Justified Before God

All have sinned. This earns us death & separation from God. (Rom. 6:23; Isa. 59:2).

The wages of sin is death. Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

Our good works are filthy rags & can't erase our sins because they aren't out of love for God, but to justify ourselves (Isa. 64:6; Eph. 2:8-10).

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

But we're justified by faith alone! (Rom. 4)

A person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ...by works of the law no one will be justified. (Gal. 2:16)

Our good works are fruit from God working in us! (James 2; 2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:22-23; Phil. 2:12-13)

for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phil. 2:13)

All who repent & believe the gospel will be saved! (Rom. 10:9; Acts 3:19)

Assurance of Salvation

*Assurance of salvation is possible! (*1 John 5:13)

Illegitimate Assurance:

1. What I've done (Matt. 7:22) - Eph. 2:10 FOLLOWS 2:8-9.
2. What I haven't done (Luke 18:11-14)

Proper Assurance:

1. Promises of God (John 5:24, 10:28)
2. Inner witness of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:16).
3. Outward evidence of a changed life (1 John: enjoy worshipping God (1:3), awareness of your sin (1:8), seek obedience to God's Word (2:3).
4. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
5. Do you love other Christians and want to be with them? (3:14).

These will all be present but not perfect.

Stay Awake!

A note to Jehovah's Witnesses

The Watchtower teaches…

The Trinity is false, confusing, & of Satan.
"The obvious conclusion is, therefore, that Satan is the originator of the Trinity doctrine" (*Let God Be True,* 101).
"Sincere persons who want to know the true God and serve Him find it a bit difficult to love and worship a complicated, freakish-looking, three-headed God" (*LGBT*, 102).

Jesus is created, is not divine, & has already returned, but invisibly.
"Jesus was 'the Son of God.' Not God himself!" (*"The Word," Who Is He?*, 20).
"It does not mean that he is on the way or has promised to come, but that he has already arrived and is here" (*LGBT*, 198).

Salvation is through membership in & obedience to the Watchtower.
"Make haste to identify the visible theocratic organization of God that represents his king, Jesus Christ. It is essential for life. Doing so, be complete in accepting its every aspect" (*The Watchtower*, Oct. 1, 1967: 591).

But……..

IF there is one God, and **IF** there are 3 persons called God in the Bible, then by faith I must accept the Trinity.

Trinity: One God, 3 persons. NOT 3 gods. The Bible teaches there is one God, but it calls the Holy Spirit, Jesus, and the all Father God.

The NWT Bible Teaches The Trinity!

1. Deut. 6:4—there is only one God, Jehovah.
2. Isa. 43:10-11—He's the Lord & only Savior.
3. Isa. 44:6—He's the 1st & the last.
4. Rev. 1:8—He is the Lord God Almighty, the Alpha & Omega.
5. Rev. 22:13, 16—Jesus is the 1st and the last, the Alpha & Omega, the beginning & the end.
6. Rev. 1:17-18—The one God who was the 1st & the last died and rose again!

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1. Psalm 102:1-2, 25-27—the Psalmist is talking about Jehovah.
2. Heb. 1:8, 10-12—in comparison to angels, Jehovah attributes Ps. 102 to the Son.

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1. John 2:18-22—Jesus raises himself.
2. Rom. 8:11; 1 Pet. 1:21—God raises Jesus.
3. Rom. 6:4; Eph. 1:1—the Father raised Jesus.
4. Rom. 8:11; 1 Pet. 3:18—the Holy Spirit raised Jesus.

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1. Acts 5:3-5—the Holy Spirit is God & lied to.
2. John 10:30-33—Jesus is God (NWT changed Scripture & added "a" before "god." The Greek doesn't have the article)

Why The Difference?

John 1:1-4: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god. [2] This one was in the beginning with God. [3] All things came into existence through him, and apart from him not even one thing came into existence. What has come into existence [4] by means of him was life, and the life was the light of men. (NWT)

John 1:1-4: [1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. [4] In him was life, and the life was the light of men. (ESV)

John 1:1-4: [1.1] Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. [2] οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν θεόν. [3] πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἕν. ὃ γέγονεν [4] ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶς τῶν ἀνθρώπων· (GNT)

Why The Difference (cont'd)

The Watchtower says that an article (a) should be between "and" (kai) & "god" (θεὸς) in v. 1. But the Greek doesn't have an article before "god": "καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος."

Καὶ = and	θεὸς = God
ἦν = was	ὁ λόγος = the word

They change the Bible to fit their beliefs, and do not publish who produces their translations for their credentials to be examined.

Jesus' 2nd Coming is VISIBLE

Mark 13:21-26: "Then, too, if anyone says to you, 'See! Here is the Christ,' or, 'See! There he is,' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will perform signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, the chosen ones. You, then, watch out. I have told you all things beforehand. "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling out of heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will **see the Son of man** coming in the clouds with great power and glory. (NWT)
*See also Mark 14:62.