



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

Are we deceived? We see world conditions worsening - the church falling into apostasy, teaching new things never heard of before and which are not a part of the 'faith once delivered to the saints', (Jude 3). We see the signs of the end times confirming this. Less than 40 years ago there were *many* writers, elders/pastors and churches within the Evangelical community in agreement on these things. But why are these voices now so *few*?

Are we deceived? Many claim there are revivals happening in various places and that there will be a great world wide end time revival. It is said God is doing a 'new thing'. They exhort and encourage the Signs and Wonders movement. Yet, the church is falling away and teaching things opposed to that which they taught *just decades before*. Scripture states that there will be a 'falling away' in the end, (2Thess.2:3; Matt.24:11,24; Lk.18:8; 1Tim.4:1; 2Tim.4:3,4). We check the scriptures to see what God says about signs and wonders in the endtimes and discover that He says they are *all* lying or false! Are we deluded when so many speak to the contrary? Is something wrong with us? Should we keep silent? Should we listen to that which we cannot see in Scripture? Should we run with the crowd who want the spectacular, the positive and the new?

Many are singing the tune of unity with those who Evangelicals once refused to fellowship with. Should we ignore the curses the Roman Catholic religion attaches to us for teaching such Evangelical doctrines as Faith Alone and the Imputation of the Righteousness of Christ? The ecumenical movement, once considered the tool of the antichrist, now is embraced by so many. Should we ignore the book of Revelation which speaks of the endtime mystery Babylon religion of the antichrist? Are we unloving to shun it and to remind those in it of how the great heroes of the faith warned of such developments?

Some say we are 'legalistic' in that we desire to adhere to sound exposition and test all things 'new'; and because we cling to such antiquated doctrines as 'Sola Scriptura' or 'Biblical Separation'. Why do people run from us when we ask them to show support from scripture for their new doctrines? Why is sound doctrine now described as 'just your opinion'? Why is 'doctrine' such a dirty word nowadays anyway? How is it that we are accused of 'intellectualism' when we merely dig around in the fathomless ocean of God's Word seeking for truth?

Are we deceived? Why are we found swimming against an increasing tide? Would it really matter if we just let go and drifted downstream a little? What must it have been like for our martyred brothers and sisters to have stood firmly on Scripture against the brutality of Rome; who were locked away for years in dank dungeons and walked to their fiery deaths...yet bravely resisting the same tide of apostasy that threatens to envelope us today!

Are we deceived? What does God say?: ***'Prove all things; hold fast that which is good'***, (1Thess.5:21); ***'Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle'***, (2Thess.2:15); ***'Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering...'***, (Heb.10:23); ***'But that which ye have already hold fast till I come'***, (Rev.2:25). **Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon**

The Recent Controversy Over Acts 13:48

In recent times there has been debate as to how Acts 13:48 should be rendered. The KJV reads: '**And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed**'.

Some Bible teachers have changed the word '**ordained**' and restructured the verse. Most Bible versions render the Greek root word 'τασσο' as '**ordained**' or '**appointed**'. However, the Living Bible renders the verse '**As many as wanted eternal life believed**', accompanied by a footnote '**or were disposed to; or ordained to**'. But there is a very important difference between '**wanting**' eternal life and being '**ordained to**' eternal life. One emphasises *the will of man*; the other keeps to the Greek Tense and Voice and emphasises *the will of God*.

The Greek root word 'τασσο' means 'to arrange in an orderly manner, ie. assign or dispose (to a certain position or lot); addict, appoint, determine, ordain, set'. What is vital in this passage is the *Perfect tense* for '**ordained**'. This tense describes an action or process that took place *in the past, the result of which has continued to the present*. The closest English equivalents are shown in the verbs 'has' or 'have'. The Greek *Passive Voice* also represents the subject as *receiving the action* of the verb. Acts 13:48 must be translated as showing *an action by God and done to the recipient, man!*

Bible teacher, Dave Hunt, turns this on its head and says the KJV here is tainted by the Latin Vulgate and that in Acts 13:48 '**many Greek Scholars call it a wrong translation**', that it should be translated '**as many as disposed themselves**'. He inverts the worker and workmanship which the Greek emphatically does not do! Hunt's comment '**many Greek Scholars**' is also misleading. The '**many**' are actually only a *few* in comparison to the massive weight of *most* translators and commentaries who agree with '**ordained**' or '**appointed**'!

Bible versions: Tyndale and his successors all followed the Greek rather than the Latin in this verse, the Vulgate being used as *a reference only*. In regards to Acts 13:48 the early Geneva Bible (before the KJV) had a marginal note: '*None can believe, but they whom God hath appointed before all beginnings to be saved*'. The American Standard Version of 1901, the Revised Standard of 1952, JN Darby, Moffatt, Sir Edward Clarke and S. Sharpe all have '**ordained**'. These men were not at all influenced by the KJV or by '**Calvinism**'. They used the word '**ordained**' *because it is accurate to the Greek Perfect tense and Passive voice*.

Other versions have rendered the text '**appointed to**' or '**appointed for**'. These give a similar sense as '**ordained**'. Versions that use '**appointed**' are: the NIV, Youngs Literal, Berkeley, Wuests and the New American Standard. Again, none of these were influenced by the KJV or '**Calvinism**'.

The European versions show similar translations.

Some versions such as the Amplified, J.B. Phillips and Weymouth, have '**destined**' or '**predestined**', which again attempt to keep to the *Passive Voice* in the Greek.

Today's English Version has '**chosen for eternal life**'; Good News For the World version has '**chosen to love forever**'; and G.W. Wade - '**all who had been pre-disposed by God for the gaining of eternal life became believers**'.

Greek Commentaries: The bulk of the Greek lexicons also agree with the rendering of '**ordained**' or '**appointed**':

Thayers Lexicon renders the verse: '*As many as were appointed (AV ordained) by God to obtain eternal life, or to whom God had decreed eternal life*'. Liddell and Scott, Souter, Green and others wrote similarly.

Against this massive testimony there are the *few* that diverge, such as Benjamin Wilson's 1864 '*emphatic Diaglott*': '*as many as were - having been - disposed for life age - lasting*'. This Diaglott was republished by the Jehovah Witness in 1942 to suit their *New World Translation*.

The Commentaries: Matthew Henry wrote: '*God gave this grace to believe to all those among them who were ordained to eternal life (for whom he had predestinated, them he also called, Romans 8:30)*'. Dr. Gill said '*Some would have the words rendered - 'as many as were disposed to eternal life believed' - which is not countenanced by the ancient versions. The Arabic renders it as we do, and the Syriac thus - as many as were put, or appointed, unto eternal life.*' Many other commentaries could be cited to show the massive historic testimony to this verse...Bloomfield, Barnes, Wordsworth, Matthew Poole; Bengel; Alford; Brown & Faussett...the bulk of evidence is simply overwhelming! Barnes (1849) affirmed that '*the Greek word is never used to denote an internal disposition or inclination arising from one's own self. It does not mean they disposed themselves to embrace eternal life. It has uniformly the notion of an ordering, disposing or arranging from without, ie. from some other source than the individual himself...*'

In '*What Love Is This*' (P.211) Dave Hunt quotes from an A.T. Robinson ('*Robertson's Word Pictures of The New Testament*'): '*There is no evidence that Luke had in mind an absolutum decretum of personal salvation...*' But Hunt fails to continue the quote!: '*...It was saving faith that was exercised only by those who were appointed unto eternal life...who were thus revealed as the SUBJECTS OF God's grace by the stand they took on this day...*' (emphasis ours).

Hunt compounds his error by further stating this same word 'tasso' is found eight times in the NT and that '*not one of them carries the meaning of a decree from God nor of something that is unchangeable or eternal...*' But let us test Hunt in 2 of these 8 cases! Acts 22:10 says: '*And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do*'; Rom.13:1: '*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are **ordained** of God*'. The Greek tenses in both verses are *Perfect Tense* which means something decreed in the past. The Greek Voices are again in both verses *passive* which says the subjects had no action in this but it was being done *to them!* Both verses are in fact '*decrees*' from God and '*unchangeable*' and '*eternal*' which Hunt denies! Sadly most will not bother to check Hunt's references to find him in blatant error!

If a translator, commentator or teacher finds difficulty because of their predisposed theology then they must not misquote or change the meaning of Greek words or tenses! We are to '**diminish not a word**' (Jer.26:2). '**As many as wanted to**' or '**as many as were disposed to**' is simply not the same as '**ordained to**' or '**appointed to**'. The former violates the original text. **Terry Arnold**

Book Review: 'Tell The Truth' by Will Metzger

There are thousands of books on evangelism, many advocating different methods to 'win the lost'. But very few, in our opinion, give sound doctrine as the basis for whatever method or practise is advocated. When I first was given Metzger's book 'Tell the Truth' my thought was... 'just another book on evangelism'. However, in the first few pages I read a truth which I had not read for some time: '*...a scriptural doctrine of evangelism should be the controlling element in any practice of evangelism*' (P.15).

Many books on evangelism today emphasise techniques which are not dissimilar to those used by the cults. They justify these techniques on the basis of examples who have 'come to Christ'. A certain tract is wonderful because it supposedly has miraculously won someone to Christ. This pragmatic approach to evangelism is rampant throughout modern Christendom, particularly in the west.

Metzger says '*witnessing is not just giving gospel facts but whatever we would do before the world...The way we live is a primary aspect of our witness...The aeroplane of Christian witness always has two wings: our lives (conduct) and our lips (conversation)*' (P.22).

This book lays an excellent foundation for correct thinking on evangelism: '*The background for the word witness is the law court. To witness is to testify that Christ is who He said He is. Such testimony is a means to an end - to give an eyewitness account of the truth, (1Jn.1:1-3)*' (P.23)...'*If we think wrongly about our definition of evangelism, we are likely to act wrongly in our methods of evangelism*'. (P.25)

Metzger answers a question that has often bothered us - what is the main reason for evangelism?...to 'win' numbers of souls?; to be doing the work? What is the motivation for 'winning souls'? Metzger sets the priorities right: '*The supreme object of the work of evangelism is to glorify God, not to save souls*' (P.26). This places the emphasis on God instead of self. 'Winning souls' has in some circles become a self satisfying, ego building, guilt satisfying exercise.

Metzger then concentrates on the *content* of the Gospel rather than the methods. If one asks a variety of Christians to write down the *Gospel content* in a few lines, the maze of contradictory ideas might surprise the reader. Many Christians simply do not know what the Gospel is and many will add things having nothing to do with the Gospel and salvation. But Metzger addresses this concisely and carefully by comparing a man-centred gospel to a God-centred Gospel (P.32). '*God is impotent before the sinners will - versus - God is able to empower the sinners will; God is a friend who will help you - versus - God is a king who will save you; Man is fallen, yet has the ability (or potential) to choose salvation - verses - man is fallen and will not come to God by his own will power; Man seeks truth but lacks correct facts - versus*

- man's mind is at enmity with God and none seek God; Humanity is sick and ignorant - versus - humanity is dead and lost; God exists for our benefit - versus - He exists to gather a kingdom and receive honour and glory; An attitude of submission to Christ's Lordship is optional for salvation - versus - an attitude of submission to Christ's Lordship is necessary for salvation; Goal: decisions, mental assent, immediate response by praying - versus - goal: disciples, conversion for the whole person; Get them to pray with you - versus - allow time for prayer in his or her own words, preferably alone; Trigger their residual powers for freely choosing God - versus - face them with the impossibility of saving themselves or exercising faith on their own; Challenge their will with adventure, entice their emotions with excitement - versus - present truth to their mind, call on the will to obey, expect the emotions to follow...'

Metzger urges the reader to speak to the conscience in evangelism and to focus on the message. He says: '*Teaching the truth was the basic evangelist activity*' (P.30). '*Our methods are producing professors but not possessors...a what's in it for me Gospel*' (P.97).

The book provides interesting worksheets with questions and answers on how to tackle problem people. There is also an excellent reference section to other books and specialist topics. Added to this there are various appendixes including a section on 'What is Sin'. There are sections on types of unbelievers; how to communicate personally and turn conversations; questions and answers to use in evangelism...

The book stresses the importance of the sovereignty of God in witnessing and to trust God the Holy Spirit to do whatever He wills. Metzger has some sound comments to make about the twin truths of the sovereignty of God in salvation and the responsibility of man: '*The writers of the Bible are not embarrassed to put side by side teachings that do not fit our logic. For example, Peter charges his hearers on the day of Pentecost with wickedness in killing Christ, yet admits it was all in God's plan, (Acts 2:23). Paul tells the sailors that God has promised no one will be lost in the storm, yet warns them to stay on the boat or they will perish, (Acts 27:22,31). Jesus says, 'No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him'. Yet, 'whoever comes to me I will never drive away' is also true, (Jn.6:33,44). How can this be? To our finite minds such teachings seem to be at odds with each other. We try and try to reconcile them. Perhaps we should not consider these two doctrines of sovereignty and responsibility as enemies, but rather, see them the way the Bible does - as friends!*' (P.101)

This book would make an excellent reference and remind us of scriptural foundations for evangelism.

Terry Arnold

Quotable - New Gospel/Old Gospel

'The new gospel is based on flawed philosophy (felt needs) and misguided methodology (market driven), and it ultimately crystallises into a muted gospel of self esteem and personal fulfilment. The old Gospel was about an offended God; the new gospel is about a wounded us. The old Gospel was about sin, the new gospel is about needs; the old Gospel was about our need for righteousness, the new gospel is

about our need for fulfilment. The old Gospel is offensive to those who are perishing; the new gospel is attractive. Many are flocking to the new gospel but it is altogether questionable how many are actually being saved. What we need in our churches is not a therapeutic, altered gospel that mirrors the spirit of the age, but rather the courage to become relevant by preaching the foolishness of the cross '.

(Calvary Contender, No.15, 2000)

Hillsong Disturbing Neighbours

'Sydney television news recently aired an embarrassing piece during which neighbours of the Waterloo (inner Sydney) Hillsong Church were interviewed angrily complaining of the weekly noise emanating from the services each Sunday. One person said that it was virtually a rock concert being performed in suburban Sydney at 8.30 a.m. every Sunday.'

Brian Houston, Senior Pastor of the Hillsong churches, appeared on camera saying that he would soundproof the building - to which the neighbours retorted that this had been promised before, but was never done. Said Houston: 'I can understand that people are nervous, the church is growing'.

They aren't 'nervous' Brian! Just understandably upset. Some Christian witness eh? Love thy neighbour? - not'.

('Apostasy Alert' - to subscribe, e-mail: mbc@nobbys.net.au)

Benny Hinn & K.A. Paul

T J S George: 'How to abuse God with lies and boasts' (Sunday January 16, 2005): 'A million people, or is it three million, are heading towards Bangalore...The occasion? A 'pray for India' meeting by the world's most successful Christian evangelist-preacher-converter-healer-miracle-man, Benny Hinn. Unfortunately, he is also the world's most dubious trader in religion...Apparently the man is an Arab-Israeli who became a Canadian and then an American. A list of 'lies and exaggerations' by him has been chronicled. He said...he was born with a bad stutter but God cured him so that he could do God's work. Research showed that he never suffered from stammering. He said his father was the Mayor of Jaffa in Israel. Records showed that he was a clerk in an Arab labour office. He says Jesus visits him in person and that the Holy Spirit often has one-to-one dialogue with him.'

He also holds some interesting views. He once said 'God originally designed women to give birth out of their sides'. When challenged, he denied having said this. But there was a tape that disproved his denial. His organisation's former security director is fighting a court case against him. Hinn's own lawyers say that if the director reveals the financial secrets he knows, it could lead to the organisation losing 90% of its support. The evangelist gets away with things in countries like India because he promises instant cure for everything from cancer to paralysis. His hi-tech stage shows are replete with miracles. He touches a sick devotee who then falls to the ground in a trance shaking - and gets up cured. He blows into the microphone and the Holy Spirit is dispensed into the listeners. It's commercialised theatrics at its best. This is the magician who will now 'pray for India'.

He is not alone. In the thick of the tsunami relief work, an Andhra American, K.A. Paul, landed in Cuddalore. One of the richest evangelists in the world today...He had arrived in his custom-built Boeing 747 and proudly informed a News Today reporter that only George Bush had a similar aircraft...He said he had the 'world's largest' orphanage in Hyderabad and would accommodate 5,000 children from the tsunami coasts...Surrounded by bodyguards, beauty queens and American TV crews, the boastful Paul told the hapless survivors that they were alive because of Jesus Christ...

[But] Christ - He never boasted and he only had a mule for transport...The Pauls and the Hinns...America provides them the financial means to exploit the desperation of the sick and the hopeless. Are there no legal devices that can protect us from their trickery? Let us indeed pray for India'.

Paul Cain - Fallen 'Prophet'

Paul Cain, perhaps the most renowned of the Charismatic 'prophets' has been exposed as an alcoholic and homosexual. In a bulletin published by fellow 'prophets', Rick Joyner, Jack Deere and Mike Bickle, it was stated that Cain was confronted with evidence of his sin and is under 'discipline'. Cain had '*resisted the process*' and '*continued in his sins*', ('*Faith & Freedom*' Jan/2005), but recently has submitted to discipline, (*Apostasy Alert*, Feb.25th/2005).

Over 50 years ago, William Branham, George Warnock, Paul Cain and others attempted to introduce *Latter Rain/Manifest Sons of God* teachings into the Pentecostal movement (see *Diakrisis*, June/97). Paul Cain travelled with Branham and called him the greatest prophet that ever lived. Branham fell into serious heresy and then false prophecies, (see *Diakrisis* Nov/99; also July/Aug/2003; Oct/98).

In 1949 the *Assemblies of God* officially rejected their teachings as heresy. The sect went underground but surfaced again in the 1960's as the *Manchild Company*. Paul Cain and the *Kansas City Prophets* subsequently reintroduced this false doctrine into many Pentecostal churches.

In 1990 John Wimber and *Vineyard* leaders, including the remnants of the *Kansas City Prophets*, came to England. They prophesied that revival would spread across England in that year beginning June. This was revised later to come into line with a visit by Wimber in October. Wimber, as well as Bob Jones and several leading Charismatic leaders, embraced this prophecy which later proved to be false. On the final day of that year, 1990, Paul Cain unsuccessfully commanded the Holy Spirit to come down.

Bob Jones also had prophesied that God was raising up a 300 strong army of 'overcomers' to defeat the enemies of Christ and to prepare the way for the second coming. Many Charismatic leaders challenged these 'prophets' to repent. This was rejected. Revival did not come and still has not come to England. In fact, the situation has deteriorated as is clear by several reports of the state of the churches in general.

New Plenary Indulgence?

(Vatican City, Jan. 14, 2005) '*John Paul II has approved a special plenary indulgence to mark the Year of the Eucharist. According to a decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, during the Year of the Eucharist a plenary indulgence may be gained by participating in acts of worship and veneration of the Most Holy Sacrament, as well as by praying...before the tabernacle.'*

Editors Note: A Plenary Indulgence is a pardon (granted and allowed by the Pope) for sins; and granting the release of a soul from 'Purgatory'. In number 1471, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains that 'An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints'. Number 1479 adds: 'Since the faithful departed now being purified are also members of the same communion of saints, one way we can help them is to obtain indulgences for them, so that the temporal punishment due for their sins may be remitted'.

The Indonesian Disaster - What is God Really Saying?

(The following are notes adapted from a sermon available from this ministry - see P.8)

The recent Indonesian disaster (Dec.26th/2004) has shocked the world. An earthquake of approximately 9.0 on the Richter scale caused Tsunami waves to obliterate whole villages and wipe out islands. At the time of writing, the death rate climbs above 200,000. In graphic horror the media has shown old and young alike being swept away to their deaths.

The reaction of our religious leaders has shocked this ministry. It is plainly obvious many of our church leaders have not told their flock the truth!

How does God answer the following questions?:

1. Are earthquakes of God, Satan or 'mother nature'?
2. Why does God allow this? Is God fair? Is He unfair?
3. What is God really saying?

1. Are earthquakes of God, Satan or 'Mother Nature'?:

What does Scripture say? Is.29:6 (The fate of Jerusalem) '*Thou shalt be visited of the Lord of hosts with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest, and the flame of devouring fire*' - an act of God.

Matt.27:54 (The crucifixion) '*Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God*' - an act of God.

Matt.28:2 (The resurrection) '*And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it*' - an act of God.

Acts 16:26 (Peter is set free from Prison) '*And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed*' - an act of God.

Rev.6:12 (The sixth seal/judgement) '*And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood*' - an act of God.

Rev.8:5 (The trumpet Judgements) '*And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake*' - acts of God.

Rev.11:13 (The two prophets are killed and resurrected) '*And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell...*' - an act of God.

Rev.11:19 '*And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail*' - acts of God.

Rev.16:18 (The Granddaddy of all earthquakes - the vial/bowl judgements) '*And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. 19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, [Interestingly, Sumatra was moved 100 meters to the East in this Indonesian Tsunami] and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon*

men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great'.

Earth quakes are under the control of God and are reminders of His power and pending judgement.

2. Why does God allow this? Is God fair? Is He unfair?

Many of the Indonesians never heard the Gospel. Is that unfair? Some reply that Romans 1:20 'covers' them '*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse*'. But this only shows there is a God but it does not explain the Gospel and is not about salvation.

Romans 9:14-22 has some answers arguably applicable to the disaster and reminding us of God's sovereignty: '*What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion...the Scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor? What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.*'

This is a real test of the acceptance of the doctrine of the 'sovereignty of God'! Church leaders are saying 'good people died!', but there is none 'good' but God, (Matt.9:17; Mk.10:18). Neither are the Tsunamis victims worse than us... Lk.13:4,5 '*Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish*'.

But how does God feel about the following?: The devastated nations (Indonesia/Sri Lanka, etc) are some of the most recognised areas in the world for paedophilia; are the largest Muslim nations; and nations that worship countless false Hindu gods.

Media Reports showed an Indian woman surrounded by dead bodies, on her knees with arms outstretched to heavens crying, sobbing, 'Why, God, did you do this to us? What have we done to deserve this?' In a land where people worship over 330 million gods, when disaster strikes, they turn to the one true God and demand to know why He did it! A similar scene was shown on a beach in Indonesia where a man mourning the loss of his entire family, looked to the sky and demanded to know from God why He did this to him. He did not make his demands to Allah, but rather to the one true God! *People are either thanking God for their survival or demanding from Him an explanation, even to cursing Him*. This is the way it will be in the end! (Rev.16)

The countries that suffered this disaster have *persecuted the true Church* for centuries. Eight of those nine countries - Malaysia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Somalia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, India, and Indonesia are among the top fifty nations that persecute Christians; the Maldives, Myanmar and Indonesia rank among the top ten.

An example of how *not* to give a Christian answer to this disaster was recently shown when the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, spiritual leader to 70 million Anglicans, wrote in London's *Sunday Telegraph*: 'The tsunami disaster in Asia begs the question why we believe in God. Faced with the paralyzing magnitude of a disaster like this, we naturally feel more deeply outraged - and also more deeply helpless...The question: 'How can you believe in a God who permits suffering on this scale?' is therefore very much around at the moment...The traditional answers will get us only so far...What can be said with authority about these terrible matters can finally be said only by those closest to the cost. The rest of us need to listen; and then to work and, as best as we can manage it, pray...'

Similarly, Tim Costello of *World Vision* in an article 11th Jan, 2005, titled 'The Best and Worst of Times - Reflections on the Asia Tsunami Experience', wrote: 'What happened is an affront to what it means to be human...How do we have confidence in the sea now...Here in Australia we ask, 'How can I believe in a sovereign, protective, omnipotent God and square that off with a tsunami?...How do you still believe in that sort of God?...when you are in that position of not suffering it is always wrong to give an easy answer. The tsunami is an act of nature. It is not judgement on the sex trade in Thailand or the military regime in Burma or Islamic faith in Indonesia. It is a shifting of plates. Well, the mystery of silence - that we can't give answers - is sometimes the best...Well this is not my God, who does not play favourites. Others who have argued that this is really sent to try the world and it is a warning reinforce a cruel God and not a saviour I worship. I believe in a God who has created a world where plates shift and earthquakes occur...and the possibilities that some things will go wrong...'

Both Williams and Costello have failed to tell the people what *Scripture* says of earthquakes! *Scripture* is supposed to be their 'authority'! It is not just about a 'shifting of plates'. Nor is it a 'mystery of silence'! Both men have failed to give any answers from *Scripture* at all, but have reacted on an emotional and logical level! Both have failed to point people to God's plan of repentance towards God and faith in Christ.

Anglican Dean of Sydney, Phillip Jensen, finally spoke some *Scriptural* sense: 'natural disasters are a part of God's warning that judgment is coming'. Jensen was immediately castigated by other religious leaders. Neil Brown, Dean of Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral, described Jensen's comments as 'a rather horrible belief when you begin to think about it'.

But... *God's nature and His Character does not change before, during or after a terrible catastrophe.*

'Why' is not the question...but rather: Lord, what are you really saying?

3. What is God saying?:

Lk.21:7-11 'And they asked him, saying, Master, but

when shall these things be? and what sign will there be when these things shall come to pass? And he said, TAKE HEED THAT YE BE NOT DECEIVED: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, BE NOT TERRIFIED: for THESE THINGS MUST FIRST COME TO PASS; but the end is not by and by...GREAT EARTHQUAKES SHALL BE IN DIVERS PLACES, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven'...28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then LOOK UP, AND LIFT UP YOUR HEADS; for your redemption draweth nigh'.

In Matthew 24 and Luke 21 Jesus is asked what will be the signs of His coming again and end of world. He speaks of earthquakes, pestilences...He calls them the beginning of 'sorrows'...or 'birthpangs' - (Matt.24:8 '...All these are the beginning of sorrows')

Are we in, or approaching, this 'time of sorrows'? Since Israel became a nation in 1948 there has been an 80% rise in earthquakes and in greatly diverse places. The United States Geological Survey reports that the number of major earthquakes worldwide from 1990 to 2003, in just 14 years, increased from 16,612 to 31,336...an astonishing 88.8%!

What is God saying? Vs.8 'Take heed that ye *be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them*'. This disaster will aid in the uniting of religion and have spiritual leaders calling for unity - the aims of the antichrist will be aided and abetted to a greater degree than ever. This is spiritual deception. The WCC general secretary Sam Kobia, Lutheran and Roman Catholic leaders are calling for the uniting of religions and political changes, yet there is no mention of the messages in Matthew, Luke and Revelation!

Instead of re-echoing the question 'why', we must give the answers to people from *Scripture*.

What is God saying? Vs.9 'be not terrified for *these things must first come to pass*...vs.11 '*great earthquakes shall be in divers places*'. Expect more and greater earthquakes! The earth is groaning in travail as the labour pains increase in size and the length between them shortens.

What is God saying? Vs.28 'And when these things begin to come to pass, then *look up and lift up your heads*...'

What is God saying? 'except ye repent, ye shall *all likewise perish*' (Lk.13:5)...But Jesus Christ has paid the ransom...Prepare yourselves spiritually to understand the times.

We weep with those who weep, pray for those who suffer, give and go in missions and bear bold witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in Southeast Asia and in our own country.

Earthquakes are under the control of God and are reminders of His power and pending judgement.

God's Nature and Character does not change before, during or after a terrible catastrophe.

'Why?' is not the question, rather: Lord, what are you saying?

God is saying: 'Take heed that ye *be not deceived*'; '*be not terrified for these things must first come to pass*'; '*lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh*'.

We must prepare ourselves spiritually to understand the times! Terry Arnold

Your Comments and Questions

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

[Sub-editors comments in bold and brackets] *Dear Terry and Mike, I must say that I am surprised at some of the things I've read about Charles Finney in 'Diakrisis' and by Iain Murray. These comments portray him as a man who was 'way off track', and unfortunately Finney is not here to defend himself. (D.H., Qld.) [He doesn't have to be...read his sermons and writings...Finney was severely refuted when he was alive but you never hear of that today. There were many mainline churches that strongly opposed his 'new measures'. His theology was considered by many to be heresy! Is it not heresy to teach a second work of entire and complete sanctification on earth? Is it not heresy to teach against the imputed righteousness of Christ, striking at the very heart of the Gospel? Is it not heresy to teach man can make and produce revivals by using certain methods? Is it not heresy to teach against original sin and its imputation from Adam?...]*

Your comments portray Finney in a very different light to other materials, including comments by great men of God. I've read Finney's 'Lectures on Revival' as well as his autobiography and 'Holy Spirit Revivals'. [Have you read his 'systematic theology' notes?...that is where the heretical doctrines come through clearly...]

I respect him and am persuaded that he was mightily used by God. [But did he teach heresy in the above areas or not?] Sure, he wasn't perfect, but I do not believe for a moment that he was way off track. [He was considered at the time to be more than just unorthodox but was exposed by many leaders of the day. Do you believe in the imputed righteousness of Christ in salvation? (Rom.4) Do you believe in original sin imputed from Adam? (Rom.5) Finney denied all these things. Would you agree with Finney in an

'Entire Sanctification' for this life?...

I cannot help wonder if some of the negative things written about Finney stem from the fact that he taught that a revival can occur any time that God's people meet His conditions. [No, they stem from the fact that he clung to well known heresy. But the fall away rate in his 'revivals' was high, unlike others (Whitefield, etc). Finney admitted this before he died and his co-workers saw the devastation years later when people fell away from their 'professions'. We strongly suggest you read some works by such men as MacArthur, RC Sproul and others who document these things clearly and warn the modern church that this is exactly where we are heading again.]

This doesn't square with some writers' view of God's sovereignty, so I wonder if Finney has thus become a target. [Only because he was in error. He is also the father of many errors in modern times, such as the 'altar call', 'easy believism', faith without repentance, 'decisional regeneration'. Sadly, his 'new measures' to obtain revival are adopted today en masse.]

*Finney's 'Lectures on Revival' inspired people and inspired prayer. [So do the sermons of Robert Schuller, Benny Hinn and T.D. Jakes!] It was a blessing to me personally, and contained good counsel. I continue to respect him. [Finney was a confessed Pelagian. Pelagianism was a serious heresy in the 3rd century fought against by the church fathers. Arminianism is its sister originating out of what some call 'semi-Pelagianism'... (see *Diakrisis* Sept/Oct 2004; also July/Aug/2004)]*

Most of the great divines refuted Finney strongly and named him as the father of much heresy and false revivalism.] Mike Claydon

What Does God Think of Mixtures?

Many doctrines have their foundation in the Old Testament. For example, the 'blueprint' for the doctrine of separation can be seen in Leviticus 20:23-26 ***And ye shall not walk in the manner of the nations...I am the Lord your God, which have separated you from other people. Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean...26 And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the Lord am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.'***

What God thinks of *mixtures* can be seen in the Old Testament which sets the foundation for the spiritual in the New Testament. God shows his displeasure in Ezra 9:2: ***'For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands...'*** Again, in Leviticus 19:19: ***'Ye shall keep my statutes. Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind: thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed: neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woolen come upon thee'***.

In the New Testament the 'seed' is often likened to the Word of God, (Matt.13). This is not a mixture of scriptural truth and error. This seed is pure and unadulterated and with no mixtures. ***'Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God...'***, (1Pet.1:23).

The problem with a mixture is that it produces a *sterile hybrid* - something that cannot reproduce itself. A horse and a donkey when mated will produce a mule. But Mules cannot reproduce Mules. Similarly, a hybrid Christian cannot reproduce a true seed born again believer. Only the pure Word of God without any mixtures can do this. Mixtures of truth and error bring false conversions.

In the New Testament 'leaven' is a symbol of evil, false doctrine and sin (Matt.16:6-12; 1Cor.5:6-8; Gal.5:9). God's warning on such a mixture of leaven and truth is clear: ***'...Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened'***, (1Cor.5:6,7).

Spiritual mixtures produce confusion and confusion often brings division. The enemy has sown much false seed into the body of Christ, (Matt.13:25). The apostle Paul dealt with a mixture of Judaism and the true faith and in the third century the church and state *mixed*, resulting in pagan Christianity and Roman Catholic tradition. The 20th Century has new mixtures such as 'theistic evolution', 'Christian Rock music', 'Christian psychology' and 'spiritual drunkenness'...

The will of the Lord is our sanctification, (1Thess.4:3); and this must be in the ***'unleavened bread of sincerity and truth'***, (1Cor.5:8). Terry Arnold

Your Comments and Questions

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

Important Audio Tape Available

Recently Terry Arnold preached two sermons. The first 'Six Signs of the Endtime' was preached before the Indonesian disaster. The second, 'The Indonesian Disaster', was delivered soon after. Because of the conflicting commentaries and preaching by religious leaders on the Indonesian catastrophe, we feel this audio tape would be excellent to recommend to our readers as well as to be copied and distributed to others. (Cost \$4 + postage)

Dear Terry, I have been listening to several of your audio tapes. The sermon 'Pull Up! Pull Up!' touched my heart. Ever since I have been reading 'Diakrisis' (since last October) I have been overcome by the wonderful truth in the Word of God. Every morning for many years I would record Joyce Meyer and Gloria Copeland believing they were teaching truth, although several times my mind would question things they said. I enjoyed the 'showmanship' of clothes, jewellery, etc. I realise now I was being entertained by false prophets.

I threw myself into the word of God and it warns us of false gods and wolves in sheeps clothing. 'Diakrisis' is a brilliant tool of truth and I am very grateful to you. I cannot get enough of them. Since my first copy of 'Diakrisis' I have never again viewed the above false ministries. During those years there was always the niggling that this was not of God, but because the Bible was always opened and they referred to it often, I viewed them as on the straight and narrow. However, I now know quite differently. Please send me more back issues. God bless you all. (N.H., Vict.)

Dear Terry, Warm greetings! I hope and pray that you are well. Thank you for your faithfully sending me 'Diakrisis'. I have read your editorials without fail and have found them excellent. I particularly enjoyed your article on the state of the church....I'm a Seventh Day Adventist but I am open minded enough to read the literature of other denominations and to acknowledge good where it is expressed. Bless you all, (K.W., Mareeba, Qld)

Praise/Prayer Points

- Praise the Lord for the many letters we receive requesting more information. Pray for the provision to continue to send out this information.

- Pray for the upcoming Sydney trip. Pray for guidance in what to teach. Pray for safety and health for Terry and his workers.

Dear Terry, Mike, I do sympathise and empathise with you when I read responses such as the person requesting to be removed from your mailing list (Jan/Feb, P.7) due to comments regarding 'The Purpose Driven Life'. I have met you only one time at your last tongues seminar held in Brisbane, and did not find you at all a belligerent type of person. I believe you are simply trying to serve God with a whole heart, and there are those who greatly appreciate your ministry. God bless you in your efforts and outreach. It is before our Master that one stands, and we shall stand, for it is God who upholds, (Rom 14:4). Yours in Christ, (H.S., Bris.)

Dear Terry, Please send me copies of 'An Analysis of Rick Warren's 'Purpose Driven Life'...just about all the churches in Kyabram are using this junk. It is amazing how they all get sucked into these new ideas. The latest thing in Qld. churches is called 'soaking'. They sit in a circle and say nothing - just soak up the 'spirit' - and after two hours they shake all over... (J.&V.S., Vict.)

Terry's Itinerary

(Sydney Itinerary - yet to be completed)

May 1st (Sun) 9.30am & 11am Allowera Baptist, Riverstone Ph.0413128569

May 1st (Sun) 7pm Soul Salvation Youth Assembly, Strathfield Ph.96216926

May 4th (Wed) 8pm Kingsgrove Gospel Youth, Ph. 96216926

May 6th (Fri) 7pm Combined Guildford Christian Assembly Ph.88077725 & Wentworthville Arabic Baptist Ph.96799442

May 7th (Sat) 7pm Church For Everybody, Marrickville Ph.95534818

May 8th (Sun) 10am Church For Everybody, Marrickville Ph.95534818

May 10th (Tue) 7pm Ishak Home Group, Mt Druitt Ph.0425277794

May 11th (Wed) 7pm Ishak Home Group, Mt Druitt Ph.0425277794

May 13th (Fri) 7pm Ishak Home Group, Mt Druitt Ph.0425277794

May 15th (Sun) 12pm Combined Wentworthville Arabic Baptist Church Ph.96799442 & Guildford Christian Assembly Ph.88077725

May 18th (Wed) 7pm Independant Baptist Church, Wagga Wagga Ph.(02)69265804

May 21st (Sat) 10am **Seminar** - Foundations For Evangelism & Discipleship, Cootamundra Bible Fellowship (02)69421027

May 22nd (Sun) 10am Cootamundra Bible Fellowship Ph.(02)69423541 or (02)69421027

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