

## Update to “Did a ‘Governing Body’ govern Paul?”

The following pages replace the Chapter: “Claims made by *The Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses*” in Version 1 of “Did a ‘Governing Body’ govern Paul?”

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The updated Version 2 of the Study is available at

[http://www.jwstudies.com/Did\\_a\\_Governing\\_Body\\_govern\\_Paul\\_Part\\_1\\_-\\_The\\_Study.pdf](http://www.jwstudies.com/Did_a_Governing_Body_govern_Paul_Part_1_-_The_Study.pdf)

## **CLAIMS MADE BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES**

The *Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses* [GB] is a group of men in USA. The group claims that today it alone represents the true voice of Jehovah God. To disobey the Governing Body is to disobey Jehovah's will. The GB employs the following reasoning to make its claim:

1. The original Christian congregation of apostolic times was united, organised, and structured.
2. The Apostles and elders at Jerusalem were appointed as the congregation's "Governing Body". They settled doctrinal disputes and had oversight of the preaching and teaching work.
3. This structured organisation lost its appointment when the last Apostle died, with the result that apostasy immediately set in.
4. This apostate condition ended when Jesus and his Father appointed the leadership of *The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society* to represent them as their only visible channel of communication on Earth.
5. The authority of that appointment is being passed on to a small group of men now known as *The Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses*.



**In 2009, these men claimed to be the modern equivalent of the Apostles at Acts 15<sup>1</sup>**

The death or defection of a member of the GB results in a replacement, as in an Apostolic Succession.



**In 2013, these men claimed to be the modern equivalent of the Apostles at Acts 15<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> "Bearing Thorough Witness" about God's Kingdom, page 110

<sup>2</sup> *The Watchtower*, 15 July 2013, page 26

## **The pattern revived after 1900 years**

The Governing Body [GB] says that the original Christian congregation operated under a Governing Body but this organised structure, along with its authority, was lost when the last Apostle died.

However, according to the GB, all has not been lost, because after 1900 years, Jesus has followed the pattern he set with his original Apostolic congregation. This means that once again Jehovah and Jesus have their single channel of communication and instruction working on their behalf on Earth.

True to the pattern he set in the first century, Jesus would once again feed many through the hands of a few.<sup>3</sup>

You will be amazed at the number of parallels that exist between God's servants of the first century and his people today. You will see that these parallels involve not only the work we do but also the way we are organized to do that work. Reflecting on these similarities will no doubt fortify your belief that Jehovah God is continuing to direct the earthly part of his organization.<sup>4</sup>

Like the first-century Christians, Jehovah's Witnesses today are directed by a Governing Body of dedicated, spirit-anointed men.<sup>5</sup>

## **The WTS was instituted with independent, local, democratic rule**

The Watch Tower Society was instituted as a democracy by Charles Russell. Hence there was no need for the Watch Tower Society [WTS] to have a Governing Body exercising top-down control.

In December, 1884, there was organized and incorporated in accord with the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, U. S. A., what was then called "Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society" but was from and after 1896 called "Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society". ... However, the Theocratic principle of rule and organization was not clearly discerned back there, and a more or less democratic organization and operation of companies of consecrated Christians was permitted and practiced.<sup>6</sup>

## **Congregations were operating independent, local democratic rule**

The congregations were operating, independently and democratically. This was not compatible with Theocratic rule.

The guiding counsel as to overseers and other servants was not written to any congregation of Christians. It was addressed to Titus and Timothy. Both these men represented and acted for the apostle Paul, and the apostle was one of the governing body.

Because congregations have overlooked this fact, they have fallen to the idea of independent local democratic rule of a congregation over its own affairs and have elected so-called "elders", "deacons," "bishops," etc., to office by vote of all members of the congregation. This is contrary to Theocratic rule. Such rule takes note of a visible governing body. ... The Theocratic organization is not ruled from any or all congregations upward as the source of power and authority<sup>7</sup>

## **From democracy to theocracy**

In 1938, Rutherford turned the organisation on its head, saying that it was now a Theocracy.

In the June 1 and 15, 1938, issues of *The Watchtower* appeared a serial article on "Organization". Therein the Lord flashed forth the compelling truth that the organization of Jehovah's anointed servants is Theocratic and is ruled in contrary fashion to either plutocracy or democracy. It is not ruled upward from the people,

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<sup>3</sup> *The Watchtower*, July 15 2013, page 19

<sup>4</sup> "Bearing Thorough Witness" about God's Kingdom, page 2

<sup>5</sup> "Bearing Thorough Witness" about God's Kingdom, page 110

<sup>6</sup> *The Watchtower*, 1 November 1944, page 331, "The Theocratic Alignment Today"

<sup>7</sup> *The Watchtower*, 1 November 1944, page 328, "Governing Body"

rich or poor, but is ruled from the top down; and Jehovah God is at the top. Not democratic voting by congregations, but God makes the appointments of his servants within his Theocratic organization; and this he does by Christ Jesus the Head and through his visible governing body.<sup>8</sup>

### **Theocratic structure, including the Governing Body, created in 1944**

Rutherford died in 1942 and was succeeded by Nathan Knorr. He was interested in organisational matters. Knorr was a business manager and he left Frederick Franz to explain the organisation's changes in terms of Scripture.

Within two years of Rutherford's death, Knorr instituted sweeping organisational changes, including the formation of the Governing Body. These structural changes are described in the 15 October 1944 and 1 November 1944 issues of *The Watchtower* magazine.

Baptized Christians known today as Jehovah's witnesses have a governing body, as specifically noted from the year 1944 onward.<sup>9</sup>

It is of note that when Charles Taze Russell, co-founder of the Watch Tower Society and its second President, wrote of the meeting described in Acts 15, he employed the term commonly used by other Christian churches: "Apostolic Council"<sup>10</sup>, and not "Governing Body".

### **"Organized", "Organization", "Theocratic", and "Governing Body"**

The WTS introduced Knorr's theocratic structure in the October and November 1944 issues of its *Watchtower* magazine. One page of the 15 October 1944 *Watch Tower* magazine and eleven pages of the 1 November 1944 issue use the words "organize" and "organization" 73 times; the words "theocratic" and "theocracy" 91 times; and the expression "governing body" 47 times.

*Theocratic* means organized, administered and ruled by God.<sup>11</sup>

To be organized for the final work in these latter days there must likewise be a governing body under Christ.<sup>12</sup>

### **Legal charter revised**

The changes resulting from democracy to autocracy required changes to the Society's Charter.

Now it is fully appreciated that the Theocratic principle must apply to all instruments that the anointed remnant or "faithful and wise servant" class uses. That includes the legal instrumentality, the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, which is so closely connected with the visible governing body of Jehovah's Theocratic people. ...

This fact was not perceived clearly when the Watch Tower Society's charter was framed according to the law of the land in 1884. ...

Hence, at a legally called business meeting of all shareholder-voters of the Society on October 2, 1944, it was unanimously voted that the Society's charter be revised and be brought into full harmony with Theocratic rule and truth. This action was and could be taken within the limitations of the laws of the country. ...

Hence on October 1, 1945, seven years after Jehovah's brilliant flashes of Theocratic truth and their practical application, a revised charter of the WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY should go into effect, wisely and obediently amended according to his Theocratic rule.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> *The Watchtower*, 1 November 1944, page 332, "The Theocratic Alignment Today"

<sup>9</sup> *The Watchtower*, 15 December 1971, page 757

<sup>10</sup> *Zion's Watch Tower*, 15 November 1892, pages 349-350

<sup>11</sup> *The Watchtower*, 1 November 1944, page 323, "Organized for Final Work".

<sup>12</sup> *The Watchtower*, 15 October 1944, page 315, "Theocratic Organization in Action".

<sup>13</sup> *The Watchtower*, 1 November 1944, page 333, "The Theocratic Alignment Today"

On September 30 through October 2, 1944, a special Service and business Assembly was held at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., where the registered offices of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society are located. ...

Consideration was directed to six amendments that were proposed for the Charter of the Society, which was a Pennsylvania corporation incorporated sixty years earlier, in the year 1884. ... The first amendment resolution that was adopted proposed the enlarging of the purposes of the Society. ... Also, this amendment put God's name, Jehovah, into the Charter. Amendment Three did away with the original charter's provision that fixed one's membership in the Society on the basis of one's money contributions to the Society. ... As the *Watchtower* issue of November 1, 1944, said in its report: "This amendment will have the effect of bringing the charter as near to Theocratic arrangement as the law of the land permits."

It was necessary to get the approval of the State court so as to make all these amendments legal. The following year (1945) the Amendments were duly recorded and thus became part of the Charter. With such an amended Charter the Watch Tower Society has served as a legal instrument of the anointed remnant. ...

In the November 1 [1944] issue came the leading article announcing "Theocratic Organization in Action." Under appropriate subheadings this article discussed "President," "Diakonos, Servant," "Qualifications," "Governing Body," and "Theocratic Conduct." ...

Under the subheading "Governing Body" paragraphs 33, 34 said: "In the first century it was the group of the apostles in particular, together with the body of elders that they associated with them at Jerusalem, that made up the visible ruling body of Jehovah's Theocratic organization on earth. ... That governing body was not made up of perfect men."<sup>14</sup>

### **"A theocracy requires a Governing Body"**

The GB continues to argue that the theocratic arrangement required a Governing Body:

According to the theocratic arrangement today there must be a governing body for the congregation of Jehovah's witnesses throughout the earth. The facts show these to be associated with the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society.<sup>15</sup>

### **Anointed brothers appointed as the "Slave"**

The GB asserts that *anointed* brothers were *appointed* as the "slave class" but, quite correctly, the GB does *not* say this was as a Governing Body. Today, it says this took place in 1919.

"In 1919, ... Jesus selected capable anointed brothers from among them to be the faithful and discreet slave."<sup>16</sup>

In 1919, Jesus appointed the faithful slave "over all his belongings" – all his earthly Kingdom interests.<sup>17</sup>

Whereas the GB writes of "capable anointed brothers" being "appointed" from "*among* them" in 1919, President Joseph Franklin Rutherford wrote that the "Faithful and wise servant" was made up of Jesus Christ and *all* the spirit-anointed, *not* from *among* them. The "Servant" class was composed of Jesus as its head and *all* the spirit-anointed as the body/feet; although the Servant could also refer to Christ alone, or to the body/feet alone.

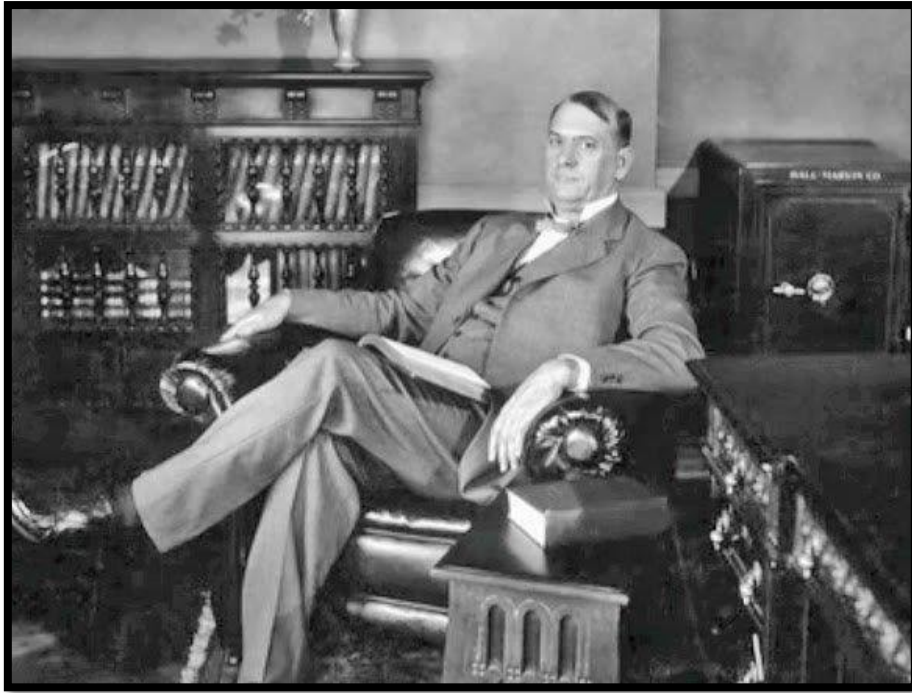
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<sup>14</sup> *The Watchtower*, 1 December 1971, pages 725-727

<sup>15</sup> *The Watchtower*, November 15, 1950, page 448, para. 32

<sup>16</sup> *The Watchtower*, July 15 2013, page 23

<sup>17</sup> *The Watchtower*, July 15 2013, page 20



**Joseph Franklin Rutherford, Watch Tower Society President 1917 - 1942**

He wrote that they were selected at Jesus' Coming (erchetai)<sup>18</sup> in the parables of the "Talents" and of the "Faithful and wise servant". This "Coming" took place when Jesus came into the temple in 1918.

Let us read this scripture and answer the question: "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?" (Matthew 24:45) The answer to this is, Those found faithful when the Lord comes to his temple.<sup>19</sup>

Seeing then that The Servant of Jehovah is The Christ, and that The Christ is composed of Jesus and the faithful members of his body, we find it proper to apply the term "Servant" to Jesus Christ alone or to Jesus Christ and the members of his body collectively as one; and sometimes it is applied only to the members of the body of Christ yet on earth.<sup>20</sup>

Proof has heretofore been submitted in THE WATCH TOWER which it is believed conclusively shows that the Lord came to his temple in 1918. That also synchronizes with the time when the Lord began the fulfilment of the parable of the talents.

The important question now under consideration is, Who is the faithful and wise servant here mentioned? The wise servant is that servant who uses the knowledge he has derived from the Lord according to God's will.

The faithful servant is one who is diligent in using all the faculties with which he is endowed, and all of the opportunities he has, to safeguard and mind the interests of the kingdom of heaven committed unto him.<sup>21</sup>

Neither Rutherford nor the WTS suggested that this "appointing" or this "anointing" referred to a "Governing Body".

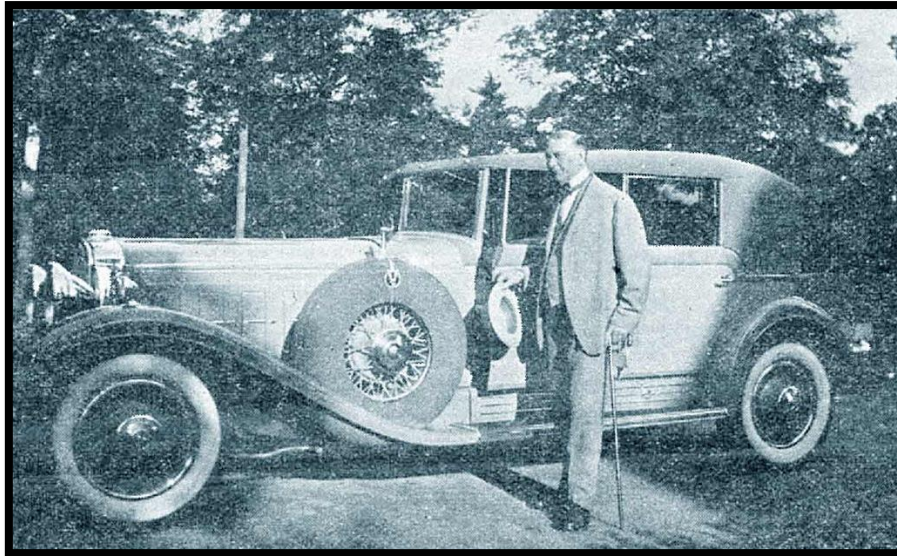
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<sup>18</sup> As against the "Parousia" (presence) which, until 1930 at least, Rutherford confidently fixed at 1874.

<sup>19</sup> *The Watch Tower*, February 15, 1927, page 57

<sup>20</sup> *The Watch Tower*, February 15, 1927, page 53

<sup>21</sup> *The Watch Tower*, February 15, 1927, page 54



**Joseph Rutherford with his Cadillac**



**Joseph Rutherford lived in the house prepared for the saints who would be resurrected in 1925<sup>22</sup>**

### Ongoing evolution of the Governing Body

Discussions continue over the Governing Body's rights and its roles. The GB was seen as *closely identified* with the "Slave", being the Slave's representative, as *part* of the Slave class.

In recent decades, that slave has been closely identified with the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses.<sup>23</sup>

The governing body of the "faithful and discreet slave" class.<sup>24</sup>

This "faithful and discreet slave" class of today has a visible governing body.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>22</sup> In 1939, Rutherford had two bomb shelters installed in the adjacent property, Beth Shan

<sup>23</sup> *The Watchtower*, July 15, 2013, page 22

<sup>24</sup> *The Watchtower*, January 15, 1958, page 46

## No links with Rutherford's ideas

Whereas Rutherford saw the Coming as a past event, the current WTS leadership says the Coming refers to a future event associated with the Great Time of Trouble and Armageddon. Rutherford associated the creation of the "Slave" class with the Coming. The GB cannot associate the "Coming" with the setting up of the FDS, since it now says the Coming lies in the future.

Rutherford's "Coming" took place as an invisible, having taken place in the heavenly temple, whereas the current WTS teaching is that it has yet to take place, and that it will be visible and violent.

## In 2012, the Governing Body fully absorbed the "Slave"

From October 2012, and as announced in the July 15, 2013 *Watchtower*, the GB expressly stated that it had confined the "Slave" position exclusively to itself.

In the past, our publications have said the following: ... The slave represents<sup>26</sup> all anointed Christians<sup>27</sup> on earth as a group at any one time since then. ...

However ... our understanding of Jesus' words about the faithful and discreet slave needs to be clarified. ... That *slave* is made up of ***a small group of anointed brothers who are directly involved in preparing and dispensing spiritual food during Christ's presence.***<sup>28</sup>

Do *all* anointed ones on earth make up the faithful slave? No.<sup>29</sup>

In keeping with Jesus' pattern of feeding many through the hands of a few, that slave is made up of a small group of anointed brothers who are directly involved in preparing and dispensing spiritual food during Christ's presence. Throughout the last days, the anointed brothers who make up the faithful slave have served together at headquarters. In recent decades, that slave has been closely identified with the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses.<sup>30</sup>

The following is from Wikipedia:

Until late 2012, the Governing Body described itself as the representative and "spokesman" for God's "faithful and discreet slave class" (the approximately 11,800 remaining anointed Jehovah's Witnesses) who are collectively said to be God's "prophet" and "channel for new spiritual light". At the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Watch Tower Society, the "faithful and discreet slave" was defined as referring to the Governing Body only and the terms are now synonymous.<sup>31</sup>

## Self-declared divine appointment

The GB continues to claim that it operates under an appointment as Jehovah's sole representative on Earth.

The anointed and their other sheep companions recognize that by following the lead of the modern-day Governing Body, they are in fact following their leader Christ.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> *The Watchtower*, December 15, 1971, page 750

<sup>26</sup> Meaning that previously the Governing Body was the *representative* of the "slave" Class.

<sup>27</sup> Meaning those still on Earth of the Anointed Class numbering 144,000.

<sup>28</sup> *The Watchtower*, July 15 2013, pages 20, 22

<sup>29</sup> *The Watchtower*, July 15, 2013, page 21

<sup>30</sup> *The Watchtower*, July 15, 2013, page 22

<sup>31</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governing\\_Body\\_of\\_Jehovah%27s\\_Witnesses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governing_Body_of_Jehovah%27s_Witnesses) (accessed 15 July 2013)

<sup>32</sup> *The Watchtower*, September 15, 2010, page 23