

The Watchtower Society teaches that the News Media is controlled by Satan the Devil, and that Satan causes the News Media to report false stories about Jehovah's Witnesses:

The Watchtower, March 1, 2003 Issue, Study Article: "Be Courageous and Strong!", Paragraph 6

We also need courage when opposers maneuver the media into spreading bad reports about God's servants or when they try to restrict true worship by 'scheming trouble by decree' (Psalm 94:20) For example, how should we feel when newspapers, radio, or television reports about Jehovah's Witnesses are distortions or outright falsehoods? Should we be shocked? No. We expect such things. (Psalm 109:2) And we are not surprised when some believe the published lies and distortions, since 'anyone inexperienced puts faith in every word' (Proverbs 14:15) Still, loyal Christians refuse to believe just any statement made about their brothers, and they certainly do not allow bad publicity to cause them to miss Christian meetings, to slow down in the field ministry, or to waver in their faith. On the contrary, they 'recommend [themselves] as God's ministers'...

Paragraph 20:

Of course, persecution itself is not pleasant, but our standing firm despite persecution, including slanderous reports in the media, is a cause for rejoicing. It means we are pleasing Jehovah and will receive a reward.

Quote from a Jehovah's Witness Speaker preaching at a Jehovah's Witness Convention, as was shown on the Australian 'Sunday' Television Program "Silent Witnesses" on September 22nd, 2002 :

"The media out there, with all its power and its might, it presents human nature in three D's, three D's - debauchery of every kind, deception of every kind and demonism of every kind - and we need to be aware of that."

The Watchtower, September 15, 2002 Issue, Pages 16-18:

Satan tries to break our integrity through the sowing of doubts about what we have been taught. Today, as in the first century, apostates and others seek to destroy the faith of guileless ones. (Galatians 2:4; 5:7, 8) Sometimes they have used the media to spread distorted information or even outright lies about the methods and motives of Jehovah's Witnesses

[...] Whatever stumbling blocks were involved, some evidently preferred falsehoods over the truths of God's Word. Soon they stopped practicing the things they had learned, and this was to their own spiritual detriment.--2 Peter 3:15, 16.

We can avoid turning aside to false stories today if we scrutinize and are selective about what we listen to and what we read

[...] And modern-day apostates keep on trying to sow seeds of doubt in order to subvert the faith of Christians ... So we need to be careful. ... If our ears are inclined towards disgruntled ones, we need to analyze ourselves prayerfully. (Psalm 139:23, 24) Are we inclined to find fault with Jehovah's people? If so, why?

[...] Rather than being critical, let us maintain a spiritually healthy view of the information received through personal study and congregation meetings.

The Watchtower, November 1, 2002 Issue, Page 17:

Unfortunately, some "unreasonable men" in authority persecute us or oppose us in other ways - such as by promoting smear campaigns against us. Still, in Jehovah's due time, their lies are always exposed, and their "ignorant talk" is effectively muzzled.

The Watchtower, April 1, 1997 Issue, Page 17:

In the new world, Satan's propaganda media will have been removed.

The Watchtower, January 15, 1998 Issue, Pages 27-28:

"At times, the news media as well as the authorities are duped by clergymen and apostates into pinning false labels on us, misrepresenting our Christian beliefs and way of life. . . . Will we allow those who are blinded by Satan to intimidate and dishearten us and make us feel ashamed of the good news? Will we permit lies about the truth to affect our regular meeting attendance and our preaching activity? Or will we stand fast and be courageous and more determined than ever to continue declaring the truth about Jehovah and his Kingdom?"
