



Intel on Charles Taze Russell

Charles Taze Russell (1852–1916), founder of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society (later known as Jehovah's Witnesses), promoted numerous theological errors that contradict orthodox Christian doctrine. Below are key points proving he was a heretic, along with biblical refutations:

1. Denial of the Trinity

Russell rejected the doctrine of the Trinity, claiming it was a pagan invention. Instead, he taught that only Jehovah (the Father) is God, Jesus was a created being, and the Holy Spirit is merely God's "active force."

Biblical Refutation:

- **God is triune:** Matthew 28:19 — “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”
- **Jesus is fully God:** John 1:1 — “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
- **The Holy Spirit is a Person, not an impersonal force:** Acts 5:3–4 equates lying to the Holy Spirit with lying to God.

Russell's denial of the Trinity contradicts the fundamental nature of God as revealed in Scripture.

2. Denial of Christ's Deity

Russell taught that Jesus was the first created being (Michael the Archangel) and not God in the flesh.

Biblical Refutation:

- **Jesus is the eternal God, not a created angel:** Hebrews 1:5–8 explicitly states that Jesus is superior to angels and is called **God** by the Father:
 - *“But of the Son He says, ‘Your throne, God, is forever and ever.’”* (Hebrews 1:8)

- **Jesus is uncreated and eternal:** Colossians 1:16–17 — “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth... all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”
- **Jesus was worshiped, which is reserved for God alone:** Matthew 14:33 — “And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, ‘You are truly God’s Son!’”

Russell’s Christology is a heretical form of Arianism, condemned by the early church.

3. False Prophecies

Russell falsely predicted that **the world would end in 1914** with Christ’s invisible return. When this failed, Jehovah’s Witnesses altered their doctrine, claiming Christ began ruling invisibly in 1914.

Biblical Refutation:

- **False prophets are exposed by their failed predictions:** Deuteronomy 18:22 — “When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, and the thing does not happen or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken.”
- **Christ’s return will be visible and unmistakable:** Matthew 24:30 — “Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.”

Russell’s false prophecies mark him as a deceiver.

4. Denial of the Physical Resurrection of Christ

Russell taught that Jesus was not bodily resurrected but was "re-created" as a spirit being.

Biblical Refutation:

- **Jesus explicitly declared His bodily resurrection:** Luke 24:39 — “See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, because a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you plainly see that I have.”
- **Thomas touched the resurrected Christ’s physical wounds:** John 20:27–28 — “Then He said to Thomas, ‘Place your finger here, and see My hands; and take your hand and put it into My side.’”
- **Jesus’ physical resurrection is foundational to salvation:** 1 Corinthians 15:17 — “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”

Russell’s doctrine contradicts the core teaching of Christian salvation.

5. Denial of Eternal Punishment

Russell rejected the biblical doctrine of hell, teaching that the wicked are simply annihilated rather than suffering eternal punishment.

Biblical Refutation:

- **Jesus taught eternal punishment:** Matthew 25:46 — “And these will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life.”
- **The wicked are tormented forever:** Revelation 20:10 — “And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”
- **Hell is real and conscious torment:** Luke 16:23 — “And in Hades he raised his eyes, being in torment, and *saw* Abraham far away.”

Russell’s denial of hell is a direct contradiction of Christ’s teachings.

Conclusion

Charles Taze Russell was a **heretic** because:

- He denied the Trinity and the deity of Christ.
- He rejected Christ’s bodily resurrection.
- He prophesied falsely about Christ’s return.
- He denied eternal punishment.

By biblical standards, Russell meets the definition of a **false teacher** (2 Peter 2:1) and falls under the warning of **Galatians 1:8**:

"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!"

Jehovah’s Witnesses today continue in the heresies of Russell. Christians must stand firm in sound doctrine (Titus 1:9) and refute such errors with Scripture.



Article Written by Kyle St.Andrews