



Australia  
**Diakrisis**

## A Ministry of Teaching

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age...to discern (diakrisis) both good and evil (Heb. 5:14)  
Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine?... (Is.28:9)*

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TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry, *teaching, informing and equipping* the church.

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### Editors Comments

I am often asked to speak on the topic: *'The State of the Church'*. The falling away of the church (2Thess.2:3) can be linked closely to the *philosophies of the world*. The world has come into the church to take the church into the world and thus *the church is increasingly mirroring the thought patterns of the world!* It has developed a pragmatic philosophy that mirrors the worlds thinking of a new broad tolerance and a catering to felt needs.

The word for 'church' is *'ekklesia'*, literally translated 'called out ones'. An *opposing* word to this is *'oikumenikos'* - from which we get the word 'ecumenical'. This word is defined thus: *'of the inhabited world, an earthly thing'*. 'Ekklesia' and 'oikumenikos' are by definition diametrically opposed to each other.

Despite this irreconcilable tension, the church is rapidly grafting in the thinking of the world to 'help' the Gospel. We now have a philosophy of Biblical marketing which unashamedly uses marketing strategies and the world's methods to get people into church. The motivation may be good - the desire to see people saved. But the methods and thinking behind it also bring in the worlds pragmatic and liberal ideas ... make the lost feel good about themselves; entertain them; and give them the music and the beat they want. Some of these things may be amoral or harmless in and of themselves but *it is the effect on the Gospel and the fruit thereof that is weakening the church*. The lost do not naturally want to hear of sin and its eternal consequences, of God's judgement, righteousness and holiness. Yet this is exactly what they need to hear, that the Holy Spirit would draw 'in truth' whom He wills.

*The Gospel cannot be marketed to the lost!* It just does not fit into the worlds thinking. It has it's own power (Rom.1:16,17); its own unique marketing strategy - that of the Holy Spirit's agenda, which the world will not have anything to do with. The Gospel is not about our needs but about our sin. The worlds marketing strategies are about making the customer feel good about *himself*; the Gospel is about making man feel bad about his sin! The world markets self; the Gospel destroys self. The world will *adjust* the strategy to mans needs; but the Gospel is non-negotiable. The worlds way of thinking is an enemy of God and His Gospel.

New entertainments such as *The Passion* movie promise revival and touch new 'imagination of the heart'...never mind that it is extra-biblical and Roman Catholic doctrinally. This entertains and titillates the flesh; but the truth of God's unadulterated word *'pierces'* between soul and spirit.

The worlds marketing will produce results - quick foliage rather than real lasting fruit. 'Oh, but it works; it produces results in numbers of decisions!' is the pragmatic cry. Yes, but look at the huge 80% fall away rate from 'conversions'; look at statistics that show the western church is falling away rapidly and losing power...more are turning to other religions than ever before!

Is it any wonder elders/pastors today will not defend the 'faith once delivered'?...*The thinking of the world has invaded their consciences!* Any who expose the writings of false teachers are 'too critical', or worse, have a 'critical spirit'. Paul said: *'Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?'* (Gal.4:16) **Terry Arnold**

## *The Latter Day Saints (Mormons)*

The founder of the *Latter Day Saints (LDS)*, Joseph Smith, was heavily involved in occult practises. His father was a mystic who used divination in attempting to find hidden treasure; sold 'blessings'; and was known for counterfeiting coins. His mother, also involved in the occult, was a known clairvoyant and fortune-teller. Joseph Smith followed in the occultic ways of his father using witchcraft in his attempt to find hidden treasure. He was convicted on March 20, 1826 in Bainbridge for taking money from people to fund his treasure hunt which produced nothing.

Throughout his life Joseph made many prophesies, all of which came to nought, (see our booklet '*The Errors of Mormonism*').

Other founding members of the *LDS* were Oliver Cowdrey, David Whitmer and Martin Harris. These are the three witnesses mentioned at the front of the book of Mormon. These men declared that they saw the 'Gold Plates' which the Book of the Mormon supposedly came from. Joseph Smith later expelled these three men after *they declared that it was all a hoax*.

The *Book of Mormon*, which is claimed by Mormons to be *inspired scripture*, is a complete fabrication as is attested to by the numerous contradictions, errors, plagiarisms and changes made over the years. It contains passages from the *King James Bible* of 1611 as well as part of Solomon Spalding's 1812 novel *Manuscript Found*. Mrs. Spalding eventually took the early *LDS* to court for stealing her husband's book! The *Book of Mormon* also contains parts of a book called *View of Hebrews* written by Eltham Smith in 1823.

The Book of Mormon mentions the use of a compass, which was only invented in 1100AD. It also mentions elephants, sheep, armour, wheels, brass and iron; yet these never existed in America until the modern era. Over 4000 changes have been made to the book of Mormon since 1830.

Another book the *LDS* hold to be inspired scripture is *The Pearl of Great Price*. This book came about when two mummies were dug up in Egypt and sent to America. On the chest of each mummy was a papyrus script. Eventually they came to be in the hands of Joseph Smith who interpreted them to be the book of Moses and the book of Abraham and later named them *The Pearl of Great Price*. In time the mummies were sold to the Chicago Museum and were destroyed in the great fire of Chicago. But in the 1960's a scholar was going through old texts in the Chicago museum archives and came across the two papyrus scripts. These scripts were viewed by expert Egyptologists and found to be no more than *common funeral notices*. Joseph Smith's interpretation was proved to be completely fraudulent and many left the organisation because of this.

The book of Mormon talks about massive civilisations on the ancient American continent but archaeologists today have found *no real proof*. Thomas Stuart Ferguson, an *LDS* who was head of the New World Archaeological Institution sponsored by the Mormon *Brigham Young University*, left the *LDS* organisation and declared there was no evidence.

Members of the *LDS* conduct secret ceremonies in their temples. The members swear oaths similar to Masonic temple oaths. The early *LDS* leaders were members of the *Masonic Lodge* and hence many of their temple rituals have similarities to the Masons. The *LDS* religion believed that people with dark skin were cursed by God. This landed them in the High

Courts on racial charges. The day before the judge handed down his verdict, the *LDS* living 'prophet' allegedly had a vision from God telling him that black people were no longer cursed. The case was subsequently dismissed.

The *LDS* are tireless in their efforts to conceal the past and convince the public they are an 'orthodox' moral 'Christian' organisation. *LDS* missionaries are trained to use the familiar terminology of Christianity yet their teachings are heretical and not 'the faith once delivered' to the true Christian church, (Jude 3).

### **What Mormons Will Not Tell You At The Door:**

\* That they intend to be 'gods' some day. (The Bible says there is but one God: Is.46:9; 44:6-8)

\* That God is a man like us with flesh and blood. (The Bible says God is spirit: Jn.4:24; Matt.16:16-17)

\* That God evolved up to his godhead. (The Bible says God has always existed: Ps.90:2; Num.23:19)

\* That God had sex with Mary to produce Jesus and Satan - spirit brothers. (The Bible says Jesus was born of a virgin by the Holy Spirit: Lk.1:34-35)

\* That the highest salvation is earned by faith and works through the *LDS* religion. (The Bible says salvation is by Grace alone apart from works or law: Eph.2:8-9; Gal 2:16)

\* That they deny the Biblical and historical doctrine of the Trinity. (Read Is.9:6, Titus 2:13...)

\* That the *LDS* is the only true church; all other groups are false and corrupt. (Read Jn.3:16; Jude 3)

\* That our Christian creeds are an abomination to God and your pastor is a hireling of Satan.

\* That those who have been through temple rituals are wearing secret underwear to protect themselves from evil and the likes of you.

\* That women receive salvation only through their husbands who can have many wives in heaven; that the Mormon Jesus had many wives on earth.

\* That God the Father lives on a planet called 'Kolob'.

\* That they consider the Bible to be untrustworthy.

\* That although the Mormons claim Joseph Smith to be a martyr, while in gaol he shot two men and wounded a third.

\* That the founder/prophet Joseph Smith made many *false prophecies*:...eg. That the earth would '*tremble and reel to and fro*' not many days after Dec.27,1832...Bloodshed in South Carolina, USA, would lead to the second coming of Christ in 1890-91...England and other nations would become involved in the American Civil War...The moon is inhabited by six foot men dressed like Quakers...A Mormon temple would be built in Smith's generation at a lot in Missouri; David Patten would go on a missionary tour with himself (Joseph Smith) and twelve others in 1839...and more...

*Mormonism was founded by a false prophet who wrote a book full of errors which teaches a man made religion turning the grace of God into the works of man.*

*Christianity was founded by Jesus Christ whose Spirit moved men to write an infallible inspired best selling book that has never been proved erroneous, but continues to change the sinful heart of men by its message of grace alone.*

(This material borrowed from various sources. For more information on the errors and false prophecies of Mormonism, see our booklet '*The Errors of Mormonism*')

**TA Ministries, PO Box 1499 Hervey Bay, Qld, 4655 Australia.**

## Please Entertain Us!

*'And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars',* (Judges 16:25)

From the earliest times the world has looked at men of God as some form of entertainment. I have little doubt that Noah had become a local curiosity as people came by to see this crazy man building a huge ship on dry land, and that his messages of righteousness provided entertainment to those who came to mock this godly man. The Philistines also found blind Samson very entertaining as they led him about to perform circus-type acts for their amusement. But both these men were not there to amuse the world, but were instruments of God's glorious purposes. Many flocked to see John the Baptist in his eccentric clothing and hear his 'different' message. Jesus challenged them as to what they had expected to see: *'...What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment?...'*, (Luke 7:24-26). No doubt many went to see this amazing man, but once again he was not there for their amusement but had a powerful and crucial message.

Jesus was openly challenged to perform miracles - sometimes for their entertainment value. But during His temptation He refused to jump from the temple in order to build His work on the spectacular. To the Pharisees He says: *'A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah. And he left them, and departed'*, (Matthew 16:4). Paul found himself under the same pressure to perform signs and display his wisdom in order to amuse people. He likewise refused and preached the cross which was attractive only to those who would be saved, but objectionable to the rest.

Today, however, it seems that entertainment has become the very essence of what church is all about. Over and over we hear the gurus of church-growth preach the mantra that we must entertain people if we are to attract them and keep them in the church. And so preachers fall over themselves to find some form of edge that will attract more people to their church. Multimedia shows, plays, professional musical performances, an exciting environment which appeals to all the senses and short entertaining messages are but a few of the gimmicks that are used to draw and keep people. And of course it works - very few can resist a free meal, an excellent show, unchallenging environment and large crowds where everyone is loved and accepted.

Churches are no longer amateurs at the entertainment business. They are able to compete with the best of the malls, theme parks and theatres. Multi-million dollar facilities, professional and full-time 'technical directors', 'music and arts directors' and the best coffee in town don't fail to impress even the most world-weary techno junkies. I, myself, sometimes visit some of these buildings as a curiosity and they never fail to amaze me with their opulence and technical

sophistication.

Preachers rate amongst the best entertainers in the world. Sometimes when surfing the channels on the TV, I find some preacher who is able to hold my attention for longer than most secular shows. I find them entertaining, not as ministers of God's holy Word, but purely as entertainers. The choreography of their every move, the power of their oratory, the way they work the audience and the spectacular auditoriums make for far better viewing than many other shows. If only it were not so sad! Is this what the church has become - a freak show and a circus? What would Jesus do if He had to step into one of these environments? I think He would make himself a whip out of the optic fiber and coax cables and drive the actors far from His house, or would He? Maybe not. He is simply knocking quietly and calling people to come out and to identify with the One who was despised and rejected of men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

If you find yourself in such a place, then get out of there as soon as you can before you are bitten by the bug which demands ever more sensual stimulation and less of the true Word of God. If you think your church is boring but the leaders preach and teach the Word and uphold Christ and Him crucified, don't complain when things get boring. Sometimes sound doctrine has to be endured and even Paul had folk fall asleep during his messages. Be grateful that you have leaders who still preach the Bible and pray for them that they will have courage to speak the truth and to speak it forcefully and clearly.

If you are in a leadership position, don't be pressurized to pander to the whims and fleshly desires of people who do not really mean business with the Lord. Don't feel you have to spice up your messages with gimmicks or cut them short to allow for the many forms of entertainment that have become not only accepted, but expected in churches today. Preach the crucified and resurrected Christ. Preach the full counsel of God with conviction and anointing. Don't be tempted to repackage the message in order to make it more acceptable. Be whom God has made you to be and not what people want you to be.

All this of course does not mean we should be objectionable and crude. We must present the message as clearly as possible and if technology can help without becoming the focus of attention and without draining the financial resources, then let's use the tools at our disposal. However, at all times the anointed and clear preaching of Christ has to be our only focus.

*'As many as desire to make a fair show in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh. But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world'*, (Galatians 6:12-14)

**Anton Bosch** (Extracted from 'Apostasy Alert')

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## Sola Scriptura

*'I have been accused of 'bibliolatry' for taking a high view of scripture. None of the contributors [to this book] has come close to doing what God Himself did when He declared in Psalm 138:2, 'Thou has magnified thy word above all thy name'. God has magnified His word above His very name; and, yes, that is indeed what the word 'above' means in the Hebrew: 'over' or 'higher than'.'* ('Sola Scriptura' Editor, Don Kistler, P.278)

## Revival, What Revival?

'On Aug. 18 the newspaper Independent published details of a report by the UK Home Office showing that while most white Britons still call themselves Christian, in practice religion plays little part in their lives. The survey, based on 15,500 interviews, showed 74% called themselves Christian. But among those who professed their Christianity, when asked what they considered important to their identity, religion was cited by only 17% of white Christians, after other factors such as family, work, age, education, gender, income and social class. By contrast, among black people, 70% of whom say they are Christian, religion was third on the list, and Asians placed it second, behind family. The survey also showed a weak Christianity among youth. Just 18% of Christians aged 16 to 24 considered their religion as important. Religion was more important for young people in other groups: 74% of Muslims; 63% of Sikhs; and 62% of Hindus.

Then, on Nov. 4, the Times published details of another study pointing to a severe decline in traditional religion, and a rise of mysticism. The study, carried out by two specialists in religion from Lancaster University, Linda Woodhead and Paul Heelas, looked at Kendal, a town of 28,000 in Cumbria. In their book containing the results of the study, 'The Spiritual Revolution', the academics observed that only 7.9% of the town's population now attends church, down from 11% two decades ago...the Times article also cited the Reverend Brian Maiden, of Parr Street Evangelical Church in Kendal, who declared that he believes that the liberalism of Christianity has turned people off it. 'The people of Britain have been inoculated with a dead, mild form of Christianity, which has given them resistance to the real thing', he said. 'It has been diluted with human philosophy'... **Mike Claydon, Apostasy Alert**

'Church of England congregations have plunged by 100,000 in two years...In 2002 the average number of people attending a church at least once a week was 1.16 million, down 108,000 from the year 2000...'

(Richard Edwards, Evening Standard, 13th. Jan, 2004)

## The Lord of the Rings

'I was once a witch and was very much a part of the world that J.R.R. Tolkien reveals in his Lord of the Rings trilogy. In the 1960's I practised Astrology, Palmistry, and Numerology among other devices of the craft. I was graciously and mercifully saved out of witchcraft by the Lord Jesus Christ...I can spot witchcraft in a moment, and I recognise it well...many Christians are being pulled into the forbidden realm of the occult...they are 'ignorant of Satan's devices'...

...I am always amazed when I hear ministries such as Chuck Colson, 'Focus on the Family', and the Assemblies of God defend such works as Harry Potter, The Lord of the Rings, and the Narnia Chronicles. I am amazed because they say the same things that initiated Coven Witches are saying, which is that good triumphs over evil! It is all Witchcraft, and the 'good' that these professing Christians are defending is witchcraft and forbidden in Deuteronomy 18:9-14. As a former Witch, I was horrified and outraged to find that 'Focus on the Family' was promoting a book...titled 'Finding God in the Lord of the Rings'...

...The Lord of the Rings trilogy was the work of John Ronald Reuel Tolkien...Tolkien became known as the 'master of the middle earth'. This was a land inhabited by hobbits, elves, mortal men, wizards, dwarves and orcs or grotesque goblins. The hero...a hobbit...carries a cursed...golden ring invested with terrible powers...The ring has an inscription on which is written a message in the witchcraft language of Runes...Runes are real and are used in the occult...

...Tolkien, a devout Roman Catholic and 'master of the middle earth', converted his colleague C.S. Lewis...There is much rank blasphemy in Tolkien's works, such as the death and resurrection of the wizard Gandalf, who falls into the pit and descends into Hell but comes back transformed and stronger than ever. Deceived Christians say that this 'good wizard' is a type of Christ!...

...The Lord of the Rings...is a clever instructional course in witchcraft disguised as fantasy and entertainment...all three movies were released at the time of the witchcraft Sabat of Yule...'

(David J. Meyer, Last Trumpet Ministries, USA)

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## C.S.Lewis - 'I Believe In Purgatory'

'Of course I pray for the dead. The action is so spontaneous, so all but inevitable, that only the most compulsive theological case against it would deter me. And I hardly know how the rest of my prayers would survive if those for the dead were forbidden. At our age, the majority of those we love best are dead. What sort of intercourse with God could I have if what I love best were unmentionable to him?

I believe in Purgatory.

Our souls demand Purgatory, don't they? Would it not break the heart if God said to us, 'It is true, my son, that your breath smells and your rags drip with mud and slime, but we are charitable here and no one will upbraid you with these things, nor draw away from you. Enter into the joy'? Should we not reply, 'With submission, sir, and if there is no objection, I'd rather be cleaned first.' 'It may hurt, you know' - 'Even so, sir.'

I assume that the process of purification will normally involve suffering. Partly from tradition; partly because most real good that has been done me in this life has involved it.

But I don't think the suffering is the purpose of the purgation. I can well believe that people neither much worse nor much better than I will suffer less than I or more...The treatment given will be the one required, whether it hurts little or much.

My favourite image on this matter comes from the dentist's chair. I hope that when the tooth of life is drawn and I am 'coming round', a voice will say, 'Rinse your mouth out with this'. This will be Purgatory. The rinsing may take longer than I can now imagine. The taste of this may be more fiery and astringent than my present sensibility could endure. But...it will [not] be disgusting and unhallowed'.

C.S.Lewis, Letters To Malcom: Chiefly on Prayer, Ch.20, Paragraphs 7-10, P.108-109

**Editors Comments: The false doctrine of Purgatory was invented in AD600 (Pope Gregory The Great) and officially defined in 1439. It teaches that sin is purged in this 'Purgatory' before entering Heaven. This contradicts many Scriptures (Matt.25:46; Mk.16:16; Lk.16:19-31; Rom.8:1; 2Cor 5:8) as well as adding to the 'finished' work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary, (Jn.19:30).**

## The Trojan Horse of Ecumenism

The seedbed of the ecumenical movement can be seen in the events of the Tower of Babel where man in wilful ecumenical pride attempted to build a tower and contain the people in one place against God's wish to spread and multiply. However, the roots of the modern ecumenical movement can be clearly traced to 1910 when 1,355 Evangelical Christians gathered together at a missionary conference in Edinburgh. The idea was to take the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the world. However, thereafter it became clear that there were two camps within the movement. The first longed to preach the unadulterated grace of God to lost tribes. The second group increasingly thought in terms of world peace and brotherhood. By the 1980's, with the influence of the *World Council of Churches (WCC)*, there was an unmistakable emphasis on political and social issues and a distaste for bold biblical evangelism including preaching on sin.

The word 'ecumenical' means: '*representing the whole Christian world; seeking world-wide unity*'. This word comes from the Greek '*oikoumenikos*' meaning '*of the inhabited earth*', (*Aust. Oxford Dictionary*). Two opposing points need to be stressed here. Firstly, the word 'ecumenical' by definition has to do with an *earthly* thing, ('*of the inhabited earth*'). In contrast, the Biblical word for 'church' is '*Ekklesia*' meaning '*called out ones*' - ie. called out of the world and from earthly things. Ecumenism is a man made *worldly* thing. In contrast, the true '*Ekklesia*' is a called out group of a *heavenly* nature. The difference cannot be understated. In opposition to the '*Ekklesia*' the modern ecumenical movement is increasingly worldly and *inclusive*. It therefore must by nature accept the broad road to include *many* rather than *few*. This is why the WCC accepts any church that 'professes Christianity', regardless of whether they accept the Bible as the Word of God or whether they accept homosexuality, liberal theologies, modernism, humanism, etc.

The WCC up until the latter part of this century was considered by most Evangelical and Fundamental churches to be apostate and even to be the work of the Antichrist in building the prophesied end-time church to come. Yet today, one by one, denominations and evangelical leaders are accepting the ecumenical movement and the WCC!

A look at the history will show the *apostasy* of the ecumenical movement and the *key players*:

1947: First world Pentecostal Conference. David Du Plessis was introduced. *This Pentecostal conference advanced the idea of worldwide unity*. In previous years church leaders in general strongly opposed the new Pentecostal doctrines. However, by the 1950's the barriers had been steadily broken down as Charismatism infiltrated mainline churches.

1950's: The *Latter Rain* teachings began to take root when false prophet William Branham brought this heresy to the USA under a new name: '*The Manifest Sons of God*'. It penetrated the *Assemblies of God* before they finally rejected it as heresy.

The *Full Gospel Business Mens Fellowship International* also hosted a World Convention of Pentecostals in Orlando, Florida, where they agreed to '*putting aside...little doctrinal points*'. Catholic keynote speaker was Father James Bertalucci, who once said: '*When the sleeping giant of Rome comes alive, watch out world...especially in a day and age where we can co-operate and collaborate in winning the world for Jesus Christ*'.

1960: Episcopal (Anglican) Dennis Bennet experienced the Charismatic gift of the 'Baptism in the Holy Spirit and tongues'. This experience spread quickly throughout Episcopalian, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Lutheran denominations.

1966: The Pope accepted the 'Charismatic renewal' in the Catholic Church. Father Edward O'Connor wrote in his book ('*The Pentecostal Movement*'): '*The new Pentecostal fire has likewise leaped from person to person, and thus has gone across the country*'. The common experience uniting Catholics and Protestants was *unknown tongues*. This caused many to accept each other as 'brothers and sisters in Christ'.

1970's: Dr. Billy Graham received the Catholic International Franciscan award for '*his contribution to true ecumenism*'.

Kathryn Kulman and other leaders began to meet with the Pope. Crusades and conferences continued with Catholic and Protestant speakers joining hands.

1973: Bill Bright promoted '*Key 73 Evangelism*' in which Catholics, ecumenists and Evangelicals were brought together as one. Dr. Billy Graham in this *crusade* recommended Roman Catholic literature including a biography of the Pope touted as a '*classic devotion*', (this included Saint worship, Marian devotion, sacraments, etc.).

1976: David Du Plessis received the *Pax Christi award* by the Catholic Church.

1977: The *Kansas City Charismatic Conference* was held. This ecumenical conference featured Pentecostals, Charismatics, Catholics, Assemblies of God, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Southern Baptists and others. For the first time several streams of Pentecostals including Catholic Pentecostals were brought together.

1979: On live TV Billy Graham publicly welcomed the Pope to America and praised him as a great '*spiritual leader*'.

1980's: 15,000 participate in the first *March For Jesus* in the UK. These marches became a catalyst in breaking down doctrinal barriers between Catholic and Protestant.

The *Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN)* saw Paul Crouch teaching *Latter Rain* heresies as well as promoting ecumenism and Charismatic faith healers.

1986: Jay Gary introduces the idea of reaching the world by 2000, which included Roman Catholic participation. Many denominations worked to set up an AD 2000 committee.

1986-88: *Coalition on Revival Congress* (1986); *North American Congress on the Holy Spirit* (1987). Roman Catholic Father Tom Forrest was one of the main speakers. A booklet was distributed with plans that included Catholics evangelising the world by 2000. In 1988 Bill Bright planned '*New Life 2000*' which brought together major denominations and para-church groups to reach the world by 2000.

1990: Ecumenical *Promise Keepers* began.

1991: Billy Graham praises the *World Council of Churches*.

1994: *Catholics & Evangelicals Together* document was signed by Roman Catholics and several leading evangelical leaders. This document stated that Roman Catholicism is 'Christian' and agreed not to evangelise each other but to work together.

It is not hard to see the connection between Pentecostalism, Roman Catholicism and shared experiences. The acceptance

of Roman Catholicism is the trade mark of the ecumenical movement. This 20th century revolution did not originate with Roman Catholicism which boasts 'it changes not', but rather from the Evangelical church!

For Christians to overlook serious differences and unite for the purpose of evangelizing the world defies the doctrine of separation and many Scriptures. It ignores the fact that Roman Catholic (and some Protestant churches) preach 'another gospel' that denies fundamental and non negotiable truths concerning such doctrines as the atonement. For example the Roman Catholic religion teaches a *continuing sacrifice* of Jesus on their altars in complete opposition to the Protestant church and Scripture, (Heb.6:6; 9:25,26; 10:11,12,18; Jn.19:30). If we love the Lord Jesus and the truth of Scripture, how can we tolerate 'another gospel'?

Some base the ecumenical argument for unity on John 17:11 '**...that they may be one, as we are**'. However, they fail to read on - verse 17 qualifies that *this unity must be in truth: 'Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth'*. The word 'sanctify' refers to *separation*. The separation here is from the evil of the world (vs.14) and it comes about through *truth!* Yet many of the ecumenical players are diametrically opposed to each other in what is truth and where it is found! John 17 also speaks of the difference between the world and the saints: '**...the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world... (vs.14)... They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world**', (vs.16). Yet by definition and practice the ecumenical movement is arguably of the world. Vs.21 also shows true unity to be the same kind of unity Jesus has with the Father: '**That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee...**' What kind of unity is this that Jesus has with the Father? It is not a unity of hypocrisy or love, but a *unity of agreement and truth!*

It comes as no surprise that the Vatican is subtly the driving force behind this ecumenical movement. Throughout history, the Roman Catholic Church has sought to bring all religions under the power and influence of the papacy. No longer able to openly force people to submit to its popes under the threat of death and persecution, the Vatican has changed its strategy to win the world. Since the close of the Vatican II Council in 1965, the Roman Catholic Church now carefully calls those outside it's fold '*separated brethren*'. She now urges all Protestants, whom she once called 'heretics', to come back home to the 'one true church'.

Tragically, many pulpits are silent on the dangers of the compromised gospel of ecumenical evangelism. Yet Paul said: '**But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him**', (2Cor.11:3-4). There are also numerous scriptural warnings for believers to remain separate from unbelievers (2Cor.6:14-17); and from believers who do not follow sound doctrine, (1Cor.5:9-14; Rom.16:17; Tit.3:10). The apostles warned that if we do not separate from false teachers we become identified with them and their error (2Jn.10,11) and risk partaking of their fate, (Jude 11-13).

Jesus and His disciples never tolerated ecumenical evangelism. They opposed the religious leaders of the day, (Matt.23:13). They did not unite with those who wanted to add the requirements of the law to grace, (Gal. 1:6-9; Jude 4).

In light of the Reformers, the martyrs who were burned by the Roman Catholic church, and great leaders such as Spurgeon and JC Ryle who opposed the same ecumenical thinking, how is it that Evangelicals are now so easily seduced by Roman Catholicism and the ecumenical cry for unity? Are they really ignorant of the 100 curses that Rome has put upon Protestants for teaching such things as the imputed righteousness of Christ (Rom.4) or grace through faith alone, (Eph.2)? *How can Christians join hands with a religion that condemns them!*

As the promised end time deception increases, more people will be led into apostasy. This is one reason why we are commanded to '**earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints**', (Jude 3). As more Christian leaders seek an ecumenical love rather than sound doctrine, the way of truth becomes more narrow and less travelled. It is not a popular stand.

One writer sums up the ecumenical movement well: '*Ecumenism is seeking to bring together all sectors of Christendom on the basis we should love one another irrespective of doctrine. To achieve this unity it shows itself willing to accept or tolerate all the false doctrines of Christendom. One Protestant church leader congratulated 3000 attendees at the National Conference of Catholics 'because', he said, 'You take the Gospel so seriously'. When asked 'Do you believe in ecumenism and co-operative evangelism?', he replied, 'I certainly do, and most of our ministers would agree with me'. Sadly this is the case.*

*Time magazine (June/97) reported a strong push within the Catholic Religion for the present Pope to declare Mary Co-redemptrix with Christ... [thus] Christ is not the only way of salvation; Mary is equal saviour. How can we fellowship with those who espouse such a doctrine? This is heresy!*

*But what of the strange teachings of Pentecostal/Charismatic preachers such as Hinn, Copeland, Hagin, etc. Kenneth Copeland is on record to have said, 'Any born again believer could have died for the sins of the world. Jesus was only the first born again believer. I [Copeland] could do exactly the same thing'.*

*How is it possible to have fellowship with these extremes within the Church today? What happened to the Reformation? Attempts to bring churches of all persuasions together without respect for fundamental doctrines of God's Word can only lead to the formation of the apostate one world Church described in the Bible as 'Mystery Babylon the great, Mother of harlots and abominations of the earth', (Rev.17:5).*

*...A 1999 report says that in Brazil 57% of the Roman Catholic religion is Pentecostal/Charismatic. While I recognise that there are many embracing this movement today who may well be born again believers, nevertheless, it would seem to me that this one factor over all others could well be that which unites all elements of Christendom in the final apostate one-world-church.*

*As we see things developing all around us, let us watch for the soon return of the Lord Jesus', (Max Barnett, Herald of Hope article, June/2000)*

The ecumenical movement which is rapidly bringing churches together has all the hall marks of love but it lacks *truth*. Many that have joined it have now forsaken the essentials of salvation and the authority of Scripture.

*Ecumenical love has sacrificed Biblical truth on the altar of church unity.*

**Terry Arnold**

## Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editors)

Dear Terry, I just had to put pen to paper after reading your article on Rick Warren's 'The Purpose driven life' [Nov/Dec/2004 P.3]. I feel so sad to see you nit-picking such a wonderful tool for helping churches bring their people closer to our Fathers purpose for our lives...You do have a very critical spirit and you will stand before God for a lot of the derogatory things you have said about brothers and sisters in Christ...a lot of your criticisms are way out of line and not done in the spirit of love that you claim to have...God is in the business of saving the lost. Doctrine has always been important to me but my security as a Christian does not depend on how well my feeble brain has been able to assimilate truth...you say you do not believe in works but by your very attitude you are saying that anything that differs from your interpretation of the gospel is wrong - works can include a reliance on being theologically correct...Your attitude to ecumenism is also very narrow. We are called to be one as God is one. Yet any sign of unity outside of denominations is perceived by you to be wrong. We are one whether you like it or not...Paul always praised the good before pointing out error in his letters. You would do well to follow his pattern...Rick chose 40 days because of its alignment with Scripture...please take me off your mailing list...

**Sub-editors reply:** We were saddened that you see our exposing Rick's blatant misuse and misinterpretation of scripture as 'nit picking'. We are comfortable with the prospect of standing before God to explain our remarks about brethren that teach error. It has always been our intention never to write in a derogatory fashion, but rather to quote what others teach and hold it to the light of scripture. Yes, our attitude to 'Ecumenism' may be 'narrow'. Truth has boundaries, error none. The ecumenism that you defend is actually 'union' not 'unity'. Diverse and mutually exclusive doctrines are now embraced by this ever growing monster. Yes, we are called to be one as God is one (Jn.17:11), but you must include vs.17 in any interpretation here - Christian unity must be in TRUTH. You suggest that we believe any unity outside of denominations is 'wrong'. Nothing could be further from the truth. We rejoice when people unite in Truth!

Your suggestion that Paul 'always praised the good before pointing out error in his letters' is refuted by even a cursory glance at his writings. Rick Warren's words regarding the 40 Days of Purpose were these: 'WHENEVER God wants to prepare someone for His purposes, he took 40 days...' You say this was written because of 'its alignment with scripture' Which scripture exactly?...

Mike Claydon

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Dear Sir, Would you please send me...copies of the 'An Analysis of Rick Warren's Purpose Driven life'. Your magazine answers my prayers to God for literature I can pass on to people who as (Christians?) cannot discern even obvious error. The churches are full of people who think they are God's children when they are not saved. It is any wonder when God's Gospel is compromised in the pastors sermons. They are too lazy to search the scriptures themselves and they accept anything the teacher says...Yours in 'the Lord our righteousness' (B.C., NSW)

### **'Mystical or Mythical? Fact or Fiction? - Mel Gibson's Film'**

*'Evangelical credulity: Evangelical Christian leaders are outdoing Roman Catholic leaders in promoting and urging their congregations to go and see Mel Gibson's film 'The Passion of the Christ'....One said 'This film is the most accurate portrayal of Scripture than any other Christian movie ever produced'.*

*Biblical Inaccuracies: I wrote in a previous article a few of the things in the film that are nowhere to be found in Scripture. Here are some more: Christ didn't fall down three times when carrying the cross...Mary didn't cling to the foot of the cross pleading to die with her son. Neither did the Devil (played by a female in the film!) visit Jesus in Gethsemane...Mary appears in almost every scene in the film but seldom in the Gospels. Her many appearances and influence throughout the film reflect Gibson's determination to promote Mary as 'co-Redemptress' alongside Christ - a doctrine that this present Pope is keen to establish before he dies!*

*Catholic incredulity:...this film...is based, not on the Gospels, but on...a Catholic nun in the 19th century...[and] mystical visions...Mel Gibson, when asked why he had used Sister Anne's account rather than Scripture, replied, 'I am not interested in Doctrine'. The Pope told him, 'Your film is exactly as it happened.'*

*Catholic Incredibility:...a first step to declaring her [Anne Emmerich] a saint (canonisation)...she needs to perform two miracles before this can be done!...The day after writing this article...the Pope beatified Sister Anne Emmerich...the film speeded up the process!*

(L.S., Kilcoy, Qld)

**Editors comment:** There is now a follow up video/CD with stories of people who have received 'miracles' and 'healings' after viewing the movie. Who could have foreseen this? The movie was arguably a clever masterpiece to introduce more Christians to the deception of the Signs and Wonders Movement. This movement the Bible says will be the very Devils deception in the endtime! All references to signs and wonders in the endtime are 'lying' or false, (Matt.24:24; Mk.13:22; 2Thess.2:9; Rev.13:13)

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*Dear Terry, Mike,...Enjoyed your Newsletter. I have also noted Dave Hunt's fanatic preoccupation with the Calvinist issue which he seems to weave into every newsletter and editorial he does. Quite frankly it is starting to turn me off, even though he still has a lot of good stuff to say. My main concern is that those who 'follow' Dave see his teaching as equally authoritative to that of the Bible and probably superior in some cases...' (L.T., Vict)*

**Sub-editors comments:** When it comes to eschatology and cults, Dave can excel. But on the subject of 'Calvinism' he continually misrepresents its premise, knowing full well that what he is saying is not what the Reformers or Puritans taught. We know this because he has been painstakingly and irrefutably shown just where his error lies. He has refused to reconsider his erroneous strawman viewpoints and now compounds the errors each time he speaks or writes. And yes, there could be millions who hang on his every word. Mike Claydon

## Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editors)

Dear Terry and Mike, I read your Sept/Oct '04 newsletter when I first received it, then again last week. It was excellent in content and wonderfully encouraging. Proverbs 27:9 says 'ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel'. Thank you for such hearty counsel.

With regards to the 'Editor's Comment' (P.1), I was taught Pelagianism from professing Christians. I am grateful that you have exposed this error to me. Salvation being monogistic is vital to the message of the Gospel! Concerning 'Misused Scriptures' (P.2), I had not realised that Joshua 24:15 was talking to believers. I usually hear it quoted as a single verse and when quoted this way it gives credibility to the Pelagian idea. 'The Problem With Many Modern Tracts' (P.3), which stated that 'Sin and its consequences are simply missing'. I agree. 'Evangelism - Puritan or Modern?' (P.5) was excellent; also the article on John Bunyan. I'm a huge fan of Bunyan's work 'The Pilgrim's Progress'. I enjoy many of the Spurgeon quotes throughout past newsletters. I have made several photocopies of your Sept/Oct newsletter to share with others. Our family continues to pray for you and we thank God, our heavenly Father, for your faithfulness in encouraging one another daily.

(K.L., Brisbane)

Dear Terry, Congratulations and praise the Lord for the work you and your people are doing...in these difficult days. One of the reasons I left the Pentecostal church was the emphasis on the foretelling of revival in the latter days, yet 2Thess.2:3 clearly says differently. And I wonder if 2Tim.3:5 is not also speaking of the church rather than the world, 'having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away'? This is why I believe your emphasis is so important...

(R.S., Sydney)

**Editors Comments: An article titled 'World revival?' (Diakrisis Feb/98) deals with this issue.**

### Praise/Prayer Points

- Praise the Lord for an increased use of the 'Eternal Questions' booklet. Please pray God will use this as a tool in evangelism to the unsaved. Pray for souls to be won.
- Praise the Lord for many who have recently been encouraged and taught by the newsletters. Pray for application of the truth in lives that will glorify the Lord.
- Pray for Terry as he considers carefully long term plans to establish a Bible Institute. Pray for God's will to be revealed; for wisdom, finances and resources to be made available.

Dear Terry, I was speaking with a missionary friend today who serves in the Philippines. On showing him the last issue of Diakrisis he displayed much interest. The magazine could serve as a helpful tool when ministering to his people in that country...

As always my wife and I appreciate and enjoy receiving and reading each issue soon after we receive them. May the Lord ever be pleased to sustain this fruitful ministry for His glory. Blessings in Christ.

(A.R., Sydney)

Dear sir, I have just recently read several books from your ministry and was sent some newsletters. I have devoured this teaching and appreciate the truth being taught. Please send more back issues of newsletters...

(N.H., Victoria)

Dear Terry,...I pray you would persevere and that this ministry would prosper in bringing many to a proper understanding of the word of God, as it has helped me to do...God bless you.

(P.T., Sydney)

Dear Terry & Mike...Thank you brothers for all the wonderful support I am getting through your ministry...Your loving brother.

(A.S., Sydney)

Dear Terry, Mike,...I have been praying for you and your families...and also what must be many good Aussie families broken up and exploited by the Pentecostals. We are involved in a vicious war...many thousands of Australians are exploited spiritually, mentally, emotionally and financially as I have been.. Most have no one to turn to. Pentecostals/Charismatics are the bridge that brought the antichrist system together with Evangelicals. Their pastors are at the point where they have been turned over to believe a lie...the videos 'Signs and Wonders Exposed' shows this exploitation...

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

***'It is better to declare the truth and be rejected than to withhold it just to be accepted.'***

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