



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 comment

How do you, as a Christian, *think* on difficult Biblical issues? There are many ways one can think: objectively, subjectively, logically, pragmatically, emotionally... Whatever mode of thought we employ, when thinking on Biblical doctrine, it is imperative our thoughts be filtered *objectively* through a mindset of *Sola Scriptura*, (2Tim.3:16-17). This should ensure that we rightly divide the Word of Truth, (2Tim.2:15).

The application of 'objective thinking' is all but obsolete today. Current emotive and logical thought processes have driven Christian exegetical understanding well outside the boundaries of scripture. Indicative of this trend is today's emphasis on the 'Love of God' whilst at the same time dismissing His justice, wrath and judgment upon sin. Added to this is the pragmatic 'end justifies the means' philosophy which has ushered in an enormous shift in the way Christians 'think' today.

Are we employing logic or emotion when studying scripture? Or are we rightfully viewing what it is saying objectively? There is nothing wrong with thinking in a logical or emotional manner. However, when dealing with Biblical 'doctrine' it is imperative that our thought processes be objective to allow the facts of the text to be properly understood.

A test I have used when teaching students in Colleges is to ask questions that test the emotional and logical content of their thinking. For example, I ask: 'Do all infants that die go to be with the Lord'? Answers usually vary: 'Yes, scripture implies'; 'It would only be fair if they did...an injustice would be done if not'; 'They must, because God is love'. Then I enquire of them: 'What does the Bible say on this subject'? It soon dawns on them that scripture is arguably silent on the matter. The great Charles Spurgeon admitted he could not find from scripture a belief that babies went to heaven at death and he was not prepared to base a doctrine on it. His thinking was *Sola Scriptura*.

Another topic that shows the way we think is that of the 'Predestination and Election' of the saints. Too many Christians use emotion and logic when attempting to understand this doctrine. Important passages found in Ephesians 1 and Romans 9 are often ignored or twisted to show a bias toward the unbiblical notion that fallen man is able to 'seek' and 'choose' salvation of his own volition. Many simply cannot bring themselves to believe that a loving God might will to choose some and not others. But again, the question that should guide our thinking is 'What do the Scriptures really say about this'?!

Similarly, the doctrines of Hell and Perdition are wrongly fuelled by logically and emotionally applying the 'love of God' method of eisegesis. This thinking against an eternal punishment in Hell may well be logical and valid to *our* thinking. But it nevertheless contradicts plain scripture.

It is the written Word of God that divides between soulish and spiritual thinking, (Heb.4:12). His thoughts are far above ours and it is beyond us to comprehend such a gulf. In an effort to interpret the texts, we so often go astray when we apply our fallen emotive thoughts to verses that seemingly contradict our view of God.

How do you *think*?

Terry Arnold

Some Quotes On Music

Music is a language: *'You can research the findings in science, psychology, biology, history, philosophy, musicology, and theology and not find anything referring to the moral neutrality of music. This fallacious belief found not only its beginnings, but also its sole supporters, within the Contemporary Christian Music Community. If there were any credible evidence from any source outside CCM that music (apart from its text) had no formal influence on the listener, we would be glad to quote it here. But in more than twenty five years of reading and researching the topic, we have yet to find a single reference supporting the neutrality of music.'* (*'Harmony at Home'* by Tim Fisher, P.84)

'When I was with the Fleshtones we toured a lot of countries where people didn't speak much English. I remember in Spain, the audience didn't know what the words meant, but they would sing along. It was a real tribal type of thing...it was the rythmn...that got them. They had no idea what they were singing, but it didn't matter. Later it occurred to me that some of my favourite songs are ones where I don't really know what the words mean, but I like the way they make me feel.' (Robert Warren, Rock bassist/singer/songwriter)

'...tragically, most Christians measure the effectiveness of music by the yardstick of the flesh, not the yardstick of the spirit. If a song thrills us we like it. If it doesn't excite us, we don't like it.' (*'Harmony at Home'* by Tim Fisher, P.74)

Rock Music: In the early 1950's Cleveland Disc Jockey Allan Freed, revolutionised the music world. Borrowing a ghetto term for sexual activity, he coined the term *'Rock N Roll'*. The Encyclopedia Britannica for 1956 described *'Rock n Roll'* as *'insistent savagery...deliberately competing with the artistic ideals of the jungle.'* The Christian community at the time cried against this *'tool of Satan'*. (*'Christian Rock: Blessing or Blasphemy?'*, Dial The Truth Ministries)

Rock star David Bowie said *'Rock has always been the devils music'*. (*Rolling Stone*, Feb.12, 1976, P.83)

Secular rock bad girl Lita Ford, said: *'Listen, rock n roll aint church. It's nasty business. You gotta be nasty too. If you're goody goody, you can't sing or play it'*. (*Los Angeles Times*, Aug.7th, 1988)

'Christian Rock': *Time Magazine*, March 11, 1985, called Christian Rock Music *'New Lyrics for the devils music'*.

'Instead of simply saying 'Rock music is worldly', teach your children what 'the world' is from 1John 2:15-17 and other related passages. Teach them that the world isn't just material things but a system of thinking ('cosmos') contrary to God's way of thinking.' (*'Harmony at Home'*, Tim Fisher P.50)

'It is true that rock music attracts people to church, but not to godly living'. (*'Harmony at home'*, Tim Fisher P.134)

Christian Contemporary Music (CCM): *'...some within the CCM camp are beginning to make the same observations...In 'Contemporary Christian Music Magazine', a regular contributor, John Fischer, expressed his concern about the subject matter of CCM. Consider these excerpts from his article 'Watering Down God': 'I noticed it during a coast to coast drive across Florida...listening all the way to a Christian hit radio station. The focus of almost every song was the love of God, but at the end of this two hour marathon*

I can't say I found out anything distinctive about God's love, except that it was real, it drowned me in the sea, it flowed all over me, it put its arms around me and held me close, and it generally made me feel pretty great. But the disturbing fact was that most, if not all of these things, could have just as easily come from someone other than God. There was no Cross in this love. No sin. No guilt. No redemption. No commitment. No cleansing. No forgiveness. No blood. No death. No heaven. No hell. No saviour. No need to be saved. Just love. Lots and lots of it oozing out all over. These were not songs about God's love, they were songs about love in general, with God named or implied as its source'. (*'Harmony at Home'* by Tim Fisher, P.131)

'Stan Moser, former head of Word Records...was one of the pioneers and most important executives in CCM. After 26 years in CCM, in November 1995, he walked away from CCM. In an article in 'Christianity Today', titled 'We Have Created a Monster' Mr Moser freely admitted: 'To be candid, I look at the majority of music today and think it's virtually meaningless.' (*'Christianity Today'*, May 20th 1996, P.27)

- CCM artist Michael Card: *'The lyrics of a good number of songs don't betray anything specifically Christian...What happens when we start getting the music to as many people as possible? There is an essential part of the Gospel that's not ever going to sell. The Gospel is good news but also bad news; 'You are a sinner and you are hopeless'. How is a multi-million dollar record company going to take that? (Christianity Today: 'Can't Buy Me Love', May 20, 1996, P.25)*

The Fruit of CCM: CCM is littered with fallen leaders even to this day. *'Sandi Patti was committing adultery with Don Pesli as far back as 1991...she took part in two extra-marital relationships, in both cases with married men. A large part of Sandi Patti's career - she was committing adultery with married men...Sandi's adulterous appetite 'wrecked' two families. On Aug.6th, 1995 after divorcing her first husband, she married Don Pesli'*. (*'Christian Rock: Blessing or Blasphemy?'* by Dial The Truth Ministries referring to an article in *Christianity Today* 1995, Sept 11, P.72-74; Oct.23, P.89)

Pragmatic Thinking (Rom.3:8): *'But what about those who have been saved?' you may ask. Let me use a simple illustration to respond. When you travel by car, you often see graffiti near the streets and highways of our nation. Suppose you were driving down an interstate highway and noticed on a bridge that someone had spray painted 'Trust Jesus'. Would it be possible for someone driving by to read the words and become convicted?...Perhaps the phrase would call to mind a Gospel tract or a sermon...The Holy Spirit could use the message to convince this person of his sin - even to trust Jesus. Would the person be genuinely saved? Of course; and any Christian would rejoice at his conversion. But what about the person who spray painted the bridge? Do we hail him as a great witness? Do we praise his innovation in getting the Gospel out? No...this person has broken the law. It's not legal to spraypaint bridges. Were people saved? Yes. Do we excuse the illegal method because of apparent results? No. 2Timothy 2:5 tells us 'And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully'*. (*'Harmony at Home'* by Tim Fisher, P.136,137)

Warning: 'The Great Controversy'

At regular intervals the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) religion sends out free copies of the book 'The Great Controversy' by Ellen G. White. Recently we received this book in the mail from an organisation calling themselves 'Leaves of Autumn', based in Victoria. There is no evidence on the accompanying brochure that this is identified with SDA. This is a common and deceptive ploy of SDA.

'The Great Controversy' was a book written by false prophetess Ellen G. White. (It occasionally has been disguised under a different title). It contains teachings such as the 'Investigative Judgement' which contradicts and confuses the finished work of Christ. Over many years we have documented Ellen G. White's false prophecies. She claimed to be a prophet and her writings to be inspired by God. The SDA religion officially writes: 'Seventh day Adventists hold that Ellen G. White performed the work of a true prophet during the seventy years of her public ministry. As Samuel was a prophet, as Jeremiah was a prophet, as John the Baptist, so we believe that Mrs. White was a prophet to the church of Christ today'. (1) Ellen White herself said: 'It is God, and not an erring mortal that has spoken in representing God almighty' (2); 'I do not write one article expressing my own ideas. They are what God has opened to me in vision'. (3) The SDA Website teaches the same, (see *Diakrisis*, Nov/Dec/2001). All this is contrary to scripture, (2Pet.1:20; Rev.22:18).

Ellen G. White copied large quantities of her work from other authors without permission, yet stated (and believed by Seventh Day Adventists), that her writings were from God. Walter Rea's 'The White Lie' documents large quantities of evidence of this 'plagiarism' (theft) in Ellen White's writings. Much of 'The Great Controversy' too was lifted from other writers.

Ellen G. White's false prophecies are well documented. (4) After the failed return of Jesus in 1844 Ellen White indicated that the return was still close. The following prophecies are now *over 150 years old!*:

- 'I saw that we are now in the shaking time.' (*Testimonies*,

P.429 - she taught the 'shaking time' was just prior to the coming of Jesus).

- 'Just as soon as God's people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. Indeed it has already begun', (*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol.4, P.1161).

- 'Now the time is almost finished, and what we have been years learning, they will have to learn in a few months', (*Early Writings*, P.57).

- 'I was shown (in vision) the company present at the conference. Said the angel, '...Some, food for worms; some, subjects of the seven last plagues; some will be alive...at the coming of Jesus', (*Spiritual Gifts*, Vol.4, P.18, 1864). [All these people died 130 years ago!]

- 'Not one ray of light comes to sinners since 1844, but all are left to the devil', (*Early Writings*, P.46,47).

- 'The seal of God is His Holy Sabbath', (*Thoughts on Revelations*, P.452). [Defies Scripture and 1,700 years of the 'faith once delivered' concerning the seal of God in salvation]

- 'Not a soul living on earth when Jesus comes will be saved unless he is thus sealed by keeping that day [Saturday Sabbath]', (*Early Writings*, P.11).

- '...here we have the mark of the beast. The very act of changing the Sabbath to Sunday on the part of the Catholic church', (*Mark of the Beast*, P.23). [Defies Scripture and secular and Christian history where Sunday was kept in the first few centuries before the Roman Catholic religion began]

- 'Meat eaters will not be translated to Heaven', (*Testimonies* No.1: 187). [Reader see Col.2:16; 1Tim.4:4]

- 'Certain races of men are the result of amalgamation between man and beast', (*Spiritual Gifts*, Vol.3, P.64,65).

The SDA religion was once classified a 'cult' because of its false teachings and prophecies concerning the deity of Jesus and especially the *atonement*. Readers, be not deceived.

Terry Arnold

(1) Review & Herald 4/10/28, P.11 (2) *Testimonies* Vol.3 P.257 (3) *Testimonies*, No.31, P.63 (4) See 'A Close Encounter With Seventh Day Adventism' by Mark Duckworth, available from this ministry.

Sanctification/Holiness

The word 'sanctification' ('*hagiasmos*') is translated 'holiness' (8 times) and 'sanctification' (6 times). The two words are synonymous. '*Hagiasmós*' refers not only to the activity of the Holy Spirit in setting man apart unto salvation as one of the redeemed, but also to the ongoing work to effect the separation from sin and the world.

These two aspects of Sanctification, the *setting apart* and the *ongoing work* of the Holy Spirit, are called by some *Positional Sanctification* and *Progressive Sanctification*.

The Positional aspect of setting apart is seen in God's choosing of us and His predestination. This is shown in such phrases as '*from the beginning*' (2Thess.2:13); '*he has chosen us...before the foundation of the world*' (Eph.1:4); and '*did predestinate*' us, (Rom.8:30). All these passages refer to the sovereign work of God in setting us apart.

This setting apart is then for the purposes of the ongoing work necessary for us '*to be conformed to the image of his Son*', (Rom.8:29). This ongoing work of Sanctification is part of God's salvation plan in changing our character,

speech, conduct, mind, will and emotions.

In the Old Testament the temple furniture was *set apart*, not to be used for anything else but for the service of the Lord. This furniture was never to be polluted or soiled in any way by mixing it or using it for other purposes. The Holy never touched the profane. This furniture was then sprinkled with animal blood many times.

The New Testament tells us that God has set us apart even from the foundation of the world (Eph.1:4), and we are washed in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ at salvation and throughout our life on earth. One work makes our position perfect with God, the other work changes our character. The evidence of this will be the '*fruit of the Spirit*' (Gal.5:22), and the '*fruit of holiness*', (Rom.6:21,22).

Holiness is God's desire in us and thus this should be our desire! Spurgeon said: 'Those men who despise holiness of heart are in direct conflict with God. Holiness is the architectural plan upon which God builds up his living temple'. ('*The Key To Holiness*', P.33) **Terry Arnold**

Rick Warren - What He Teaches

Rick Warren on the Fundamentals of the Faith:

'Today there really aren't that many Fundamentalists left; I don't know if you know that or not, but they are such a minority; there aren't that many Fundamentalists left in America.

Now the word 'fundamentalist' actually comes from a document in the 1920s called the Five Fundamentals of the Faith. And it is a very legalistic, narrow view of Christianity'.

On Catholicism: *'The small group structure is the structure of renewal in every facet of Christianity - including Catholicism. I would encourage you to look at this evolving alliance between evangelical Protestants and Catholics, particularly in the evangelical wing of Catholicism. Now when you get 25 percent of America, which is basically Catholic, and you get 28 to 29 percent of America, which is evangelical, together, that's called a majority. And it is a very powerful bloc, if they happen to stay together on particular issues'.*

Warren's mentor: *: 'Peter Drucker (Famous secular motivational speaker)...he's my mentor. I've spent 20 years under his tutelage learning about leadership from him.'*

Ecumenism: *'Who's the man of peace in any village - or it might be a woman of peace - who has the most respect, they're open and they're influential? They don't have to be a Christian. In fact, they could be a Muslim, but they're open and they're influential and you work with them to attack the five giants. And that's going to bring the second Reformation. Last week I spoke to 4,000 pastors at my church who came from over 100 denominations in over 50 countries. Now, that's wide spread. We had Catholic priests, we had Pentecostal ministers, we had Lutheran bishops, we had Anglican bishops, we had Baptist preachers'.*

On the Gospel: *In the video that accompanies the '40 Days of Purpose', Warren leads his listeners in prayer at the end of the first session. The prayer goes like this:*

'Dear God, I want to know your purpose for my life. I don't want to base the rest of my life on wrong things. I want to take the first step in preparing for eternity by getting to know you, Jesus Christ. I don't understand how but as much

as I know how I want to open up my life to you. Make yourself real to me. And use this series in my life to help me know what you made me for'. Warren goes on to say: 'Now if you've just prayed that prayer for the very first time I want to congratulate you. You've just become a part of the family of God'.

Warren would be hard-pressed to find biblical backing for this presentation of the gospel. We find nothing here about sin, grace, repentance, the person of Christ, Calvary, faith, judgment or the resurrection. This is the ultimate in a mutilated, seeker-sensitive gospel: the seeker comes to Christ in order to find his purpose in life, not to receive forgiveness from sin and the righteousness of God. Then, to pronounce someone a fully-fledged member of the family of God because he prayed such a prayer (based on minimal, if any, understanding of the person and work of Christ), is tragic.

On Music: *'Rick Warren at his saddleback Church 25th anniversary 'did something he had wanted to do for a long time'. He sang Jimi Hendrix's drug drenched song 'Purple Haze' to his congregation, accompanied by his 'praise and worship band'! There has never been anything innocent and pure about Rock-'n'-roll (not to speak of holy). From it's inception it has had two grand themes: licentiousness (sex, drugs, etc) and rebellion, and this is nowhere more evident than in the music of Jimi Hendrix..' ('O Timothy', No.5, 2005)*

On Separation: *'Rick Warren was in Birmingham, England last week and spoke before the Baptist World Alliance. He said that the Southern Baptist Convention leaving the apostate Baptist World Alliance was 'silly'. If anyone can look at what belongs to the Baptist World Alliance and claim that the SBC leaving it was 'silly', I have one thing to say: God help you. Warren went further and said, 'I see absolutely zero reason in separating my fellowship from anybody'. Rick Warren has positioned himself in direct opposition to Holy Scripture which tells us in 2Corinthians 6:17, 'Come out from among them and be ye separate and touch not the unclean thing'. Scripture also tells us, 'And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them', (Ephesians 5:11). Rick Warren is in gross disobedience and worse, is leading millions astray. [An article on why the SBC left the Baptist World Alliance followed]...*

(Source: Apostasy Alert, July-August/2005)

Revival or Apostasy?

'So what kind of revival do we really need and what brings it about? Does it involve manuals and workbooks, 40-Day programs, 50 Day Spiritual Adventures (remember those back in the 80's and 90's?), Alpha programs...Purpose-Driven lives, 5-point Peace Plans, churches that are emerging, churches that are retreating, fun churches, mystical churches, rule-driven churches...Marches for Jesus...

...What does real revival entail and what or who brings it about? Clearly not the evangelical pulp mills. They're laughing all the way to the bank and the church is sicker than ever...'

(Apostasy Alert, July/2005)

Church Applies For Liquor License

'Paddington Uniting church is the first church in the state to apply for a liquor license...'having a beer in the church hall is not so different to sharing wine in the communion service', according to parish minister the reverend Warwick Cadenhead.

And hosting alcoholics anonymous meetings during the day and functions with alcohol at night was not a contradiction, he said...

Mr Cadenhead said the church wished to foster creativity by providing a performance venue for struggling artists....'
Daily Telegraph, June 8th, 2005 (Sth Australia)

Gifts, Babies and the Bathwater...

The following is a letter containing relevant and topical questions we have received from many readers. We pray our reply will encourage *Sola Scriptura*:

Dear Terry & Mike, Thankyou for sending 'Diakrisis', I always enjoy the contents. However, there are a few points in which I would like your guidance. The Word speaks of the gifts and there is no indication that these gifts will be confined to the apostolic era; in fact, in our Lord's parting message he said 'I am with you until the end of the age' after naming the gifts that would follow 'those that believe'

Also, in the subject of 'false prophets': certain passages of Scripture seem to indicate that both our Lord and St. Paul were quite open minded on these subjects, (Mk.9:38; Phil 1:16-18). I hasten to add that I do not endorse false teachings, neither do I espouse the Charismatic movement with a lot of its extravagant 'name it and claim it' dogmas. However, I hesitate to 'throw the baby out with the bathwater' if you pardon the expression. Certain evangelists have preached to millions of people who had never heard the name of Jesus. Maybe not all conversions are genuine, but if only 1% believe, is that not something to rejoice about; the Lords Word does not return void, (Is.15:11)...

Statement: 'The Word speaks of the gifts and that there is no indication that these gifts will be confined to the apostolic era. In fact, in our Lord's parting message He said 'I am with you until the end of the age'; this was after naming the gifts that would follow 'those who believe'.

Our reply: It would be easy to say the gifts have or have not ceased. However, we find this answer shortchanges the question and does not teach valuable truths concerning the 'sign gifts'. The real issue can be understood by posing another question: *what was the purpose of these gifts?* Let us answer this question in brief:

There are at least 19 gifts. These include 5 gifts in Romans 12; 5 gifts in Ephesians 4; and 9 'sign gifts' in 1Corinthians 12. That makes a total of at least 19 gifts! Sadly, many Christians who emphasise the nine 'sign' gifts are hardly aware of the existence of the other gifts in Romans and Ephesians. Then to add to the problem, the emphasis on the 9 'sign gifts' usually goes further with emphasis on just *one* of those gifts - the gift of 'tongues'. This is despite the Bible listing this gift as the *least of the gifts* in a descending order in 1Cor.12:28-30.

The *purpose* of these 'sign' gifts has been largely forgotten today. The gifts in 1Corinthians 12 were called 'sign gifts' because they *pointed to* something or someone. A sign post points us to something. The 'sign' gifts pointed to and approved the *Messiahship of Jesus Christ* and the *credentials of His Apostles*. The following Scriptures prove this:

'And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples...But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God...', (Jn.20:30,31); **'...Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs...'**, (Acts 2:22).

When John the Baptist asked the disciples for *proof* of the *identity of Christ*, Jesus did not at first verbally answer the question, but rather 'in the same hour' performed the 'signs' as proof. Following this He then said to His disciples: **'Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are**

cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached', (Lk.7:21-22). The proof of the Messiahship of Jesus was the very signs and wonders He performed!

Other verses (below) also make interesting reading when one considers the tenses of the verbs used: **'Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds'**, (2Cor.12:12); **'How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost...'**, (Heb.2:3,4). The Greek uses the *aorist indicative* - the action is specific at a set point in time past rather than continuous. With these and many other scriptures, do we need again today to prove the Messiahship of Jesus or the credentials of the Apostles?

Despite what one would believe concerning the continuation or re-appearance of the sign gifts in history, it is fact that the gifts of the first century did historically cease in operation. Chrysostom (AD345-407), Augustine and others unequivocally referred to these gifts as having ceased. This same consensus is also made by the great leaders down through the running centuries, (see article in *Diakrisis*, Sept/Oct. 2003 '*The Sign Gifts in History - The Facts*').

So, the next question is: have the 'sign' gifts been *restored* today? The answer is again found in the answer to another question: *Are those gifts being today claimed as authentic the same as they were in the first century?* Let us take one area of the gifts and examine this - '**the gifts of healing**':

We must first clearly distinguish between 'healing' by God Himself and the 'gift of healing'. The two are today sadly confused. The former is no doubt possible at any time. The second, however, refers to a 'gift' residing in a *human*. Let us note the characteristics of this 'gift' of healing as it was experienced in the first century: (Scripture references are only a small selection from the Gospel of Matthew):

1. **Jesus and His disciples performed the healings:** Mk.3:14,15 **'And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils'**.

Matt.10:1 **'And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease'**.

2. **They healed 'ALL' & 'EVERY'** (Matt.4:23,24; 8:16; 9:35; 10:1; 12:15...) Compare this with today's claims - the 'healers' today simply do not heal '*all*' and '*every*' person.

3. **The healings were instant:** (Matt.8:3; 20:30...'**immediately**'). Compare this with today's 'healings'.

4. **They healed completely:** (Matt.12:13,15 '**whole**'; 14:36 '**perfectly whole**'...). Compare this with today's faith healers.

5. **They healed at will:** (Matt.8:3). Compare this with the numerous failures today.

6. **They healed organic diseases** - that is, diseases that cannot be cured by psychosomatic means, (Matt.4:23,24; 9:35; 15:30). Compare this with today - for example, *AIDS and Downs Syndrome are 'organic' diseases which simply have never been cured!* And why do faith healers purposely shy away from such people who have these symptoms?

Christians who say the gifts have been restored need to examine the claimed 'gifts' today and see that they simply do

not match the 1st century gifts and are not evident in any man on planet earth! Today we clearly have a counterfeit.

Added to this is the testimony of Scripture: Trophimus was 'left sick', (2Tim.4:20); Timothy took a little wine for his stomach ailment, (1Tim.5:23); Paul had a 'Thorn in the flesh', (2Cor.12:7-9); and Epaphraditus 'almost died'! (Phil.2:25).

Something else which should be a warning to us today - in every place in inspired Scripture where *signs and wonders* are mentioned to do with the *end times* - they are *always false* or *lying*! (eg. Matt.24:24; 2Thess.2:9; Revelation, etc).

Statement: *'The...Lord's parting message He said 'I am with you until the end of the age'; this was after naming the gifts that would follow 'those who believe'.*

Our reply: The Lords parting message is not found in the passage concerning the '*signs* [not '*gifts*'] *that would follow 'those who believe'*", (Mk.16:). The words '*I am with you always, even unto the end of the world*' actually occur in Matthew 28:20 and have nothing to do with the '*gifts*'. However, let us look at Mark 16:16-18: '**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover**'

Who is the passage addressed to? A look back at verse 14 tells us clearly: '**Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.**' The reference here is clearly to '*the eleven*' - the Apostles.

In verse 17 the phrase '*them that believe*' is referring to those who did believe, not those who would believe at that time or in the future. [Another example of the same Greek grammar is: '*And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all*', (Acts 27:35)]

All the '*signs*' here, except one, were actually fulfilled! The demonic deliverance and healings were fulfilled many times (eg. Acts 5:14-16); the '*Tongues*' were fulfilled in Acts ch.2,10 and 19; and the handling of snakes was fulfilled in Acts 28:3-6. But what about the '*drinking of poison*'? The phrase here is '**and IF they drink any deadly thing**'. The '*if*' is *hypothetical*. This could well have occurred amongst the disciples. However, no record is given or needs to be given.

Mark 16 is simply not for the present, nor for all Christians. *Such signs have already served their purpose - to prove the Messiahship of Jesus and the credentials of His disciples.* We now have the closed canon of Scripture - the very inspired Word of God. We are warned in Scripture that the signs and wonders in the end time will be *lying, false* - counterfeit. If the '*sign*' gifts were restored today, then we should be able to compare them favourably with the 1st century gifts.

Statement: *'Also, the subject of 'false prophets', certain passages of Scripture seem to indicate that both our Lord and St. Paul were quite open minded on these subjects, (Mk.9:38; Phil.1:16-18).'*

Our Reply: Both passages, Mark 9 and Philippians 1, do not in any way refer to '*false prophets*'. The passage in Mark is referring to another disciple doing a miracle in Jesus name. The passage in Philippians is referring to the way in

which the *true Gospel* was preached! These passages in no way refer to '*false prophets*'. *References to false prophets by Jesus or the apostles were nothing short of scathing!* Jesus and the apostles were never '*open minded*' about false prophets but warned against them as '*ravens wolves*' (Matt.7:15); that they would '*deceive many*' (Matt.24:11); and that they would lead many astray in the end with false and lying signs and wonders, (Matt.24:24). They are linked with false teachers who would bring in '*damnable heresies*' and make '*merchandise*' of God's people and we are warned not to follow the '*pernicious ways*' of these '*brute beasts*' and that they are like '*dogs*' who go back to the '*vomit*', (1Pet.2:1-22). We are to test them, (1Jn.4:1). Jesus and the apostles were not '*open minded*' to false teachers or false apostles.

Statement: *'...I do not endorse false teachings, neither do I espouse the Charismatic movement with its extravagant 'name it and claim it' dogmas. However, I hesitate to 'throw the baby out with the bathwater'...certain evangelists have preached to millions of people who had never heard the name of Jesus. Maybe not all conversions are genuine, but if 1% believe, is not that something to rejoice about?; the Lords word does not return void, (Is.15:11)...'*

Our reply: The '*baby with the bathwater*' analogy is today urgently in need of rigorous testing! Is false teaching or even a mixture of it really an innocent '*baby*'? Or is it a '*snake*' that has devoured the church for too long? God hates mixtures! (Lev.20:23-26; Ezra 9:2). We are supposed to be born of an '*incorruptible seed*', (1Pet.1:23). God hates '*leaven*' in our lives. '*Leaven*' in the New Testament is a symbol of sin, false doctrine or error, (Matt.16:6-12; 1Cor.5:6-8; Gal.5:9). God's warning on 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). We are told to have the '**unleavened bread of sincerity and truth**', (1Cor.5:8). The Charismatic movement is not a '*baby*' but a movement that was born out of *new* Pentecostal teaching at the turn of the 20th century. It was opposed strongly by the leaders of the day. One called it '*the last great vomit of Satan*'. But slowly by the middle of the 20th century this disguised '*baby*' infiltrated one denomination after another and so the '*Charismatic movement*' was born.

The fact that some (even '1%') are converted through '*certain evangelists*' ministries is simply because the Gospel is '**the power of God unto salvation**'. If people are converted it is because of God and His Gospel, and *despite* any false evangelistic effort. The thinking that because a false teacher or false prophet has seen '*conversions*' and thus God endorses the '*evangelist*', is actually dangerous pragmatic thinking. This evil thinking is rife in the church today and God detests it: '**And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come?...**', (Rom.3:8). The question here requires a negative answer - Paul is saying '*God forbid that we should do evil that good may come*'. Any lukewarmness here brings this response from God: '**So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth**', (Rev.3:16).

We highly recommend the Videos/DVD's '*Does the Truth Matter Any More*' by John MacArthur, available from this ministry. They address some of these issues very well.

Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon

Your Comments and Questions

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

SDA Letter/Our Reply

Dear Terry, Mike, I appreciate your editorial July/Aug...your strong words against the SDA organisation...I am an SDA...I believe men of courage and learning such as yourselves try to be honest. Lets cool down, get objective and attempt to agree with God and not what we would have...I invite you both to comment on my effort below. I challenge you to!

In 'Evangelical Speak' you speak of being saved by grace alone. I believe that...salvation is a gift. But can't all gifts be abused? Sin is transgression of the law...Are there sinners in heaven? The Bible says whatsoever is not of faith is sin. Faith without works is dead.. Could this be a definition of salvation? We are saved by grace through faith alone but the faith that saves is never alone. We are saved by a faith that works, because unless it works it is not genuine faith. That would be the whole gospel teaching would it not? I challenge you to publish this letter in 'Diakrisis' and comment.

Mike, you said SDA demands that one keep the Sabbath and Jewish dietary laws. The Commandment, does it not, says 'the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord?' All his commandments are sure, they stand fast forever and ever', (Ps.111:7,8). The Sabbath is the day before the 1st day of the week, (Matt.28:1). Jesus said 'Not one jot or tittle shall pass from the law until all is fulfilled'. Also read Is.66:22,23. Was all fulfilled at the cross? There is one sacrifice for sins (to be forgiven)...Why would Jesus need to 'forever liveth to make intercession for us' if the work of salvation was finished at the cross? Heb.7:25 says he is able to save to the uttermost all, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for us. Rom.5:10: 'How much more are we saved by his life (than by his death) we are saved more by his life of intercession to the uttermost. Jesus promised to pray that the Holy Spirit would abide with us forever'. Jn.14:16 - His intercession is an ongoing work of salvation. The reception of the Holy Spirit is a greater gift than forgiveness of sin, I believe, though both are necessary for salvation. I believe the Bible teaches us that and we are Born Again by God's Spirit, (Jn.3). Incidentally what does Heb.9:25-28 mean - observe the wording carefully.

As for Dietary laws - He who defiles the Temple of God, God will destroy. SDA's and Jews are not the only group who warn against unclean foods. In the days of the Gospel most foods were natural and fresh. Meat was a lot healthier...preservatives, artificial fertilisers, poisonous sprays, additives, all add to the peril of supermarkets today. Bless your food and eat it? Would you bless a dirty book and read it; would one bless a dog and eat it; or a snakes head?

We (SDA's) do not believe Jesus was the archangel Michael more than we believe Jesus was the Son of man (ie. of a man). In Daniel 12:1 it says Michael that great Prince will stand up (because he was kneeling in prayer - Christ ever liveth to make intercession for us) and earlier it calls 'the prince, the Messiah', (Dan.9:25)...who then is the great prince? I have never heard one SDA call Jesus the archangel Michael.

God has discarded the Jews? SDA's teach individual Jews will come to Jesus in the last days. 'All Israel shall be saved'.

The dead are asleep: Ecclesiastes. says 'the dead know nothing'. If the righteous dead went straight to heaven, why would the righteous dead suddenly enter the grave again just before Jesus comes again and be raised from the dead? Jesus

said when he raised the young girl from the dead that 'she sleepeth' and they laughed him to scorn. Also comment on David's dead state, (Acts 2:34).

Sunday is the Mark of the Beast: Sunday is the first day of the week. 'He who breaks the least of my commandments breaks them all'. 'Teaching for doctrine the commandments of men'. 'In vain do they worship me', Jesus said. Roman Catholicism first brought in Sunday worship. Paul kept the Sabbath with the Jews and Gentiles in Acts where it is recorded, (Acts 13:42; 18:4). Jesus blessed, sanctified and kept the Sabbath and He was God. I don't believe for a moment He was Michael the Archangel and I am SDA.

The remnant in Rev.12:17 keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus. Rev.19:10 says that is the spirit of prophecy. Joel 2:32 says 'the remnant whom the Lord shall call'. The opposite to the Mark of the Beast is Rev.14:12: 'here is the patience of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus...'

If you feel I am in darkness please tell me why from the scriptures...Bless you, (K.W., Mareeba, Qld)

Editors reply:

Faith/works: It is true that a true faith will have works. But it is not by works or keeping of the commandments we can ever be saved! Gal.2:16 '...by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified'. (See also Rom.9:32; Gal.3:2,5,10).

We have yet to meet one person who has not sinned after being saved. Sin is missing the mark of the law of God. The law to SDA's seems mostly restricted to the ten commandments. But the context of the word 'commandments' is often referring to the whole word of God, not just the ten commandments.

No one can keep the ten commandments perfectly. That's why we have Jesus as our substitute! If you live by the law then you must keep the law perfectly and that is what you will be judged by. Most SDA's break their own laws every Sabbath! - the Israelites were stoned for this.

The Sabbath issue: 'The seventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord' (Lev.23:2-10; Dt.5; Ex.20:10); Who is God speaking to here? - the scriptures above specifically refer 'to the children of Israel' under Moses! And no New Testament scripture applies this requirement to the church. Ps.111:7,8 is not referring to the ten commandments but here rather to God's Word in its entirety and in creation.

The error in SDA is a wrong understanding of the law and of substitution in the person and work of Jesus Christ. It was Him who 'fulfilled the law', (Matt.8:17; Rom.8:4). The Bible says we also fulfil the law by his substitution and in His love, (Rom.13:8-10; Gal.5:14). Yes, all was fulfilled at the cross! Col.2:14 - He nailed it all to the cross! Is.66:22,23 says nothing about the law being unfulfilled. If you do not believe Jesus fulfilled the law at the cross then what is your hope in salvation from such a law?

Jesus' intercession: His intercession is not for our Justification! We have already been justified from the penalty of the law. He intercedes for us as a high priest for our continued Sanctification to Glorification. We are still

‘being saved’ and made holy, (Heb.7:25). Intercession means someone acting on behalf of us. The Holy Spirit also does this in our prayer, (Rom.8:26,27).

Heb.9:25-28 says he bore our sins *once*. They are not again to be ‘investigated’ and ‘blotted out’ as SDA teach so blasphemously in the ‘Investigative Judgement’ doctrine.

Dietary laws: The ‘defilement of the temple of God’ is in the context of *adultery*, not dietary laws! *We are free to eat any foods now*, (Rom.14; 1Cor.8 &10). 1Tim 4:3,4 says ‘*seducing spirits and doctrines of devils*’ will come and ‘*command to abstain from meats*’ and ‘*every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving*’! There is no such thing now as ‘unclean food’. What food today is ‘*a dirty book*’, a ‘*dog*’ or a ‘*snake*’ in the light of such scriptures? However, we agree that from a human health perspective there are foods that are better or worse. But *no man is to judge another in food*, (Col.2:16)!

‘Soul Sleep’: The scripture quoted in Ecc.9:5 is referring to the *body*, not the soul! ‘*For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten*’. The Old Testament (OT) details on the state of the dead are sketchy. It is erroneous to build a doctrine on such from the OT. However, just ahead of Ecc.9:5 is this: ‘*Then shall the dust [the body] return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it*’, (Ecc.12:7).

The error of ‘soul sleep’ comes from a confusion concerning the difference between ‘*hell*’ and the ‘*grave*’ in the OT. The Hebrew word for hell is ‘*sheol*’. ‘*Sheol*’ corresponds to the Greek ‘*Hades*’ in the NT. In Matt.11:23 Jesus alludes to Is.14:13-15 using the Greek word ‘*Hades*’. Jesus at death went to ‘*sheol*’ but was raised from the grave. (Also Ps. 16:10 and Hos. 13:14 are quoted in the NT (Acts 2:27; Acts 13:35; 1 Cor. 15:55).

The problem occurs when, depending on the context, ‘*Sheol*’ is translated ‘*hell*’ (30 times), ‘*grave*’ (31 times) and ‘*pit*’ (3 times). The OT writers simply saw little more than a ‘place of the dead’. Little distinction is seen until the New Testament. However, another Hebrew word transliterated ‘*qever*’ is used only referring to the *grave* or burying place. In Job 17 we have vs.1 referring to the *body* being in the ‘grave’ (‘*qever*’) but in vs.13 the reference to ‘grave’ is ‘*sheol*’ referring to the *soul*.

The scripture used in Ecclesiastes for ‘soul sleep’ is actually referring to the *body* being in the grave!

It is also curious as to why the SDA and other cults use Ecclesiastes to teach ‘soul sleep’ yet fail to quote other scriptures which clearly teach *consciousness in hell* (‘*sheol*’)!: ‘*The strong among the mighty shall speak to him out of the midst of hell [‘sheol’]*’, (Ezek.32:21); ‘*Hell [‘sheol’] from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us?*’, (Is.14:9,10); (see also Ps.16:10).

The New Testament is remarkably clear on ‘soul sleep’! In Matthew 17 Moses and Elijah are speaking in the presence of God; in Luke 16 a ‘*certain rich man*’ in Hades speaks and feels; in Luke 23:43 the penitent thief is

promised ‘this day’ to be with Jesus. Paul’s says in 2Cor.5:6-8: ‘*Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord...We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*’

New Testament ‘*sleep*’: As in the OT, ‘*sleep*’ is used in the apostolic church as a euphemism for death. Stephen is said to have fallen ‘asleep’ when he died as the result of stoning, (Acts 7:60). In John 11 when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead the two understandings of ‘*sleep*’ are shown by the use of different Greek words (and thus different Strongs numbers - see vs.11-13). In many places ‘*sleep*’ is obviously death, (Acts 13:36; 1Cor.11:30; 15:51; 1Thess.4:14). You mention the ‘*young girl raised from the dead*’ in Matthew 9:24 - here natural death is spoken of by Christ as ‘*sleep*’ which would be followed by an awakening in the present world. She would be raised from it as a person is from natural sleep. To Jesus, who sees the future as the present, the girl was ‘asleep’ rather than dead, for he was about to call her back to life.

As for Acts 2:34 - this is quoted from Psalm 110:1. David did not ‘ascend’ into heaven as Jesus did. Peter here is preaching the Gospel and the resurrection to the Jews.

Sunday the ‘Mark of the Beast’?: Roman Catholicism did not ‘*first bring in Sunday worship*’! There are numerous quotes available to show Sunday was already kept by the early Christians in the first three centuries before Roman Catholicism was established or it decreed Sunday as a day of worship. After Christ ascended, the apostles and Christians assembled on the ‘*1st day*’ of the week (Sunday), breaking bread and fellowshiping together, (Jn.20:19,26, Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:1,2). The early church Fathers, (from Justin Martyr (100-165AD), Ignatius (110AD) to Cyprian (200-258AD), all spoke of keeping Sunday. All the great leaders, (Jerome, Huss, Wycliffe, Luther, Calvin, etc) all kept Sunday. The New Testament *nowhere* mentions any command to keep the seventh day *or* Sunday as the Sabbath. Adventists confuse *rest* (‘*Sabbath*’) with *worship*! Christ is now our ‘*rest*’, (Heb.4). The Bible says to judge no man on the Sabbaths (Col.2:16), and that it is up to the individual as to which day he chooses, (Rom.14:5,6). Christians should likewise not judge SDA’s for keeping Saturday. They are judged already for making it a legal requirement.

As for the teaching that Sunday worship is the ‘*mark of the beast*’: The ‘mark of the beast’ is clearly described in the book of Revelation. It is a mark placed upon ‘all’ and signifies allegiance to the regime overseen by the Biblical Antichrist. It is also a requirement for commercial activity during the time of his short reign. Absolutely *nothing* is said of Sunday worship. Revelation 14:12 simply does not teach this! And the ‘commandments’ in this scripture is not the Sabbath but the whole Word of God.

Acts 13:42; 18:4 do not say Paul ‘kept the Sabbath’ as the Jews did. He simply went into the Synagogue on their Sabbath to *preach the Gospel* as each of your scriptures show.

Jesus - Michael the Archangel?: You say you do not believe Jesus is Michael the archangel and have never heard SDA teach this? Yet you use Scriptures from Daniel to imply Jesus is an angel? SDA’s literature makes references to this: (‘*Spiritual Gifts*’, Vol.4, P.58; ‘*Desire of Ages*’, P.99; ‘*Story of redemption*’, P.173...).

Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon

Houston/Hillsong on ABC's 'Australian Story'

The ABC's *Australian Story* on Monday 1st. August was a profile of the Houston family. Brian and Bobbie Houston, both senior pastors of the Sydney mega-church *Hillsong*, were interviewed over their lifestyle philosophies and history in the development of *Hillsong*. Brian Houston also heads the National Executive of the *Assemblies of God* in Australia.

At no point was the Christian gospel truth revealed. Houston says: *'I am an absolute believer in the potential of people, and I want to do everything I can do to bring that potential out of people, to get them believing in themselves, to get them believing in whatever endeavour in life they're called to'*. In one teaching class a whiteboard was being utilised with the words 'Self Esteem' in bold letters upon it.

Pastor Houston spoke briefly on the subject of his late father's paedophilia as if it had come as a surprise to him. Yet, Frank Houston was banned for life from preaching in his native New Zealand *before* travelling to Australia in the late 1970's to begin, (in what many saw as outright rebellion), the *Christian Life Centre* movement. This was common knowledge for many years. When the story broke in Australia Brian Houston wrote to his many pastors suggesting that this matter not be divulged to their assemblies. Finally, he had to stand his father down from ministry due to public pressure. To sanitise this event, as was attempted in the interview, shows how far the movement is prepared to go to ensure survival.

Pastor Houston seems to be rattled by criticism and intimidated that those that dare expose the errors in their doctrines are in some way envious of their quite visible growth. He continually sees it as necessary to defend the owning of a beautiful home, expensive wristwatch and a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Brian explicitly claimed in a 2004 television interview that he was a 'property developer' and took no money from the Church coffers. Yet in the ABC interview he denied that he was a developer and he stated that he took a salary from *Hillsong*. Why the contradiction? He also claimed to have paid the costs of publishing his books, yet takes no monies from the sales. These statements raise more questions than answers.

What both he and his wife fail to recognise, is that the valid unfavourable comments levelled at them and their

movement have absolutely nothing to do with their flamboyant lifestyle. No sensible person begrudges them their wealth and assets. It is their DOCTRINE that concerns those that raise their voices in protest at what is presented as Christianity in *Hillsong* assemblies - especially to the youth of today.

The health and wealth gospel is antithetical to the simple gospel of Christ. Houston and *Hillsong* are appealing to the selfish felt needs of a generation of younger people. The sermons have little doctrinal content and are laced with much psychology and 'positive thinking' success philosophy.

Troublesome too is their validation of Roman Catholicism as Christian - again, recently revealed in a press release from Houston's desk congratulating Cardinal Ratzinger on his election as Pope. Add this to all their spurious Pentecostal doctrines and you have a syncretic amalgam that betrays the very truth of the Christian gospel. Again and again they have been urged to rethink their stance on Rome. Frank Houston once preached against the evils of the Vatican - and we applauded him for that. However, his son sees it as politically expedient to embrace the papacy.

In dealings with the media they show great naivety. They defend matters in their personal lives that really have no bearing on the Christian message. In the end they reveal themselves as entrepreneurs heading a human potential movement based on heretical health and wealth doctrines.

Practically every popular heretic and false prophet worldwide has graced *Hillsong* pulpits during the last few years. False prophet Benny Hinn was a keynote speaker at one of their National Conferences; and Kenneth & Gloria Copeland, Joyce Meyer and Rodney Howard Browne have been flown in to indoctrinate the congregations into their false teachings.

Understandably these matters are never explored by the secular media. One cannot expect the producers of a programme such as *Australian Story* to be aware of errors taught within the *Hillsong* movement. The glitzy baubles of wealthy lifestyles attached to Christian ministry is what they find so intriguing. That leads to the viewers being left unaware of the dangers lurking in this ever expanding phenomenon now falsely promoted as the 'Emerging Church'.

Mike Claydon - *Apostasy Alert* - 2 August 2005

Spurgeon on the Millenium

'But persons are curious to know what kind of dispensation the Millennial one is to be. Will the temple, they ask, be erected in Jerusalem? Will the Jews be positively restored to their own land? Will the different nations all speak one language? Will they all resort to one temple? and ten thousand other questions. Beloved, we cannot answer you. 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him'.

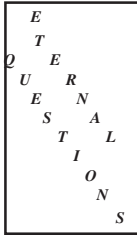
We do not profess to understand the minutiae of these things. It is enough for us to believe that a latter-day glory is approaching. Our eyes glisten with joy, in the full belief that it is coming; and our hearts swell big at the thought that our Master is to reign over the wide, wide world, and to win it for himself. But if you begin questioning us, we tell you that we cannot explain it.

Just as under the legal dispensation there were types and shadows, but the mass of the people never saw Christ in them, so there are a great many different things in this dispensation which are types of the next, which will never be explained till we have more wisdom, more light, and more instruction. Just as the enlightened Jew partially foresaw what the Gospel was to be by the law, so may we guess the Millennium by the present, but we have not light enough: there are few who are taught enough in the deep things of God to explain them fully. Therefore we still say of the mass of mankind - 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered the heart of man, things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit', in some measure, and he will do so more and more, by-and-bye.

(Charles Haddon Spurgeon - 'Heaven', 1Cor.2:9,10; Dec.16,1855)

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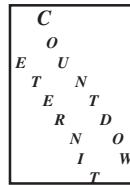
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Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, I was asked by someone who is considering their stand with the Sydney Anglican Church - and someone who is deeply concerned about the Ecumenical issues/a la Roman Catholicism strengths. Simply put: 'Why do the Anglicans and RC priests/ministers wear robes? And is there a link between them with the Prayer Books, Infant Baptism and stained glass windows - and the naming of the Anglican Parishes after Saints?... (A.O., Sydney)

Editors reply: Not all Sydney Anglicans wear robes. The robes are a throw off from pre-Reformation days (and after) when 'clergy' were distinguished from 'laity'. The early church in the first few centuries had no such things...

The Anglican Prayer book: originally came out of the English Reformation and somewhat separated and distinguished Anglicans from Roman Catholics in England.

Infant Baptism: This is likely a throw off from Roman Catholicism, although many Anglicans do not hold to 'Baptismal Regeneration' but rather a 'covenantal' view. Infant Baptism is traced to AD 370 when many began to baptise infants because of the mortality rate and later to the belief in (Roman Catholic) Baptismal Regeneration (see *Diakrisis*, May/June 2002 for the Protestant history). It became compulsory in the Roman Empire AD 416.

Stained glass windows: Probably a traditional, cultural and artistic trend developed after the first few centuries.

The naming of Anglican Parishes after Saints: The Roman Catholic tradition held to 'saints' who were 'canonised' after death. However, many Anglican churches are called after writers in Scripture, such as St. Paul, etc.

Dear Terry, we have a concern...can you help? It concerns *Demonic Deliverance for Christians*. We realise the Charismatics are heavily into this - Wagner, etc. However, we find that Christians - (Baptists etc) are drawn into this.

You have covered many topics in 'Diakrisis'. Would you have a paper on this subject that we could pass on to people...Many thanks, (D.G., W.A.)

Sub-Editors Reply; We have in the past published articles concerning this particular subject ('Neil Anderson, *Demonisation & Scripture*' - *Diakrisis*, July/Aug.2002 P.2). A teaching audiotape by Terry Arnold on '*Spiritual Warfare*' and another from the U.S., '*Heresies of Demonisation - Neil Anderson a Critique*' are available from this ministry. Also, an excellent video presentation is also available: '*Delivered from the Power of Darkness*' - this depicts the work of missionaries within formerly unreached tribes and graphically answers the many thorny questions surrounding this subject.

We firmly believe that it is impossible for a regenerate person to be possessed by the demonic (1Jn.5:18). To be sure, many Christians are 'oppressed' by Satanic entities - and the battle often rages with them in the mind, (2Cor.10:4,5). '*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;*) 5 *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*'.

Hope this helps? Mike Claydon

'Bfriend' - What Would John Wesley Think!

'Bfriend is a programme of UnitingCare Wesley Adelaide providing support for people of all ages who are wondering about their sexuality and/or people who are newly identifying as same sex attracted/gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender/queer...Bfriend has paid staff and a number of volunteers...Bfriend was externally evaluated in 1997, the evaluation concluding that the Project: 'was clearly meeting a demonstrated need for people who are questioning their sexuality...(Jo Baulderstone, Flinders Institute of Public Policy and Management)...What does Bfriend do? Bfriend provides support in several ways..All of our volunteers are

people who are same sex attracted/transgender...During the link up, a project worker will be in regular contact with you to make sure the link is going well and you are feeling OK about it...We run groups that go over a longer period. Examples of groups we've run in the past are: - a married women's group; a group for bisexual women; a group for isolated men...Bfriend is a state-wide programme in South Australia. We have strong connections in Mount Gambier and Port Lincoln. The majority of people who seek support live in...Adelaide.

(Source: www.ucwesleyadelaide.org.au/bfriend/)

Quotable

(Tozer, 50 years ago): '*We now demand glamour and fast flowing dramatic action. A generation of Christians reared among push buttons and automatic machines is impatient of slower and less direct methods of reaching their goals. We have been trying to apply machine-age methods to our relations with God. We read our chapter, have our short devotions and rush away, hoping to make up for our deep inward bankruptcy by attending another gospel meeting or listening to another thrilling story told by a religious adventurer lately returned from afar.*

The tragic results of this spirit are all about us. Shallow lives, hollow religious philosophies, the preponderance of the element of fun in gospel meetings, the glorification of men, trust in religious externalities, quasi-religious

fellowships, salesmanship methods, the mistaking of dynamic personality for the power of the Spirit...these are the symptoms of an evil disease, a deep and serious malady of the soul.

For this great sickness that is upon us no one person is responsible, no Christian is wholly free from blame. We have all contributed, directly or indirectly to this sad state of affairs. We have been too blind to see, or too timid to speak out, or too self-satisfied to desire anything better than the poor average diet with which others appear satisfied...we have accepted one another's notions, copied one another's lives and made one another's experiences the model for our own. And for a generation the trend has been downward...we have made the Word of Truth conform to our experience and accepted this low plane as the very pasture of the blessed'.

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'Searching' Diakrisis Articles

Many readers have requested back issues so as to search various 'Diakrisis' articles. This ministry can provide a CD Rewritable disk containing all newsletters since 1996. You can then continue to add the latest newsletter from e-mail to the collection. Using the program *Acrobat Reader 6*, you can easily search words and phrases throughout the entire *Diakrisis* collection. Cost \$15.90

New Resources

Volunteers in this ministry have a desire to see various preaching/teaching audio tapes distributed. If any readers would like a list of the 100 or more tapes available, please contact us. Tapes are \$4 each.

We also currently send out two recent tapes (4 messages) per month to a list of readers who request these. (2 tapes - Cost \$8 + postage per month - invoiced quarterly). If you would like to be on this list please contact us: Ph.0411489472 Fx.(07)41240915 E-mail: taminist@bigpond.net.au

Dear Terry, Just got your latest 'Diakrisis' and heartily commend your stand on the Australian Christian Channel rubbish. I wrote to a (supposedly) Christian FM Station saying much the same thing and wondered why this station was appealing for money, when at the same time they were bragging about sponsoring the Hillsong Annual Conference in July!

(A.O., Sydney)

Hello Terry, just a quick note to thank you for sending me 'Diakrisis' on a regular basis. I praise the Lord for you all. I know the Lord is working in many, many lives through your ministry - many lives are being changed by the 'gospel of Christ; the power of God unto salvation...'. I pray for you and your family and the ministry daily. The newsletter and your ministry are a blessing to me. The Lord continue to bless and keep you and use you for the glory of His holy name, for the salvation of souls and the edification of the saints. With Christian love, and prayers,

(M.G., Brisbane)

Prayer Points

Due to pastoral commitments in Hervey Bay, Queensland, Terry has been unable to meet many recent requests to travel and speak. Please pray that he can soon be released, allowing him to be once again involved full time for *Diakrisis* and the itinerant teaching ministry.

Thankyou, thankyou, thankyou Terry. Once again you have written what is pure and true! I have been telling people for years that it is only the word of God that must be preached to get the young people into churches, not this rock' n roll music and wishy washy preaching!

'As it was in the days of Noah so it will be when the son of man returns'. There were only eight faithful and I believe this prophecy will come true and only the faithful will be left when the Lord returns! We need to get back to Biblical preaching, strong and true, and tell it like it says and don't sugar coat His word!

Thankyou brother and the Lord bless you, your family, your church and ministry team and the way you are bold and speak the truth. You will truly be blessed for your stand!

(D.M., Brisbane)

Dear Terry et.al, for your information re: worldwide apostate system. First, thank you for 'Diakrisis'. It has been my cherished travel companion for many years now and I continue passing the printed issues 'as tracts' to unsaved as often as I can and get the opportunity to witness. To me, it has been uplifting, comforting and helpful....

(J.E., Qld)

Hi, I really enjoy reading your newsletter. I share certain articles with my husband and it always helps me to stop and think about the things I believe and do, and to check to see if what I'm being taught is Truth instead of just accepting everything without question...God bless

(R.E., Ontario, Canada)

Dear Terry and Mike, I grabbed my Bible for a quick read before I headed out the door earlier this week...1Tim.4:16 says: 'Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee'.

My thoughts were immediately of you. Thank you for putting the 'Diakrisis' newsletter together, not only for our family but for all who read it...

(K.L., Qld.)

Dear Brothers Terry & Mike, this is a note of encouragement to maintain our ground...Jude 3:20...wants us to build one another up in the 'most holy faith'. Much of what we see around is far from holy...I have copied off some of the last newsletter to some I love by way of warning in the current confusion. One in particular I am seeking to alert to Hillsong, if the Lord would open their eyes...

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

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