wish I still had now!!!) was something called, "PASTOR RUSSELL NOT THE FOUNDER OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES". When I first read that, it gave me the ammunition I needed to discount everything else from the DAWN BIBLE STUDENTS, and to feel "secure" with the Watchtower once again. Regrettably, on advice of the "elders", I threw out your literature, and I completely dis-associated myself from the kind Brother who had tried to help, to the point of refusing to acknowledge him on the street when we passed. That was not "treating him as a tax-collector"; that was rude - and it was un-kind and un-Christian, and not in keeping with my usual character. But it was obedience to what I mistakenly believed to be "Jehovah's Theocratic Arrangements". Inwardly, it grieved me. It grieved me more a few years later when I learned that Brother had finished his course.

I stayed with the Watchtower Society a few years more, and became more and more restless and troubled. One Sister was deserted by her husband, who had left the state with another woman, and denounced the Truth. She, all by herself with three children to feed, found work that supported her family, and exploited her talents as an artist. One of the Sisters with children of her own was hired to baby-sit after school, until the Sister got home from work. As those in the Society are actively encouraged to seek chances to "tattle-tale", the Sister who was benefitting financially from the arrangement sought out the elders privately as to whether the Sister was losing too much time from the door-to-door ministry by pursuing a career! The other Sister seemed to think that she should not be so occupied, but should perhaps seek pioneering in order to make ends meet (pioneering is Society language for colporteur). The elders in turn called the Sister in, and they counselled her to quit her job, and (if necessary) go on welfare. She tried to explain that she had committed herself to complete a job for her employer, and that it would be poor Christian conduct to back out of a commitment such as that when artists were hard to find, and her employer would be badly hurt by her leaving just then. Better, she thought, to now complete the job asked, then quit. Besides, one could not legally quit a job to go on welfare. They again admonished her to quit her job, and she stated that it would violate her Christian conscience to do so. That was on a Friday night; Sunday it was announced before the congregation that she was being dis-fellowshipped for conduct un-becoming a Christian!!! We were quite astonished, and assumed (at first) that there had been more to the case than we had known. After her dis-fellowshippment, quite naturally the Sister had to find a baby-sitter outside of the Truth. Which she did finally do - though not before one of the "elders" had turned her in to child-welfare for supposedly not properly caring for her children. It was claimed by the Brother that she was allowing an 11-year-old child to care for her young family for nine hours every day. The "child" proved to be someone of stunted growth who was 19, and a "born-again-Christian". The Sister did manage to recruit some other artist to fill her job, and she left employment. She took this to the elders, but they now made issue over her having had someone "outside the Truth" looking after her children, and had therefore failed to dispatch her obligations as a Christian mother!!! She protested that her dis-fellowshippment had left her no choice; but the "elders" insisted that, had she been "meek" in the first place, none of this would have happened. And she could not be re-instated. Now, without even the "pioneer" service as meager income, what was she to do? That, she was told, was her problem!!! No matter that she had quit her job at great sacrifice to please their demands - it was still not enough. One "elder" who had dissented from the handling of her case stepped-down, and was soon "disfellowshipped". Many of the friends had known that he had a supposedly secret drinking problem...but now it became very public and open. He was active in ridiculing the Society wherever he went, and even urinating and

cursing in public. His wife, who had held clandestine birthday celebrations for the children for years, now became vocal against the Society, and she left her husband. This was held up to us as an example of what happens when Satan enters the heart of a Christian. And we sort-of assented to that. At least, for awhile, that hindered us from being troubled by examining it any further. Does this not make you heartsick? But wait: there's more...

Next it was my turn to face the inquisition. For years I had engaged in that Society hobby of attempting to gather under one roof everything the Watch Tower has ever published. Most "Witnesses" do this, to one extent or another. It is bizarre, really. They do it because they know many changes have been made...and then they never look at what they've found, because they are afraid of being derailed by it! The pet excuse is, "With all of the new information coming out, as close as we are to the end, I haven't any time to look at the old books. But it is nice to have them." Second-hand shops cannot keep Russell's and Rutherford's books in stock, due to intense collecting by Society adherents. But in my case, I was too inquisitive to ignore those books. I had heard so much about what the "Witnesses" had (supposedly) done under Russell (according to KINGDOM OF THE CULTS, and various tracts) I had to discover for myself. Besides, I was a ready and willing target for these people, because I listen. So, when literature against the "Witnesses" was offered, I accepted and read it, applying the counsel of the example of the noble Bereans (Acts:17:11). Eventually I decided to study the MILLENNIAL DAWN series I had for myself. And when I did, it was not long before I realized that the Truth far exceeded anything the Society had to offer! The biggest single difference that struck me was the Ransom for all (not all "sorts of") men. The grand prospect of the Restitution became clear to me, and so far surpassed the narrow, sectarian, "we are more holy than thou" attitude the Society inculcates, namely, that only "J.W.s" have any hope of surviving into God's Kingdom - and all others, regardless of circumstances, will be ripped-off the face of the earth at Armageddon. 1975 had come and gone, and had proved another in a string of failed "prophecies"(?). And so I pondered over this, and I studied hard. I wanted to be certain it was the Truth before I spoke a word on it. But the "elders" somehow detected a change in me, and I was called in for questioning. They wanted to know how I had come up with some of the "odd twists" in my answers during Watchtower study lately. Not that they had been wrong, but they had been uncharacteristic of Society answers in tone, inflection, and wording. Without saying more, I explained that I had really noticed of late the tendency for people in the Society to use a kind of Society jargon, a sort-of sterilized English syntax that was at once recognizable. The WATCHTOWER and AWAKE! magazines, as well as the New World Translation, all used the same phrasiology, even when it was decidedly awkward to do so! It was as if a certain thought could only be expressed in a certain antiseptic way, as if the language had changed from expressive to utilitarian. And it did not set well with me. As we were discussing this matter, the "elder" who had been with the Society since 1938 said that my way of talking reminded him of "the old days, before the 1950 Assembly". He said they were still calling it a "Convention" alot then, and much of the old terminology was still around. But, we had to press on to the new and put away the old. I could not see the slavish parroting of a certain narrow style of speech, and I said so. As long as the point was properly made, why dictate the exact words to be used? Well, I was told that so many terms had been found to have pagan meanings and applications, that it was really so much better to just stick to the Society way, and avoid making any accidental offenses to Jehovah. I did not accept that argument. Why, if He reads the heart, then the only meaning of concern is the one being applied conscientiously, not some historical connection the speaker and hearer know not of! If we were to be so very scrupulous, then why not Yahweh and Yeshua, instead of Jehovah and Jesus? They trotted out the old "familiarity" issue, and I said that I rested my case on language-style, then. That did not set well, but

I was "on a roll"...

I brought up next the Ransom, and I showed by the Scriptures why it was absolutely necessary that Jesus died as a Ransom for Adam, if the point of the justice of the Ransom meant anything at all. I could not see how it was possible for Jesus to be the Greater Adam, and have paid Adam's corresponding Price...and yet not ransomed Adam??? No way. And they could not recover from that. I told them that I could see the Scriptures applying the Ransom far more widely than does the Society, and I recalled for them how they had not even been certain on the point. In 1954 it was "new light" that Sodom and Gomorrah were in the "Second-Death"; however, in 1965 it was again "new light" that they were not condemned, but would be resurrected (as had been taught previously to 1954). Does Jehovah change? Does the Truth get revealed in a serpentine fashion? Or is the Society confused on the extent of the Ransom??? If most everyone were to be condemned to the "Second Death", and only the zealous and un-questioningly loyal Societyites were going to survive to re-populate the world, I wanted to see proof of that. They would not answer any of my questions on doctrinal or Scriptural issues. In fact, they refused to comfort even one of my doubts! I explained to them that it all seemed sectarian to me in an extreme sense, that it was beginning to appear to me that, just as Jesus had taught the disciples pure Truth, and subsequent Christians had thrown it over to follow their fear-inspiring errors, so Pastor Russell had taught the pure Truth to the Brethren, and subsequent custodians of the message had thrown it over to follow a fear-inspiring course, similar to that followed by the Popes. They demanded an elaboration on that point, and so I told them that the "orthodox" churches (they interrupted here, and demanded that I use the term, "Christendom". I said I conscientiously could not do so. "Christendom" means Christ's Kingdom, and I could not accord those false religions that un-justified honour. They seemed at least intrigued by that view, not having previously considered it, and allowed me to proceed) I continued that the churches attempt to gain membership by scaring people into them through the fearful whip of "hell-fire". They agreed, and proudly pointed out the "difference" in the Society view - that they supposedly do not use fear. I told them that they do use fear, if not to gain adherents, at least to hold them. The doctrine that all outside the Society are in the Second Death, along with the practise of facile dis-fellowshipment for any who do not comply to the letter, and shift every time the Society shifts, just like loyal robots, leads to the very tightest control of fear. But Russell had taught that the separation of the "sheep" from the "goats" occurs in the Kingdom, that the world in general is not now on trial for life. This was the grand Restitution of the world, long promised, and those who heard the message loved it, because it held out one complete and fair hope for all. I told them that the Society holds out Restitution hope for the dead, but not for the living. They said to me that the reason for that is, the Truth is known now, for those who hear it...and there is no excuse for any not to become "Jehovah's Witnesses" if they want to live. No excuse, no reason? How about prejudice? False stories? Confusion? Inaccessibility? Cultural factors? Are we to believe that a merciful God would permit all of those confused by present circumstances to be destroyed, just because they did not harken to one of thousands of voices calling them? They pointed out the vengeance of Jehovah in the days of Noah, and how none but the righteous had a chance then - that these days would be the same, as the Scripture says. But I asked them, are not those killed in the Flood going to be resurrected? This question divided them, three saying they all were in the Second Death, and two saying they would be resurrected. Then they said they'd have to check to see what the Society now teaches on that, and why. I said that was just the point: they were not looking at the Society with the same scepticism that they had once looked at the world - and I reminded them of Acts 17:11. Whereupon, they recovered quickly, and focused-in on me:

"You have very cleverly turned this discussion around to doctrine once again - when we told you before, we will not discuss doctrine or the view of the Scriptures with you!"

"Then, why have you called me in?"

"We only want to know if you are in harmony with the Society in all matters, if you are loyal to Jehovah's Theocratic Arrangements, even unto death."

"I am loyal to Jehovah and His arrangements and Plan; however, that is a loyalty that transcends any earthly loyalties I may or may not have. If the Society is in harmony with Jehovah, then I am in harmony with the Society. If not, then I must follow Jehovah, not the Society."

"Surely you know that the Society is Jehovah's Visible Earthly Organisation to-day, and that there is no other way to life, than through harmony with it."

"The only way to life is through Jesus Christ; first of all. Secondly, whether or not the Society is what it claims to be depends upon what it is doing; at this time, I do not believe that it is 100% in harmony with the will and Word and Spirit of Jehovah."

"And who is to be the judge of that...you? Suddenly you are here to question the Society now?"

"Jehovah is the Judge; however, each of us must constantly question what we are told, according to the Scriptures."

"I think we see the way it is with you. But we do not question anything the Society does, because we already know where the Truth is..."

"No, it seems to me as I hear you that you do not question because you are afraid to find out the answers. But you all have doubts, especially after 1975. You may not admit it to me, to each other, or even to yourselves but your doubts are there, nevertheless."

"You speak for yourself on that one. We can see that the spirit of Satan has entered into you and emboldened you to speak with us in that fashion. You were always zealous for the Truth - until now. It follows as usual that Satan captures the hearts of some of the very best ones."

"It is not Satan, but the Truth that emboldens me. And as I see that you wish to make loyalty to a human institution the focus of this discussion, and avoid the Scriptures, then I see no reason to hold you back. You need not vote on it: I am herewith dis-fellowshipping myself from your midst. It is with sadness that I do this, because I love you all. All I can say to you in parting is, if you would but back-off from your blind loyalty to the Society for awhile, and study what Pastor Russell wrote in the MILLENNIAL DAWN books, you will know for yourself, and no one will have to tell you."

"So that's it. This merely demonstrates what the Society has said for years about the confusion that can occur through the study of the older books and the lesser light. You have had the true light, and you have run from it. We will announce your dis-fellowshipping to the congregation next meeting. Actually, your telling us that you are leaving on your own is no big coup; we had discussed dis-fellowshipping you before we called you in here, and had decided, pretty much, that we were going to, regardless what happened in this room."

"Why? On what grounds?"

"I don't think that is necessary to discuss now. But if you must, you have been expressing yourself in meeting, as we said before, in a manner which alerted us to the fact that you were, at the very least, doing some heavy independent thinking. Had you come in here, and expressed absolute loyalty to the Organization, and we had believed you, we might then have merely reproved you to stick to the Society manner of expression in your answers, and in what you say to others. But that was not to be the case, and we figured as much in advance. Actually, another Brother told us that

you had been studying in THE DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES lately, and we asked him to keep watch on it. When he reported back to us that he had seen you going through it in detail in your study several times, we figured you had gone over to the 'Evil-Slave'".

"How is it he knew what I was studying; was he peeking in my windows?"

"What difference does it make? He got the information we requested in whatever manner was necessary to get it. Another thing: at assemblies, you always accepted the tracts and flyers that other religious groups passed out in the parking lots. And we noticed that you read them. Most brothers will not accept them. We told you that it was better not to read them, back in '76; however, you silently persisted. So you see, the case against you has been building up for a few years now. We recognise the beginnings of doubt and dis-loyalty, even when a brother is zealous on the surface. So you see, you cannot hide from Jehovah - He will not be mocked."

It was not only announced that I was dis-fellowshipped, but a warning was especially given that I was in opposition to the Society, and would intentionally seek to wreck the confidence of any with whom I spoke. So it was especially important, not only not to fellowship with me, but not to even say hello. "Avoid the man altogether as a wolf in sheep's clothing."

So I was out. That was 1981...and I have had much time to study and reflect since then. I donated all of the Society's publications that were not penned by the Pastor back to the local Kingdom Hall, for the others there who might still be looking for them. They were accepted, including 18 complete years of back Watchtowers and Awake!s, along with incomplete years going back to 1949.

As I studied Brother Russell's writings I grew, and the strait-jacket of the Society's extremisms came off of me completely! Now I was beginning to learn what was meant by, "The Truth shall make you free"! I found the TABERNACLE SHADOWS especially astounding, and marvel that it was written by a man of 29, and marvel even more that the brethren so quickly gave it up at Rutherford's urging. Truly, they knew not what they had, and have therefore lost it. Brother Rutherford must have been an incredibly crafty and charismatic man, to have pulled-off all that he did, and got away with it.

In any case, I would now like a list of your publications, especially including the ones relating to the "Jehovah's Witnesses". Could you please send the same to me? Please send as complete a list as you can. Thank you very much, and am keeping you in my prayers.

Yours in Jehovah's Glad Service, by His Grace,

Harrison P. Reed