

ing to the message that these true disciples proclaimed.—Acts 20:30.

Therefore, it is obvious that these opponents of the early Christians were not trying to build up others, even though they themselves claimed to be Christians. They themselves were not occupied in making disciples of Christ, but they tried to *tear down* those who might be listening to the good news.

TRUE PREACHING BUILDS UP

What about the situation today as to the preaching of the good news of Christ's kingdom and its coming rule over earth? Jehovah's Witnesses as modern-day Christians are working hard to get this good news preached to every individual. They do not claim infallibility or perfection. Neither are they inspired prophets. But they are trying to live clean lives and to help people by teaching them the good news. Millions are responding.

Is such activity a *building* work? One only has to look at the results. When we examine this activity can we not see an outstanding example of worldwide unity of teaching, conduct and love? We find people in the hundreds of thousands each year changing their personalities so that they become law-abiding citizens, maintaining Scriptural morality, raising happy families, bringing to others the same high standards. Where else do we find people that take their own time and resources to show love for their fellowman by spending hours calling on people at their homes and teaching interested ones the truths of God's Word? Where else do we observe such an international program eliminating racism among those taught, and where they are 'beating their swords into plowshares, learning war no more'? (Isa. 2:4) Where else do we find a body of people concerned with supporting and defending the purity of Bible truth at all cost? —1 Tim. 3:15.

TEARING DOWN BUT NOT REBUILDING

Nevertheless, as with early Christians, Jehovah's Witnesses have opposers today. Some spring out from among their own ranks, just as it was with early Christianity. (Acts 20:30) But what is the objective of such men? It is to *tear down*. What they say and publish is almost wholly in the form of an *attack* upon Jehovah's Witnesses. Do we see them upbuilding anyone? Are they sharing in a great ingathering of clean-living, Kingdom-preaching Christians? If they *do* draw away someone who is associated with Jehovah's Witnesses, where is this person to go? Where will he be built up spiritually?

The same questions arose when Jesus was on earth. Some began to murmur and to walk away from Jesus because he said something that they could not accept. Jesus then asked his apostles: "You do not want to go also, do you?" Simon Peter answered: "Lord, whom shall we go away to? You have sayings of everlasting life." (John 6:67, 68) Where could they get spiritual upbuilding? Could they go to these disgruntled ones and get help? They knew they could not. They would only have to abandon what they had believed and have nothing, or go back to the bondage of Judaism, from which Christ had liberated them.—Gal. 4:8-11.

Do modern-day opponents of Jehovah's Witnesses have a program for building people up in a knowledge of God? Do they offer the people a progressive spiritual education? No. They generally ally themselves with the religious systems of Christendom, often recommending that people join or rejoin the denomination of their choice. In cases the clergy let these disgruntled ones use their pulpits, not to preach the Gospel, but in an attempt to tear down Jehovah's Witnesses. Furthermore, these men go back to the things that they themselves once threw down and publicly declared as false—the doc-