



Diakrisis (Australia)

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*'To Whom Shall He Speak Knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine...?' (Is.28:9)
'But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age...to discern (diakrisis) both good and evil' (Heb.5:14)*

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

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Editors' Comments

In scripture, the church stands in stark opposition to the thinking and the philosophies of this world. Thus the world *normally* stands in direct opposition to the church and 'hates' Christians (Jn.15:19; 1Jn.3:13).

In scripture, the world is never mentioned as a good system!: The 'cares of this world' choke the Word of God (Matt.13:22); the world cannot give peace (Jn.14:27); the devil is the prince and 'god' of it (Jn.14:27; 16:11; 2Cor.4:4); it is 'evil', 'corrupt', 'polluted', in darkness and it wholly 'lies in wickedness' (Gal.1:4; 2Pet.1:4; 2Pet.2:20; Eph.6:12; 1Jn.5:19). The world can never know God (Jn.17:25) because God's kingdom is not of the world (Jn.18:36); and the world's wisdom is 'foolishness' to God (1Cor.1:20;3:19).

In scripture, we are not to be conformed to the fashions of this world (Rom.12:2; 1Cor.7:31). If this is not enough warning, then the apostle John is blunt!: ***'Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world'***, (1Jn.2:15,16).

But perhaps James has the final broadside when he says friendship with the world is actually *being at war with God!* (James 4:4)

If all the above scripture is true, then why are Christians and churches thinking, acting and pandering so much to the world? We are supposed to be ***'not of the world'*** (Jn.17:14,16), and have ***'not received the spirit of the world'*** (1Cor.2:12) and ***'no longer walk according to the course of the world'*** (Eph.2:2). So, what has happened to the Christian and the church being 'unspotted' with the world (James 1:27)?

The world has its own changing language. Sodomy is being 'gay'. Fornication or adultery is 'being in a relationship' or having a 'partner'. The murder of unborn babies is 'termination'. Idolatry is called 'comparative religion'; and mixing with these religions is now 'multi faith worship'. Yet amazingly the church is now also adopting these terms!

Where are the 'absolutes' so easily found in scripture? ***'Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!'***, (Is.5:20).

So, why is the church increasingly adopted by the world? Christian music such as *Hillsong* is now in the *top secular charts* and increasingly *loved by the world*. I have met *non Christians* who profess to attend *Hillsong* churches because of the *music* and the *entertainment* alone. Forget the preaching! - its shallow, rarely expositional, it tickles ears with cute stories (2Tim.4:3,4) and its 'another Gospel' of 'prosperity', 'health' and 'potential' - *exactly what the worldlings wants to hear!* Such churches are filling with those who have the ***'spirit of the world'***, (1Cor.2:12). If any would doubt this then most of the scriptures mentioned above concerning the world are not to be taken seriously?

The church has been captured by the spirit of the world's post-modernist thinking. As the church would seek 'souls' and 'revival', the fashions of this world have been made more appealing. By definition, much of the modern church could well be at ***'enmity (war) with God'***, (James 4:4)?

Yet He is coming back for the ***'few'***, the ***'born again'***, those ***'unspotted'***, who like Lot would be ***'vexed'*** with this present world, (2Pet.2:7,8).

Terry Arnold

Book Review - 'Disciplines of a Godly Man' - R. Kent Hughes

'Disciplines of a Godly Man' has been around for a few years now but it is one of those books I recommend for men, and for women to give to the men in their lives.

1 Timothy 4:7 tells us to '**exercise thyself rather unto godliness**'. This book is an urgent message about just that. The author frankly admits that '*in today's world and Church, disciplined Christian lives are the exception, not the rule*' (P.15). Whenever anyone attempts to challenge Christians in the area of disciplines or holiness, the cry of 'legalism' is heard. Yet Hughes says: '*underlying much of the conscious rejection of spiritual discipline is the fear of legalism. For many, spiritual discipline means putting oneself back under the Law with a series of Draconian rules which no one can live up to - and which spawn frustration and spiritual death. But nothing could be farther from the truth if you understand what discipline and legalism are. The difference is one of motivation: legalism is self-centred; discipline is God-centred*' (P.15). The author goes on to list the reasons why spiritual discipline is so important and what prevents such.

Chapter two speaks of '*The Discipline of Purity*'. '*Recently Leadership Magazine commissioned a poll of a thousand pastors. The pastors indicated that 12 percent of them had committed adultery while in the ministry - one out of eight pastors! - and 23 percent had done something they considered sexually inappropriate...One in four Christian men are unfaithful, and nearly one half have behaved unbecomingly!*' (P.21). The author then goes on to speak of '*hedges*' that can be put in place to protect ourselves from such dangers (P.30); and the peril of ignoring the possibility of: '*Do not succumb to vain Gnostic prattle about your being a Spirit-filled Christian who would 'never do such a thing!' I well remember a man who indignantly thundered that he was beyond such sin. He fell within months!*' (P.30).

Chapter six deals with '*The Discipline of the Mind*'. Hughes makes some bold statements: '*It is impossible for any Christian who spends the bulk of his evening, month after month, week upon week, day in and day out watching the major TV networks or contemporary videos to have a Christian mind. This is always true of all Christians in every situation! A Biblical mental program cannot coexist with worldly programming*' (P.75). He then challenges the reader to read good Christian books (P.78). '*We must protect our minds. We must refuse to allow our culture's media to write our program. We must say no to the wastelands that invade our homes*' (P.80).

At the end of each chapter are questions for thinking and discussion. (This book would make an interesting topical Bible study programme). One of the questions asked is one that this ministry has been harping on for some years: '*Have you ever read the Bible through in a year (or even two years or three)? Will you covenant with God to do this now, in order to become more familiar with the whole of Scripture and to better hear God's voice to you through His Word?*'

Chapter 7 deals with '*The Discipline of Devotion*'. '*Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God*' (P.83).

Chapter 9 deals with '*The Discipline of Worship*'. '*What did you think of the service today? The real questions ought to be, What did God think of it and of those who worshipped? And what did I give to God? It is so easy to forget that in*

going to worship our main concern should be to 'worship in spirit and in truth' (John 4:24) - not to receive a lift for ourselves...worship begins not with man as its focus, but God. Worship must be orchestrated and conducted with the vision before us of an awesome, holy, transcendent God who is to be pleased and, above all, glorified by our worship. Everything in our corporate worship should flow from this understanding' (P.110).

Chapter 10 deals with '*The Discipline of Integrity*'. A 'survey' is cited which poses the question, '*What are you willing to do for \$10 million?*'. Twenty-five percent would abandon their families, 23 percent would become a prostitute for a week, and 7 percent would kill a stranger. Think of it! In a gathering of 100 Americans, there are seven who would consider killing you if the price was right. In 1,000 there are seventy!...But for the Christian, the most chilling fact is this: there is little statistical difference between the ethical practices of the religious and the non-religious. Sadly, Christians are almost as likely as non-Christians to: Falsify their income tax returns;...Illegally copy a computer program; Exaggerate a product; Tell people what they want to hear; Selectively obey the laws'. Integrity is one of the greatest needs of the Church today. The Church needs people who not only refrain from blatant lying, but are free from hypocrisy' (P.125). The 'benefits' of integrity are listed as: '*Produces character; Clear conscience; Intimacy with God; Elevation; Honesty leads to honesty, character produces character!*'

Chapter 12 deals with '*The Discipline of Work*'. '*Whatever the task to which He has called you, you will be equipped for it as surely as a bird is made for flight...There is no secular/sacred distinction, for all honest work done for the Lord is sacred...And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Col.3:17)*' (P.151).

Chapter 14 deals with '*The Discipline of Church*'. Hughes challenges the attitude of many to the local church: '*I'll come along for the ride. But if things do not suit me, I'll criticize and complain and probably bail out...There are a vast herd of professed Christians who exist as nomadic hitchhikers without accountability, without discipline, without discipleship, living apart from the regular benefits of the ordinances. However, membership in an invisible Church without participation in its local expression is never contemplated in the New Testament*' (P.169,170).

Chapter 16 deals with '*The Discipline of Giving*'. '*Clearly, the abiding reality is that wealth presents substantial dangers for all, and especially for today's increasingly prosperous Christian population...Giving is a matter of grace from beginning to end...The grace of giving has nothing to do with being well off. It is not dictated by ability. It is a willingness to give*' (P.195).

There are many other chapters with a wealth of material that will challenge the reader. Every Pastor/Elder would do well to have his men read this book!

Discipline in spiritual areas today is sadly following closely on the heels of the world's standards.

This reference book is one of those books to read again every few years!

Terry Arnold

Guglielmucci; Hillsong; and a Cancer Hoax

For two years *Assembly of God* pastor Michael Guglielmucci concocted and perpetuated an elaborate hoax that he was dying of terminal cancer and even that this inspired him to write a song for *Hillsong* which was a 'gift from God'.

Guglielmucci, formerly a pastor with *Planetshakers*, was at the forefront of Australia's Christian youth movements. He preached to hundreds of thousands about his terminal illness and captured many hearts with his hit song 'Healer'. In one church performance that attracted 300,000 hits on *YouTube*, he performed his hit song *with an oxygen tube in his nose*. However, Guglielmucci admitted fabricating the whole story of the terminal cancer supposedly to 'cover his 16 year addiction to pornography' which his father said he has had since the age of 12. His father said Michael had not been able to break free of his addictive behaviour.

Guglielmucci promised to pay back monies received with the sales of his hit song 'Healer' which *Hillsong* featured on an album and which made No.2 on the *ARIA* charts. *Hillsong* general manager, George Aghajanian, said in an e-mail to his congregation: 'This news has come as a great shock to everyone including, it seems, his own wife and family'.

Guglielmucci stated: 'I can honestly say to you the last few years have been hell for me physically, emotionally'. He told of sending fake e-mail messages to his mother and wife, and making fraudulent visits to hospital to sustain the lie. Michael's father, Danny, told his congregation that his son must go through a 'restorative' process.

Let Us Reason Ministries in the US reported that 'Hillsong is using copyright infringement to have copies of Michael Guglielmucci's 'Healer' yanked from *YouTube*...Hillsong is now trying to rewrite history by having this video yanked. Hillsong would rather do this than own up to the fact that it had been deceived by Guglielmucci. If I were Hillsong, I'd put the video back up here on *YouTube*, the whole thing, and then maybe a video from Brian Houston explaining that they too were taken in. But the former is not likely to happen, and the latter - well hell will freeze over first. Brian Houston and his supporters would rather die first than admit that they had been taken in by a fraudster. It undermines their spiritual credibility'.

Editors comment: As much as we felt for the pain of the entire family, it is the duty of every Christian to expose these men and *protect the sheep*. For too long we have been warning of *Assembly of God* and *Hillsong* doctrines and their music! The list of pastors and leaders who have fallen is too numerous to mention! (Frank Houston, Williams, Bullock, Mesiti...and there have been numerous more who have not been in the spotlight).

Hillsong and *Assembly of God* (AOG) have a history of dodging the immediate exposure of such men. Even with Guglielmucci it has emerged in the media that it took 11 days before the Pentecostal church exposed the details of pastor Guglielmucci's fictitious battle with cancer.

Those readers who think these deceptions are normal in other sectors of the modern church, would be wrong. The Pentecostal churches such as AOG and *Hillsong* are leading the way in numbers of high profile ministers who are falling or deceiving the sheep. We believe the problem and its 'fruit' is rooted in the doctrines and the music.

Swindle of the Century?

(By Jack Kinsella) '...Al Gore is an Oscar-winning Nobel laureate for his work in convincing people that man is responsible for global warming. But when the creator of the climate model that **measures Australia's compliance with the Kyoto Protocols** disagrees with Al Gore, the court of public opinion will believe Gore every time...

...David Evans, (who IS a climate scientist) agrees that the climate is undergoing change, **but says mankind has nothing to do with it**. Evans published a column recently in *The Australian newspaper* that if global warming was caused by CO2, scientists would have found hot spots about six miles up in the earth's atmosphere over the Tropics...He says scientists have been trying to locate them for years using thermometers attached to weather balloons **without success**. They aren't there...**The warming, where it is warming, is at the surface level, not the upper atmosphere. Why is that important? Because the entire global warming theory is based on man-made carbon emissions creating a 'greenhouse' effect which 'traps' heat in the atmosphere, warming the planet. But the upper atmosphere isn't warming.**

The presence of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is more or less constant, since some 95% of them are naturally-occurring as a result of evaporation from the oceans (which account for 5/6ths of the earth's surface) and volcanic gases. Of the remaining 5% of greenhouse gases, 3% are caused by rotting vegetation and animal activity. **Human activity accounts for 1.8% of the total greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere...**Once you subtract the natural causes of greenhouse gases, it only leaves 1.8% that could possibly be 'adjustable' by human activity.

The BBC put together an excellent video called, 'The Great Global Warming Swindle' that has all but been censored because of its heretical position that faith in global warming is more religious than scientific.

The global warming issue **touches on so many points of Bible prophecy**...Jesus said that in the last days, 'there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring'. That is pretty much the exact description of the Doctrine of the Global Warming True Believers. If we don't do something, (even if we aren't sure what) then soon the raging seas will reclaim our coastlines. Among those actual scientists who doubt man is responsible, they point to the decade-long series of solar storms (which have similarly warmed the surface of Mars) as the culprit. **There is plenty of perplexity to go around when it comes to global warming...** Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken' (**Luke 21:25-26**)...' And when these things BEGIN to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh' (**Luke 21:28**)...Marantha!

(Excerpted from *Israel Report* 22 July 2008)

Cliff Richard and Same Sex Relationships

Cliff Richard, who claims to be a Christian, recently stated: 'It seems to me that commitment is the issue, and if anyone comes to me and says: 'This is my partner, we are committed to each other' then I don't care what their sexuality is. I'm not going to judge, I'll leave that to God'.

(Apostasy Alert, Sept.5th)

Todd Bentley - Postmortem/Editor's Plea!

There have been many spiritual frauds over the years. I can remember reading a book about Mel Tari's Indonesian Revival which was later proved to be fraudulent and with grossly exaggerated stories of raisings from the dead which were handed down from person to person. So too, Mike Warnke fooled the public for years with his story of being a satanic high priest. Rebecca Brown was exposed as a drug addict who had spectacular but imagined battles with Satan. And then there are the many claims of after death experiences which too often have proved to be unscriptural and money making schemes. (See *Diakrisis Australia: 'Visions, Dreams and Near-Death Experiences'* May/2008)

Today the deceptions continue unabated, but one recently gripped me because of its blatant nature and its impending warning that we are truly in perilous and apostate times like never before.

The Beginnings:

I realise that this event has come and gone, but please bear with me while I describe the details of a deception that has caused me to issue a postmortem plea for all those who would desire to be a *holy* remnant; and for those who are already separated and who might *warn* others.

I never thought I would be writing about something that from the beginning I believed would fade away, being just another 'fad'. Various US ministries and including the Australian *Apostasy Alert* by Mike Claydon, were constantly warning of and exposing Todd Bentley and his 'Lakeland Revival'. Some of these ministries that were exposing the dangers were castigated for their warnings. The castigators are now strangely silent?

Bentley's ministry captured *hundreds of thousands* of Christians in the US and the phenomenon was about to be spread overseas, before it fell in spectacular style.

I personally thought Christians would wake up sooner or later. Every bit of discernment within me showed that this Todd Bentley and the 'Lakeland Revival' was more Satanic than it was anything to do with a holy God. I purposely ignored it until in my home town just a few months ago churches began to embrace it and feed it to their *youth!*

Finally Todd Bentley was exposed as a liar and one who had fallen in sexual sin.

But will the western church learn anything from this?

What started out on April 2, 2008, at *Ignited Church* in Lakeland, Florida, had simply grown to capture the hearts of untold *multitudes* of Christians in the US and on the internet around the world. It reminded me of my own deception with the signs and wonders movement many years before. But this deception was different in that it clearly showed *a lack of discernment on a frightening new level*. The questions that arose from this were: how could so many Christians lack so much discernment? And, just how close are we to the coming of the Lord and the mighty 'falling away' in the end?

This 'revival' had been dubbed 'the third wave' by many. They said the first wave was the 'Toronto Blessing' in the early nineties followed by the 'Pensacola Revival' a few years later. Now Christians were beginning to travel from all over the world to see Todd Bentley and get an 'anointing'.

One eyewitness account described the meetings thus:

'This revival has all the spiritual sensations and activities of the other revivals combined: Roaring, groaning, burning sensations in the body, head, and stomach; shaking, jerking, spiritual drunkenness and uncontrollable laughter and then some new manifestations. People have their eyes rolled back in the back of their heads. There are reports of women gyrating and pulsating like they've been ravaged from behind squawking like a chicken'.

Who was Todd Bentley?:

Todd Bentley had travelled the world as head of *Fresh Fire Ministries*, based in Abbotsford, British Columbia. He never received even a fraction of the exposure he had until a visit to Lakeland. Live broadcasts, the internet and 'GodTV' then put Bentley in the public eye in the US and around the world.

Todd Bentley was an ex-Satanist. He spoke of his Satanic past with his mother levitating and demons writing 666 on his cupboard in the kitchen. He claimed to have 25 demons cast out of him. He is a pierced and tattooed signs and wonders man who got messages from angels, particularly one named 'Emma'.

Fruit No.1:

The 'fruit' of his ministry could be seen in *what he believed and taught*. Although he rarely opened the Bible and preached, his stories told much about where his revelations came from. Bentley says that Jesus Himself and angels appear to him. One angel's name that Bentley referred to was 'Emma'. In one of his many videos on the web he says: *'In the middle of the service...in walks Emma...She floated a couple of inches off the floor...emitting brilliant light and colours. Emma carried these bags and began pulling gold out of them...as she walked up and down the aisles of the church, she began putting gold dust on people. 'God, what is happening?' I asked. The Lord answered: 'She is releasing the gold, which is both the revelation and the financial breakthrough that I am bringing into this church'. (1) One minister's wife got Emma's 'impartation' and began to bark like a dog.*

Why did so many Christians not discern the error here?

Todd constantly claimed miraculous healings by his own hands. He claimed tumours 'exploded' and more than 30 people had been raised from the dead. In one service he yelled: *'Someone's getting a new spinal cord tonight!'*

Bentley's claims of people raised from the dead have *never* been substantiated. He claimed one man had been dead for 48 hours and was raised to life. *'The man knocked from inside the coffin to be let out'*. Reading from an e-mail from one of his followers to his audience, Bentley stated: *'At the funeral they played the revival, and we declared that our brother would not be embalmed. At 2:19 AM, my brother began to stir in his coffin! In his coffin!'* [Bentley's followers went wild with cheers and shouts]. *'My brother sat up in the coffin praising God and the Reverend Todd Bentley! Now listen to this! My dear brother, all day, since he's been raised from the dead, has been telling us about his journey to heaven and how he thought he would never come back. He died and went to heaven! Listen to this! He thought he would never come back to the earth to be with us, but then he heard our beloved Reverend Todd and his voice*

pulling his spirit out of heaven. All of us at the funeral home began screaming and shouting for more fire. Thank God for the revival and GodTV! Number 13 from The dead! We're gonna confirm it. We gotta confirm it. We're gonna do a follow up'.

However, Bud Press of *Christian Research Service* investigated this story. (2) He rang the funeral homes in Florida and many commented that the whole nation would have heard about this if it did happen. Finally, one funeral home representative said that a family - via the Lakeland revival - had come to the funeral home and prayed for a man that had died, and *the burial took place as scheduled*. The Board of Funerals, Cemetery, and Consumer Services in Florida was then contacted and asked the same questions. Again, the answer was that this event *did not occur*.

Bentley's style was spectacular. If he was 'casting a demon' out of someone he was violent and appeared to nearly choke people. His buzz word was 'bam!'. Bentley once 'leg-dropped' a pastor; and hit another man so hard it dislodged a tooth (luckily the man was a dentist!). On *Youtube TV*, he said: *'And there is this older lady worshipping right in front of the platform. And the Holy Spirit spoke to me; the gift of faith came on me. He said, 'Kick her in the face with your biker-boot...I went like this [kicks and shouts] BAM! And just as my boot made contact with her nose, she fell under the power of God.'* [laughter] (3) In another episode: *'The woman was standing in the back of the room when the faith of God hit the meeting, and her tumour exploded out of her right leg, slid down her leg onto the floor! ...[God] said, '...I want you to grab that lady's crippled legs and bang them up-and-down on the platform like a baseball bat' [loud laughter]...I grabbed her legs, and I started going, BAM! BAM!...banging them...She got healed!...'*

Bentley's ministry distributed a list of 15 people it said were 'cured'. Yet, two phone numbers given out by the ministry were wrong, six people did not return telephone messages and only two of the remainder, when reached by the Associated Press, said they had medical records as proof of their miracle cure - of those, one woman would not make her physician available to confirm the findings, and the other's doctor did not return calls despite the patient's authorization.

Charismatic leader, Dutch Sheets, admitted an 'extremely low level of discernment' by Pentecostal/Charismatic communities in accepting people like Todd Bentley: *'Frankly, we often don't even try to discern. We assume a person's credibility based on gifts, charisma, whether they can prophesy, or work a miracle'.*

But for this 'low level of discernment', surely there is simply no excuse!

Such notables as C. Peter Wagner, leader of the *International Coalition of Apostles*, his wife, Doris, Ché Ahn, John Arnott, Bill Johnson, Rick Joyner and several others came to the 10,000 seat tent to support what Todd Bentley and *Fresh Fire Ministries* were doing and to 'commission' him as an evangelist. These leaders failed to check Bentley out and never discerned the error and yet many claimed to be 'apostles'! Worse, they 'prophesied' over Bentley - Peter Wagner prophesied: *'This commissioning represents a powerful spiritual transaction taking place in the invisible world...I take the apostolic authority that God has given me and I decree to Todd*

Bentley: Your power will increase. Your authority will increase. Your favour will increase. Your influence will increase. Your revelation will increase. I also decree that a new supernatural strength will flow through this ministry. A new life force will penetrate this move of God...God will pour out a higher level of discernment to distinguish truth from error. New relationships will surface to open the gates to the future'. (4)

John Arnott (of the 'Toronto Blessing') also prophesied: *'We bless you today, Todd Bentley...You're a man of God...You're a man of the spirit...it's not just the Lakeland revival, but the whole world that goes into revival. And you're leading an amazing charge...we honour you'.*

Where was the discernment in all this? Bentley's teachings were extra Biblical and often heretical! His teachings on angels were arguably demonic. On one occasion he claimed to have seen a 20 foot tall angel in his apartment and on another occasion an angel that knocked him out of his body. Bentley claimed he saw 'a pillar of fire' rise up through the roof of a church. When 'God' told him to 'get into the Pillar', he complied and landed on an operating table in heaven. Six angels tied him down and began surgery: *'They pick this thing up...and they stuck it in me right here on my neck and it didn't hurt...they went right down to my lowards and all of a sudden...everything inside of me popped out onto the table, my heart, my liver - like everything...The angels start taking these white boxes...and they start stuffing these things inside of me...and I heard the verse 'I desire truth in the inward parts'.* (5)

His reference to Psalm 51:6 here shows his blatant Scripture twisting, an old tool of Satan from the garden of Eden. And the 'surgery' is very similar to the stories of 'alien abductions' which many Christian writers believe are demonic manifestations.

The fruit of this man was not just in what he taught but in what slipped from his mouth: *'You see, I want to be fruitful; I want to be far above. I want to be a conqueror; I want to be a mountain of strength; I want to be greatness. You know, we like that word greatness. Well, he who dwells in the secret place of the Most High automatically comes into everything that the Almighty is. It happens'.* Does this sound just a little like what Satan says in Isaiah 14:12-14? Todd says: *'Father, give me the angels in heaven right now that are assigned to get me money and wealth. And let those angels be released on my behalf. Let them go into the four corners of the earth and gather me money'.* *'I went into a trance-like state and I saw...the angel of finance...In that trance I experienced one of heaven's realities and then that experience became a reality here on earth...I found myself in a treasure room in heaven. The only item in this room was gold coins, and I began stuffing those coins into my pockets until they were falling out'.* (6)

Fruit No.2...and the Fall

The teachings are one thing, but too often these men exhibit the most fleshly behaviour - including adultery or sexual immorality.

At the height of the 'revival' *Fresh Fire Ministries* released a statement that Todd and Shonnah Bentley were *'experiencing significant friction in their relationship and are currently separated'.* They stated that *'there has been no sexual immorality on the part of either Todd or Shonnah, nor has there ever been'.* *Charisma* magazine reported that

Bentley and his wife had already been attending counselling for three years, but the counselling was suspended for the four months while Bentley was away from his home in Abbotsford, British Columbia. (The Bentleys have three children).

But then came this: *'We wish to acknowledge, however, that since our last statement from the Fresh Fire Board of Directors we have discovered new information revealing that Todd Bentley has entered into an unhealthy relationship on an emotional level with a female member of his staff. In light of this new information and in consultation with his leaders and advisors, Todd Bentley has agreed to step down from his position on the Board of Directors and to refrain from all public ministry for a season to receive counsel in his personal life'*.

Things got even worse when reports of an older affair arose from some 2.5 years before. According to current and former staff and staff members, they claimed that Todd was a pathological liar. The board privately has said that Todd had been lying to them all along.

Editors Plea!

Exposing such men often raises the ire of readers. But naming names of apostates is biblical. The apostle Paul did not shrink from this task!

One of the reasons why people have not discerned the deception of this man and his 'revival' is *the lack of investigation and research* by those who took him into their flocks. A look at his past and his teachings should have raised at least cautions. ***'Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world'***, (1Jn.4:1).

Even knowing who Bentley's 'mentor' was should have raised alarm bells. His mentor, Paul Cain, was a self proclaimed 'prophet' of the nineties who was later disciplined and disfellowshipped by three church leaders after they determined he had engaged in *'a pattern of heavy drinking and homosexuality'*. (7)

Why is it that *hundreds of thousands* of people flocked to see this Todd Bentley and they could not see the deceptions? It's the same reason why hundreds of thousands cannot see the deception in popular figures like Benny Hinn who teach doctrines that subtly attack the deity of Christ and the atonement and they make not a few blatant false prophecies. *People are just not reading their Bibles, let alone studying it. The Jesus of the Bible is simply not enough for many. Added to this, pastors and elders are not warning their sheep!:'* ***'And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold'***, (Matt.24:11,12).

Signs and wonders appeal to the masses. They are spectacular, *but they entice fleshly emotions*. ***'For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect'***, (Matt.24:24). In fact, *every* scripture that mentions signs and wonders to do with the end times is *lying or false!* (Matt.12:39; 24:24; 2Thess.2:9...).

We have been well warned about the last days: ***'Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. You shall know them by their fruits...by their fruits you shall know them'***, (Matt.7:15-20).

The very fact that so many people could not see anything wrong with Todd Bentley and his 'revival' shows us how far the church has stooped into a lack of spiritual discernment.

In these final days before the return of our Saviour, false prophets, evil spirits and false teachers are flourishing and will flourish *according to scripture*.

My plea is for those who are in the Pentecostal/Charismatic/Signs and Wonders movements (these movements are as one now) - ***COME OUT OF HER now!*** Committed Christians must have the courage to stand for the truth and separate *completely* from these movements. The danger is that the longer they remain in such, the more likely they will be deceived and the Lord may well hand them over to such! ***'Judgement must begin at the house of God'*** (1Pet.4:17)! Because of the hundreds of thousands of Christians who were deceived by this man and this 'revival', there will be many who will be confused, hurt and shipwrecked.

My plea for the church is to wake up and stand on scripture alone!; and for pastors and elders to take a strong (though unpopular) stand *against these movements!*

'But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction...And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you...', (2Pet.2:1-3).

My plea is for the church - the called out ones, the elect, the beloved of God, to *separate* from such movements and also to *warn*, no matter how 'negative' or unpopular this will be!

Finally, with such deceptions now increasing and discernment surely at an all time low, I ask: *how close are we to the coming of the Lord?* When hundreds of thousands of professing Christians will gladly follow such a violent, fleshly and blatant occultic false teacher such as Todd Bentley and willingly fall under his sway, then we are surely deeper than ever in a falling away of the church at large. The end-times promise a 'falling away', a lack of faith, hearts growing cold, a church that thinks they are rich but is really 'luke warm'.

My plea is the same as for that in the book of Revelation: ***'...Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities'***, (Rev.18:4,5).

I weep for the many who have been confused and weakened by this latest deception. Every year there are thousands of dejected and weary professing Christians who one way or another are affected by such exposed deceptions and leave churches, never to return.

Lest any more be deceived, Come Lord Jesus!

Terry Arnold

- (1) Todd Bentley, Angelic Hosts
- (2) 23 July, 2008 www.christianresearchservice.com
- (3) Youtube TV3, Todd Bentley Raging Revival.
- (4) *'We Have Had Enough Of False Prophets!'*
- (5) Todd Bentley and the pillar of fire (Video)
- (6) Todd Bentley, 'Heaven's Realities'; see also Trance Dancing Worship Leader, June 4.
- (7) *'Prophetic Minister Paul Cain Issues Public Apology for Immoral Lifestyle'* - Charismamag.com

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, thank you for the latest edition of 'Diakrisis'. The issue of baptism is sadly quite divisive amongst Christians. I don't share entirely the view you expressed and conscious as I am of the negative press you often must endure, please accept this as a little iron on iron. I was curious that you merely added the Colossians 2 reference only at the end of the conclusion, but didn't refer to the passage in the section on circumcision. It seems to me quite clear from a 'literal interpretation of scripture' that Paul is equating circumcision with baptism. Just as circumcision was a specific sign of identity of God's chosen people the Jews, in the Old Testament, so baptism has now become the symbol of all God's people in the New Covenant - whether male, female, Jew, Gentile...The following statement also seemed one sided: 'infant baptism too often creates a false understanding of salvation'. And adult baptism doesn't?...It really is not about 'infant' verses 'believers' baptism at all. Infant baptism within the context of the household of faith, is believer's baptism...Can a baby belong to Jesus? Answer this question in the light of scripture and the issue of 'age of reason' is dealt with...Adult baptism highlights our responsibility to respond to God's calling (as does

confirmation). Infant baptism testifies to the election of God before we were conscious...It is quite a stretch for those who criticise the ceremony of infant baptism but replace it with another ceremony called 'infant dedication'. It is...hair splitting. (S.F., Vict)

Editors Comment: Colossians 2 was used earlier in the article. In such a large topic we cannot cover everything in detail, including circumcision. Colossians 2 is referring to the kind of circumcision that belongs to Christ, that of the heart, putting off the whole body of the sins of the flesh by the spiritual circumcision of Christ. But does the analogy of circumcision warrant infant baptism? I have still yet to see any scripture that even remotely refers to infant baptism! And does election need infant Baptism to 'testify' to it? Also, I don't see the 'hair splitting' between 'dedicating' infants to the Lord and infant baptism. Most churches I know that 'dedicate' infants to the Lord have not made it a 'replacement' for 'infant Baptism' but just make it a dedication prayer for the baby to be raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord and that the parents will facilitate that work? I doubt that has become an 'ordinance' or rite like Infant Baptism?

[During the nineties this ministry exposed the 'Toronto Blessing' and subsequent Pentecostal manifestations. The fruit of such movements caused unprecedented splits and breakdowns within most of those churches. Since then there has been a steady stream of repenting pastors. Below is excerpts from a recent testimony from a former Toronto Vineyard Pastor...Lest we forget?]

'It has taken me nine years to come to the place where I would write this story...For...years I have called it a mixed blessing...Today I would call it a mixed curse...I am convinced that Satan used this experience to blind people to the historical doctrines of God...to failing to test and discern the spirits and failing to test prophecy.

After three years of being in the thick of the 'Toronto Blessing' our Vineyard assembly in Scarborough (East Toronto) just about self destructed. We devoured one another, with gossip, backstabbing, division, sects, criticism etc. After three years of...shaking, rolling, laughing, roaring...we were the most carnal, immature and deceived Christians that I know...

...We were a church plant out of the Toronto Airport and we started in 1992...They failed to obey the scriptures and have been led astray by our longing for something bigger and brighter and more exciting and dynamic. I am guilty of this sin also. I have preached renewal in Korea, the United Kingdom, the USA and here in Canada. I am genuinely repentant and in writing this story I would ask you the bride and body of Christ to forgive me...In hind sight I look back and think how could I have been so blind?...[to] people acting like dogs and pretending to urinate on the columns of the TACF building. I watched people pretend to be animals, bark, roar, cluck, pretend to fly as if they had wings, perpetually act drunk and sing silly songs. How I thought that any of this was from the Holy Spirit of God amazes me today. It was loud irreverent and blasphemous

to the Holy God of the Bible.

I became disconcerted by the prophetic words that came forth especially one by Carol Arnott in which she had her bride experience where she was taken into the very presence of Jesus and said that the love that she experienced was even better than sex! I was shocked...how can one compare the love of God with sex?...John [Arnott] would defend the chaos by saying that we ought not be afraid of being deceived, if we have asked the Holy Spirit to come and fill us then how could Satan come and deceive us?...This...was totally contrary to scripture for Jesus, Paul, Peter and John all warn about the power of deceiving spirits and especially so in the last days...we opened ourselves up to lying spirits...

Finally...I was rolling around one night 'drunk in the Spirit' ...I started singing and as I rolled around the floor the Nursery Rhyme 'Mary had a little lamb its fleece was white as snow' came to mind. I sang this in a mocking spirit and instantly my heart told me this was a demon...I repented and was in total shock...Another thing was the golden fillings in the teeth. We had people in our assembly peeping down one another's throats looking for the gold fillings that God had placed there to show how much he loved them!

In all my time there I only heard one message on repentance...it went over like a lead balloon. We were not there to repent, we were there to party in the Lord!...I spoke out at a pastors meeting and said 'guys we have shaken, rattled, rolled, laughed, cried and bought the tee-shirt. But we have no revival, no salvation, no fruit and no increased evangelism, so what's the deal?' I was soundly rebuked...Jesus said that when the son of man returns will He find faith upon the earth?...I repent before men as I already have before God. I will not excuse my falling into deception. I did not bother to test things when the scriptures commanded us to...if you think you are standing firm be careful lest you fall'. Sincerely, Ps. Paul Gowdy.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry and Mike, Greetings in the name of our Mighty Sovereign Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Just a note in reply and thanks. Quite often my reaction to your magazine is not always positive!...However, every now and then there is an article that blesses. One such was the detailed article on 'Legalism' in the March/April 08 edition. It is the first time I have been able to agree 100% with an article on this subject! So many people on all sides of the theological fence use the term too loosely and use it to accuse another brother or sister who they do not agree with.

Your definition and explanations were right on. Thank you so very much. I recently was so accused when I spoke out at a members meeting about recipes in a cookbook being produced by the ladies of the church to raise money for a new building. At least six of them had alcohol in them and no one (it seems) saw anything wrong with that.

...I can well imagine a lot of the 'Independent' churches and Pastors are upset after reading your article...

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors Comment: Its funny, we get accused of being everything from 'legalistic' to 'liberal' and 'antinomian'. (Does that mean we might be 'balanced'?).

The article on 'Legalism' produced much mail. It broke the backs of some confessed 'legalists' who confessed and repented. It also brought out those who hated what we said, even though we encouraged them to show where an issue is explicitly shown in scripture. Even though our 'preference' may be against something, yet we require correct use of scripture before we will teach it as doctrine. But that does not seem to suit those who require that our 'preference' be their doctrine; or that it be the same view as theirs even in issues that do not really affect salvation or the fundamentals of the faith.

Perhaps too, the test of 'legalism' is not just in what we believe but in how we react to such issues and in how we treat those who disagree?

Dear Terry, Mike and all at T.A. Ministries. Greetings & Christen love to you all. Thank you so much for sending the monthly sermon CD's and also 'Diakrisis Australia' which keeps me up to date on what is going on.

Loved Mikes reply to the testimonial thing, [March/April/2008, P.10] - my sentiments exactly!...

(N.D., Cootamundra, NSW)

Dear Terry, Please continue sending 'Diakrisis Australia' to me. We much appreciate your wonderful work. The Lord bless and strengthen you all in this valuable work.

(F.S., Viet.)

Editors Note

After 13 years of service as sub-editor of *Diakrisis Australia*, Mike Claydon has relinquished this position to concentrate more fully on his other ministry commitments and to spend more time with family. He wishes to thank all our subscribers for their encouragement and support over the years and to inform them of his prayers for their blessing and continual vigilance in discerning the times. We wish to thank him for all the hours spent in his most excellent work of editing and proofreading. We wish him much fruit as he pursues his own ministry commitments. Although he may not have the time to act as sub-editor, articles by him might still appear from time to time in this publication.

Dear Terry...The World Youth day reminded us of what Germany was like in the late 1930's. Hitler was a Catholic. People lost their freedom of speech...The media & letters were gagged. There were emotional youth rallies. A minister who was in Germany at the time told this story: 'The Nazi's came for the unionists, I wasn't a unionist so I didn't worry. They came for the Jews. I wasn't a Jew. They rounded up the Lutherans, etc. I wasn't one of those denominations. Then they came for the Baptists. I was a Baptist and there was no one left to help me'. Do we learn from history?...

Editors Comment: The Vatican advised Germany's Catholic party to vote for Nazi candidates. In June, 1933 Hitler and the Vatican signed a Concordat under which the Church swore allegiance to the Nazi regime. Later, (when it was too late), Pope Pius XI condemned Hitlerism.

Spurgeon and Public Baptisms

'I was not present at Sheepwash; and, consequently, can form no opinion as to the behaviour of the villagers after the baptism was over; but I remember that the same things were said, more than thirty years ago, of our public baptisms in Cambridgeshire, and I daresay there is as much truth in the representations now made as in those of the older time.

Those who did not wish to see so much of baptism imagined evils which exist mainly in their fears.

Baptism in the open river is so Spiritual, and, withal, such a public testimony, that I hope our friends will never abandon it. The reproach is to be bravely borne; for, if you hide away in the meeting-house, it will follow you there. We are most numerous where the ordinance is most known.

Whenever numbers of people come together, whether for trade, politics or religion, there will always be loose persons to dishonour the occasion; but we are not therefore to abstain from such gatherings. Such an inference would be absurd...' C.H.Spurgeon

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