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*'To Whom Shall He Speak Knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine...?'*

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

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## Editors Comment

*What is a 'saved' person?* A person is saved when they are begotten by God from above, 'born again', regenerated and adopted as a son or daughter of the most high God. Their heart has been changed and they have been indwelt by the Spirit of Christ Himself. Their mind now has a bias away from sin and towards the spiritual things of God and His word.

*How is a person 'saved'?* A person is saved when they hear the Gospel, understand its message, respond to it and receive the Lord Jesus.

*The Gospel* is, that as descendants from Adam, we are *vile sinners* separated from, and under the wrath of God; that God Himself came 'in the flesh' as the only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to *die* in our place as a holy blood offering to God. This once for all perfect and sinless sacrifice completely satisfied the anger of God upon our sin. God's Spirit then *rose Jesus* from the dead, proving that Jesus had conquered sin and death for us.

*The saved person must first hear* this Gospel. Only through hearing about Jesus Christ can anyone be saved, (Rom.10:14). God's method of delivering this gospel is by His believers. It can be preached, spoken, written and delivered in various ways, but it must be understood to be believed.

*The saved person must understand* that he is a sinner (1Cor.15:3); that he cannot go to heaven any other way but by a full satisfaction of his sins; that there is no such satisfaction except through the once for all sacrifice of Jesus Christ, never to be repeated. He must understand that it is the blood sacrifice of Jesus by substitution that saves us - that Jesus died the death we deserved and took our place by taking on all our sin upon Himself once for all. He must understand therefore that no works or religion of man can ever provide this satisfaction to God. Anything we can offer to compare with the work of Jesus on the cross is 'filthy rags'. No one can therefore boast of any effort in his salvation; it is by grace alone and not of works, (Eph.2:8,9; Rom.11:6; 3:24).

*The saved person must respond to this Gospel.* They must respond in their hearts, (Rom.10:9,10). This response is one that will show that they have been effectually called by God, (Jn.6:37,39,44; Rom.8:28-30).

*The saved person is one who bears the fruit of this salvation.* Their '**good works**' is that which God has laid up for them to do from the foundation of the world, (Eph.2:10). The Born Again believers have the fruit of the Spirit, (Gal.5:22). The Born Again have Christ first in their lives (1Jn.5:1; Matt.10:37); they will suffer trials and temptations in the will of God (1Pet.3:17; 4:15,19), yet persevere in the faith (1Pet.5:9); they will not practise habitual sin (1Jn.3:6,9; 5:18), but will exhibit the '*fruit of repentance*' (Matt.3:8-10; Acts 20:21); they will seek '*the fruit unto holiness*' (Rom.6:21,22; 1Jn.2:29; 3:3); they will love the brethren, (1Jn.2:9,10; 3:14); and they will not accept the world standards and fashions, (1Jn.2:15,16; James 4:4; Rom.12:2).

And all this is by grace alone! What a salvation! It is a salvation *worked out by God* on the cross and then *kept by His Spirit*. It is a salvation that has one ultimate aim - to *glorify Him* our Redeemer. This will be realised fully when we are delivered from this fleshly body and take on an incorruptible one that will be able to see '*the Ancient of days*' face to face for all eternity!

**Terry Arnold**

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## Great Deceptions of the Church Age

There have been many deceptions since God made man. They *all* stem from the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve, in rebellion against God, were deceived by Satan's lustful enticements and his deceptive additions to God's words.

A study of church history will show that within a few centuries after Jesus died man began to replace God's ordained church offices with a hierarchy of self made positions. Constantine brought together church and state but at the price of compromise - *the church became more like the state*. As well, the church became more Roman and less Christian. Slowly but steadily traditions were added to the word of God and '*Roman Catholicism*' gathered strength.

Deceptions continued with salvation by God's grace alone being added to by Pelagian and Arminian heresies which refused original sin and had man playing a part in his salvation.

Other religions soon came and further added man's ideas. They offered what man can do for God, yet God offered what He had already done for man. Religion offered righteousness through works, yet God said that was 'filthy rags', (Is.64:6). Religion offered trusting in works and sacraments to please God, yet God offered salvation by trusting in a perfect person who had already done all the work necessary to satisfy God's wrath upon sin.

In the 19th Century within the space of a decade several new cult groups suddenly sprang up, including Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses and the Seventh Day Adventists. Jehovah Witnesses wore out shoes knocking on doors and combining works with faith to earn their salvation. God called this error when He said '*not of works lest any man should boast*', (Eph.2:8,9). Mormonism claimed we can become gods - a lie that stems from the fall of Adam and Eve. Seventh Day Adventists taught law keeping for salvation, yet God said there is no salvation by the law or the keeping of it, (Rom.3:20,28).

The deceptions increased with the start of the 20th century when the church took on a plethora of new teaching. Agnes Ozman, who on new years eve of 1901, believing she was repeating the events in Acts 2, spoke in an 'unknown tongue'. Many believed she had been given the real gift of speaking in a foreign language as it was on the day of Pentecost. However, it was nothing more than emotional ecstatic speech. This false experience spread rapidly to others and the 'Pentecostal movement' was founded. It continues today with this error of counterfeit tongues, most exponents being oblivious to the events that caused it and the founder who eventually denied it!\* (Charles Parham later admitted the 'tongues movement' was a deception from the beginning when he realised the 'language' was not a known foreign dialect).\*\* Many church leaders at the time believed the 'tongues movement' was one of the greatest spiritual deceptions of the new century.

But perhaps an even greater deception than all the above is the thousands of funerals today where non Christians assume their dead go to heaven and rest 'in peace'. Today everyone seems to end up 'in Heaven' and 'at rest'! Yet the Bible clearly warns that *most* will not go to Heaven and instead 'few' will be Born Again in this life so as to be recognised by the Lord in the next.

This year the Pop star Michael Jackson died of a drug overdose. At his memorial service ministers spoke of him as

a 'Christian'. During the singing of '*We Are The World*' which was sung by the worlds most prestigious singers, symbols of every major religion were displayed on a giant screen behind the stage and included a picture of 'Jesus'.

Michael Jackson was raised a Jehovah Witness. Some claim he converted to Islam in 2007. After he died rumours spread that Jackson converted to Christianity just before his death - because someone prayed for him and 'he did not reject the prayer'. Most of that story was refuted by the people themselves who prayed.

Michael was one confused adult who had not completely grown out of childhood. His character in his music and drug habits hardly showed the fruit of a life changing experience with Jesus Christ. True followers of Christ and his teachings are called out of the world and will be hated by it, (Jn.15:19). There is simply no biblical evidence Jackson was ever a true Christian.

But worse than this, arguably the greatest of all deceptions is that a *professing* Christian, thinking he or she is on their way to heaven, ends up in Hell! Scripture details this starkly in Matthew 7 where on the day of judgement '*many*' will say to God '*Lord, Lord*' and will claim to have done '*many wonderful works*'. They will be expecting to enter heaven, yet God will say to them: '*I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity*', (Matt.7:23). What greater deception is there than this? Its the stuff of nightmares. It is the very reason why the Bible exhorts all to '*Examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know you not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except you be reprobates?*', (2Cor.13:5).

Yet much of modern evangelism ignores this deception and even fuels it with emphasis on 'decisions' for Christ, rather than repentance from sin.

Charles Spurgeon, the great evangelist and 'prince of preachers' wrote about this deception: '*It is a serious injury to a person to receive him into the number of the faithful unless there is good reason to believe that he is really born again. I am sure it is so, for I speak after careful observation. Some of the most glaring sinners known to me were once members of a church; and were, as I believe, led to make a profession by undue pressure, well-meant but ill-judged.*

*Do not, therefore, consider that soul-winning is or can be secured by the multiplication of baptisms, and the swelling of the size of your church. What mean these dispatches from the battlefield?: 'Last night, fourteen souls were under conviction, fifteen were justified, and eight received full sanctification'. I am weary of this public bragging, this counting of unhatched chickens, this exhibition of doubtful spoils. Lay aside such numberings of the people, such idle pretence of certifying in half a minute that which will need the testing of a lifetime. Hope for the best, but in your highest excitements be reasonable...*

*Do not aim at sensation and 'effect'. Flowing tears and streaming eyes, sobs and outcries, crowded after-meetings and all kinds of confusions may occur, and may be borne with as [coincidence] of genuine feeling; but pray, do not plan their production. It very often happens that the converts that are born in excitement die when the excitement is over'.*

**Terry Arnold**

\* For this history see the book '*Tongues and the Baptism With the Spirit*' by the author.

\*\* '*Fields White Unto Harvest*' documents this history.

## What is 'Worldliness'?

I often hear the term 'worldliness' used in Christian circles and I have myself used it sometimes to challenge Christians not to follow the ways of the world. But recently I was asked 'what do you mean by 'worldliness'?

In an age when the church is increasingly like the world in its thinking and philosophies, it is important to define this word. There are also extremes of thinking in this area. There are Christians today that have a view of Christianity that requires it to be 'like the world to win the world'. In contrast, there are others who follow ideas of separation from the world which end in hypocrisy and legalism.

This article attempts to steer a course through scripture and between the extremes.

### **Defining 'Worldliness':**

The Greek word for 'world' ('*kosmos*') has a wide range of meanings depending on the context. The word in general refers to the present *order* or *arrangement* of things. When it is used 'negatively' it often means something opposed to the kingdom of Christ.

The Bible instructs Christians not to be conformed to the world, (Rom.12:2). The translation here is literally instructing Christians not to be 'fashioned together with the patterns of this age'. An expanded rendering might read, '*Do not be moulded by the external and fleeting fashions of this age*'. Put simply, we are not to be following the *pattern* of the world with its ungodly *philosophies*.

'Worldliness' is a love for the organised *system* of the world. When Christ and His Gospel do not rule over the things in the world that we are involved with, then we are becoming 'worldly'. *Being 'worldly' is allowing the world to squeeze us into its mould. 'Worldliness' is the world coming into our heart to take the heart into the world.*

### **What The Bible Says About The 'World':**

If the church is becoming more and more secularistic and more like the world, it is at least partly because Christians have not understood *what God says about the world system*. As Christians, it is imperative that we understand that the indwelling Spirit we have received is *opposed* to that of the world, (1Cor.2:12). The Bible clearly says the *system* of the world is evil, sinful and an enemy of God, (Gal.1:4). Its condition after the Fall is arrogant and self sufficient. Its selfish philosophies elevate man. Much of the man invented systems of psychology and philosophy mirror the system of the world - man's goodness and wisdom are elevated and sin is minimised or non-existent. But God has made man's wisdom in the world to be '*foolishness*', (1Cor.3:19; 1:20; 2:6). In scripture, *nothing good is said about the system, the philosophy, the wisdom of the world!*

All temptation is found in the world and comes from three sources: '*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh* (includes eating, drinking, sleeping, wearing clothes or any desire of the body), *the lust of the eyes* (includes the desire of anything good or bad you want to buy, possess or entertain) *the pride of life* (the vanities of life, the striving for position, recognition, promotion, advancement), *is not of the Father, but is of the world*', (1Jn.2:16). Many of these things are not evil in themselves but it is the *lusts* thereof that can produce sin in the heart - and that is where 'worldliness' begins! What Christians must realise about the world system is that

it is 'polluted' (2Pet.2:20) and in 'darkness' (Jn.12:46). Unless the contrast is understood between the world and the Spirit of God, then worldliness might not be estimated and discerned as it should.

### **What 'Worldliness' Is Not:**

Yet all of the above is *not* referring to the *physical* creation of the earth but to its *spiritual* condition after the Fall, which is found in the sinful *lusts* thereof.

God has made '*all things*' in the world (Acts 17:24) and God Himself says that all that He has made is '*very good*', (Gen.1:31)! It is not the world we should hate, for God loves the world, (Jn.3:16). We are to enjoy the world! '*Worldliness is not a matter of matter, but a matter of the heart*. It is not the earthly creation but the rebellious *attitudes* that lead to sinful *lusts*.

'Worldliness' is not owning a TV, using the internet, having plenty of money, an expensive car, clothing, etc. Rather, the question is: are these things shaping our *view* of the world or enhancing its *philosophies* in our hearts? By 'philosophies' I mean the world's order, its system of beliefs and its thinking. The problem of 'worldliness' is not so much from things *without*, but rather a seduction from *within* the heart; it is the philosophy of the heart *within*.

Some shape their view of 'worldliness' from a personal list of don'ts - don't watch movies, don't have TV, don't have any music of the world, no internet, no entertainments, no amusements, etc. But worldliness is not about a list of rules or things to stay away from, but rather it is first an issue of the heart. It is about *lusts within* that come directly from the world without, (1Jn.2:16). *The world is corrupted through lusts*, (2Pet.1:4). 'Worldliness' is about following after the lusts of the world. '*Wherein in time past you walked according to the course of this world...we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind...*', (Eph.2:2,3).

The Bible teaches us to '*deny ungodliness and worldly lust*' and to '*live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world*', (Tit.2:12). If you take the issue of worldliness away from the issue of *lusts* and make it into a set of personal standards then you make it a 'law' and such legalism God hates! '*By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight...a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law*', (Rom.3:20,28).

### **The Warning Signs:**

When a Christian, becomes 'worldly' it may not be a quick process but a *drifting*. An example in scripture of one who drifted back to the course of the world is Demas. Demas was once a zealous co-worker with Paul, (Col.4:14; Philemon 1:24); yet Paul wrote: '*For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica...*', (2Tim.4:10).

It is arguable that *Demas first drifted, then deserted*. The frightening thing about becoming 'worldly' is that we can attend church, worship the Lord and yet still in our hearts be drifting to the world! *Its a thing of the heart*.

*Being 'Religious'*: One thing that is arguably a sign of drifting back to the world is *being more religious than Christian*. We can easily go through the motions of 'church

life', singing in worship services, taking communion, 'fellowshipping' with other Christians, etc. But what about our thoughts and devotions for the rest of the week? Are our thoughts guided by real communion with our Lord or are we hardly different to our unsaved counterparts?

*Little application:* How often today do we see people who are convicted by a message from the word of God yet it is scarcely remembered at the end of that day or for the rest of the week, and there is little or *no application* enacted?

*The conscience:* The conscience is a tool for conviction. If that conviction is suppressed, discernment drops off quickly and worldliness or any other sin becomes less clear to the conscience. The conscience is an indicator of the law (Rom.2:15) and the law shows sin (Rom.3:20;7:7). The conscience is a faculty that the Holy Spirit uses to witness truth to us through His word, (Rom.9:1). The Bible consistently speaks of a 'good conscience' (Act 23:1; 24:16; 1Tim.1:5,19) and a 'weak conscience', (1Cor.8:7,10,12). If the conscience is not fed with the truth of God's word or if it ignores convictions, it can be 'dulled' over time, even numbed. It is then that we might well flirt with the ways of the world. *Worldliness has a lot to do with the dulling of the conscience to the ways of the world.* It is imperative to feed our conscience with the word of God and sound teaching. But it is also important to apply the resultant conviction to our thinking and our daily habits.

*'Busyness':* The reaction to the above warning signs might be *'I have just been too busy'*. But 'busyness' or a preoccupation with the things of the world is one way the conscience is dulled and seduced by the world's thinking.

*A loss of distinctiveness:* How different are we to the lifestyles of the worldlings?...How much different? Have the lines been blurred? Do people soon know that we are different by our conversation and behaviour?

Sometimes we forget that we are but *'strangers and pilgrims'* passing through a hostile world, (1Pet.2:11).

*Music:* Music often reflects our view or philosophy and therefore *reflects our view of God*. Music also greatly affects our mood and emotions. Many writers believe it has more impact than any other media outlet, including television. Just because music is classified as 'Christian' does not mean it is Godly. Much of contemporary Christian music (CCM) today has little message of the cross, no sin, no guilt, no redemption, no commitment, no blood and no death or dying to self. It is in effect 'worldly'.

Music used in worship should surely be *different* to the world's music, considering the message of the cross is an 'offense' to those in the world who are perishing, (Gal.5:11). The music and the words should glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. The problem with contemporary Christian music and 'Christian rock music' is that it too often focuses more on the worshipper than the *object* of worship - Jesus Christ.

It surprises me how many Christians today ask 'what do you mean by worldly music' when speaking of today's music. A decade or two ago Christians knew exactly what worldliness meant in music. The introduction of contemporary Christian music has blurred the line between what is 'Christian' and what is of the world. The beat has

overtaken the melody; the watered down 'I, me, my' lyrics have overtaken those that would set forth the absolute holiness of the person of Christ. And the 'fruit' of CCM is clear - it is littered with leaders who have fallen in the moral and sexual sins *that are common to the world*.

*A lack of fruit:* Our 'fruit' in the Bible is the *'fruit of repentance'* (Matt.3:8-10); the *'fruit unto holiness'* (Rom.6:21,22); the *'fruit of righteousness'* (Phil.1:11; Heb.12:11; James 3:18); *'fruit of our lips'* (Heb.13:15); and the *'fruit of the Spirit'*, (Gal.5:22). The Bible teaches the principle that the *'cares of the world' 'choke' the Word of God* and a lack of fruit is the result, (Matt.13:22).

#### **False Solutions:**

*Not by monastic separation:* We do not confront worldliness by *physically excluding* ourselves from the environment of the world or selling all our 'worldly' possessions in an effort to get out of the clutches of 'worldliness'. There are groups that separate themselves from temptation by physically excluding and isolating themselves from activities within the world. In the early centuries some Christians put themselves away in monastic settlements. Yet this exclusion specifically contradicts scripture! The history of such exclusions is also littered with extremes, failures, and the very sins the groups were attempting to isolate themselves from!

The Bible clearly teaches we do not separate *'altogether from the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must you needs go out of the world'*, (1Cor.5:10). But rather we are simply not to *'keep company with'* the above people, (1Cor.5:9,11). Jesus prayed to the father: *'I pray not that you should take them out of the world, but that you should keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through your truth: your word is truth'*, (Jn.17:15-17). The passage teaches that we are not to separate from the world in any physical sense. It teaches that it is the Father who keeps us from the evil in that world. It teaches that we are separated from the evil of the world through His truth...and that truth is now found in His Word - the 66 books of the Bible. It teaches we are to be kept not from the world but *from the evil within that world*, (vs.15).

We are in fact *already separated* from the world because of the Spirit (vs.16) and *are being separated* ('sanctified') from the world through the word of God, (vs.17). *The separation is through the word of God*, not by running away from the lusts in a physical sense. The key to combating worldliness is the application of the word of God to the mind! (Rom.12:2). The antidote to worldliness is shown clearly in Romans 12. The antidote to the negative *'be not conformed to this world'* is this positive: *'be you transformed by the renewing of your mind...'*

*Not by legalism:* We do not wrestle against the physical things of this world, for *'we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places'*, (Eph.6:12).

No doubt the world is increasingly saturated with the media, TV, movies, phones, clothes, fashions, etc. However, these things are *'amoral'* - they are not inherently evil in themselves. To watch TV, an occasional movie, read the

newspapers, buy fashionable clothing - these are not evil *in themselves*. But the issue is: Am I seduced by them, or desire them inordinately that Christ would be secondary? Worldliness is selfishly desiring or gaining such things to the exclusion of God. Yet, if I am not repulsed by many of the Hollywood stars then I am not repulsed by what God hates and what He sees as worldliness - the *sinful philosophies* and lifestyles of the world.

The world is begging for our senses every day with its philosophies - in billboards, newspapers, radio, internet and TV. It can have great power over our lives unless we control it and feed our minds with God's word. The problem is not TV or the internet itself, but the *thoughtless* watching and the *lack of discernment* that can accompany it. Because of the shallowness of doctrine today, no doubt many Christians lack discernment and might be better off without many media temptations. But the heart of the problem is not the TV or other media, for the *same problem* would show up in many other areas of our lives if such media as TV were non-existent! The core problem is not the actors on the screen but the lack of self control by *us*. The problem is US! However, if we are weak in any area then measures may need to be taken to *avoid* that lustful area. But we do not seek God's approval by *not* watching TV, *not* going to movies or *not* doing things...even things that someone else might judge as 'worldly'.

There is also a legalistic danger in addressing 'worldliness' with a dualistic approach whereby we separate the secular from the sacred and see the secular as evil. If this approach were true then we would not work! But the Bible says that '**All things are lawful for me**', although some of these things '**are not expedient**' and might not '**edify**' me in a Godly fashion, (1Cor.10:23). Therefore, '**whatsoever you do, do all to the glory of God**', (vs.31) - the '**whatsoever**' and the '**all**' here includes 'secular' things! God gives us '**all things to enjoy**', (1Tim.6:17)! And our '**liberty**' in any such areas should not be '**judged**' by others, (1Cor.10:29).

Still some legalists would have us only doing things that are 'spiritual'. Secular activities and hobbies that are relaxing and refreshing are considered to be unholy. But if this were true then we would not sleep! When we close our eyes we place ourselves in the hands of God. We have little or no control over our dreams and indeed a large percentage of our time is sleep. Yet this time is necessary for physical, mental and spiritual health and restoration. There might also be other recreational activities that would be helpful for rest and rejuvenation in body and in mind.

The danger of legalism is also that the separation is *from* something but not *to* something at the same time. *If we separate from things that cause worldliness in us, then we must also separate to that which is going to build us in the issues of the heart.* The word of God teaches clearly that sanctification is God working *within* us, (Phil.2:13). It is not just a separation *from* worldliness but a surrender *to* the things of God. Again, Romans 12:2 brings out this two way approach to 'worldliness': '**be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind...**' We are '*not to be conformed to the world system*' and at the same time we '*are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds*'. The contrast here is obvious and shows a *two way separation*. Legalism focuses more on one way only. But *the mind must be trained to address the issues of the heart!* So, not only are we to *avoid* some things, but we must also

*pursue* Holiness by being transformed by the Holy Spirit within and the Word of God to our minds.

Legalists forget that we are already approved 100% when we received Jesus Christ and His Gospel and He credited us as 100% *legally* righteous. 'Legalism' is actually a false gospel because it sets up one's own laws to follow, and worse, often imposes them upon others! Legalism forgets that '**All things are lawful**', (1Cor.10:23). *Everything* in this world is lawful. We are to engage the world for Christ. We are to be '**all things to all men**', (1Cor.9:22). We cannot do that if we isolate ourselves from it. We are to be '**salt to the earth**' and a '**light of the world**' in our communities, (Matt.5:13,14). The world will never accept spiritual things, (Jn.14:17) and we cannot ultimately change society or transform it, but we can still hold back its fleshly ways until the Lord comes. That is what our 'salt' and 'light' are for.

Before some readers might protest at what may appear to them a view of licentiousness or antinomianism (against the law), let me state clearly that the Word of God does not give us the license to include in the '*all things are lawful*' *anything* which is sinful or tempting to lusts!

### Solutions and Checklists:

The starting place for a defence against worldliness is *sound doctrine*. I meet people today who could not care less about doctrine - I ask...where is the fear of God? Christians today will hardly stand up to, or allow exposure of, false teachers and false prophets...where is the fear of God? If we tolerate such obvious things which God hates, how can we expect to have discernment and critical evaluation of the world's message? The great church leader, Charles Spurgeon, in 1887 pleaded with churches in his time that were on a 'downgrade' to worldliness: '*Brethren in Christ, in every church let us purge out the things which weaken and pollute. It is clear to everyone who is willing to see it that laxity of doctrine is either the parent of worldliness, or is in some other way very near akin to it. The men who give up the old faith are the same persons who plead for latitude as to general conduct. The Puritan is not more notorious for his orthodoxy than for his separateness from the world. Liberal divines do not always command the respect of the public, but they gain a certain popularity by pandering to prevailing tastes. The ungodly world is so far on their side that it commends them for their liberality and rails at the orthodox as bigots and killjoys. It is a very suspicious circumstance that very often the less he even cares to speak of it, the more heartily he is for the new theology, the theology of evolution, and the condemnation of all settled doctrine. Those who would have a blessing from the Lord must avoid all this and determine to follow the Lord fully. Not only must they quit false doctrine, but they must receive the gospel, not as dogma, but as vital truth. Believers must also sweep the house of the leaven of this worldliness and the frivolities of a giddy generation. The evil which is now current eats as doth a canker, and there is no hope for healthy godliness until it is cut out of the body of the church by her again repenting, and doing her first works.*'

What is it that is in the world that dominates our mind and stirs our heart? What are we captivated by? It is those areas that may need the 'checks and balances'.

Christians who consistently watch 'soapies' that thrive on fornication, adultery and deceitful relationships may well risk their consciences being compromised. The question

that could be asked is: 'is sin being put in an appealing way?'. *Filling our minds with the media deceptions without critical evaluation will dull our consciences.*

I often ask Christians 'Are you like the Bible character, Lot, who was weary and sickened by the 'filthy behaviour' and the 'unlawful deeds' of this world. Do you want to go home to be with the Lord?', (2Pet.2:7,8). The answer to this may well determine what we really think of the world. 'Worldliness' does not create sin in our hearts, it just reveals what is already there!

Music affects emotions and the body. Music is not neutral when our sinful hearts are involved. Is listening to certain music done to the glory of God? (1Cor.10:31)? Can I listen to this song in the name of the Lord Jesus? (Col.3:17)? These questions can only be answered personally by our own consciences. This author is convinced that as Abel's worship was distinct from Cain's, so any music used in church in the area of 'worship' should be as distinct - distinct from the beat and the philosophy of the world.

Materialism is an obvious problem in modern Christianity. Coveting material possessions causes us to have two masters both of which we cannot serve, (Lk.16:13). *The problem is not in having material things, but that the material things have us.* Covetousness chains the heart to things that are 'fashions that are passing away', (1Cor.7:31).

We must separate needs from wants. Recently I shifted house and when packing found myself wanting to horde things that I knew I did not need and probably would never use. After some deliberation of the heart I took the resolution to give away anything I knew I would not use within the next 12 months. At first it seemed difficult to give away possessions but soon the feeling was actually quite liberating!

One area that starkly shows our attitude to worldliness is in the area of modesty. I am not here just referring only to dress. The word modesty ('kosmios') is similar in meaning to the word 'world'. Modesty refers to 'order, arrangement, that which is seemly'. The same word is used for the character qualifications of an elder in 1Timothy 3:2 - *modesty is closely associated with character.* This concept of modesty is akin to 'humility' and is the opposite of boldness, arrogance or 'showiness'. *Modesty is first an issue of the heart and is about character and unselfish restraint!*\* Modesty covers many areas of 'worldliness'. If we are going to avoid worldliness we must understand it as a part of modesty which is the *restraint* of character, the *limiting* of freedoms where necessary and the *restraint* from the fashions of this age.

One of the biggest dangers I see today in young Christians and youth groups is their thinking that they can flirt with the world so long as they do not 'cross the line'. This thinking I am convinced is deadly! Again, it shows a willingness to flirt with the fashions of this age which the Bible consistently warns of. We need to be keeping well away from that 'line' as its temptation has its own way of seduction that searches to find a slippery slope.

*The ultimate antidote to 'worldliness' is the cross.* We evaluate the world by the cross and its Gospel. What do I think of the Gospel and the cross? Do I see the cross as also

*crucifixion of me?* Have I crucified my self and died to the 'affections and lusts' of the world, (Gal.5:24)? ***God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world'***, (Gal.6:14).

Spurgeon once exhorted his hearers to ' *dwell where the cries of Calvary can be heard*'. As a famous hymn says - it is at the cross that '*the things of earth will grow strangely dim*'. Thus we are to keep ourselves 'unspotted from the world', (James 1:27). ***You adulterers and adulteresses, know you not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God'***, (James 4:4).

We have got to keep our *distinctiveness!* When we talk of 'separation' from the ways of the world it might help to understand this as more of a 'distinctiveness'. We are to maintain our distinctiveness as people who are *by nature* distinct to those of the world. We are different in Spirit - we have the distinctive Holy Spirit and not the spirit of the world; and we are different in soul because our mind, will and emotions hunger for the righteousness of God rather than the passing fashions of this world. Although we still are to be with those unsaved in the world, our attitude is to be *different*, our values must be *different*, because our natures are *different* - we are indwelt with the Spirit of Christ, who as the Holy Spirit, is *distinct*. J.Grehsam Machen once wrote: '*Heed me my dear hearer, 'It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of an angry God'. If the sharp distinction is ever broken down between the church and the world, then the power of the church is gone. The church then becomes like salt that has lost it's savor and is fit only to be cast out and be trodden under foot of men*'.

*Worldliness is internal not environmental.* It is the false 'gods' of this world having sway in our hearts. May we guard our hearts and watch for that spirit of Demas that would cause us to flirt with or drift into the worlds flow. May we keep our conscience clear and sharp by immersing it in the Word of God. Let not the cares of the world choke the daily word that would be transmitted to us. May we be repulsed by what God hates - the *sinful philosophies* and lifestyles of the world. In our weak areas may God strengthen us with a resolve to overcome!

***'All things are lawful to me'***, but with three limitations on that freedom: 1. ***'but all things are not expedient... 2. ...but I will not be brought under the power of any. 3. ...but all things edify not'***, (1Cor.6:12; 10:23).

Whatever we partake of in the world, let us pursue at the same time the holiness of the Lord, first within and then outward in testimony.

*The antidote to 'worldliness' is the cross.* Have I died to the lusts of the world? ***God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world'***, (Gal.6:14).

He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world, (1Jn.4:4). Brethren, fear God and ***'be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind...'***

**Terry Arnold**

**Recommended reading:** 'Worldliness - Resisting the Seduction of a Fallen World', edited by C.J. Mahaney.

\* See article 'Modesty' ('Diakrisis' Jan/Feb/2009).

## The 'Inspiration' of Scripture

What is causing the modern church to be apostasising so rapidly today? Those who might not think the church is falling away only need to review history to see that *every major western denomination does not believe what they used to believe!* That is what 'apostasy' really means - to fall away from where one was. A review of the major denominations and where they stand on the following issues will show clear continuing 'apostasy' even within the last few decades:- Women in ministry; The ecumenical movement/Roman Catholicism; The 'tongues movement'; Genesis and creation; Worship forms; Church discipline...the list increases each decade. On these issues and more, the modern church has done drastic turnarounds and backflips!

Why is this so? Two factors stand out to me. Firstly, the church has capitulated to the postmodernist philosophies of the world. Secondly, Scripture is simply no longer viewed the way it used to be viewed. 'Inspiration' and 'Inerrancy' don't mean what they used to mean.

Many will say they believe in the 'inspiration of scripture', but often they have a 'low view' of that in comparison to the early church, or they are really believing in what some call 'partial inspiration'. In recent editions of this newsletter we have dealt with the issue of 'women in ministry'. It is not hard to see that modern articles arguing for women in ministry positions of authority and teaching do twist the scriptures to say what they do not really say. Hypothetical arguments are embellished to make a bias seem logical. But at the core of the issue is a different view on the *authority* of scripture and what was once taught on 'inspiration'.

One pastor highlighted this when he wrote to this ministry of the misuse of scripture today arguing for women in authoritative ministerial roles: *'They fail to understand inspiration...Paul was an instrument in the hands of the master and yet they view him as a man who swayed to and fro in the wind depending on the circumstances and his feelings when putting pen to paper in regard to the word of God...The word of God is plain...let it stand true'*.

And how 'plain' is it when the scripture says ***'I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man...'*** How 'plain' is it when the scriptures state unequivocally that an elder/pastor is to be a ***'man'*** and ***'the husband of one wife'*** (1Tim.3; Tit.1). How 'plain' do the scriptures have to be?...unless of course they are not quite 'inspired' for these 'modern times'?

It is this postmodern view - that the Bible is no longer *absolute* in its teachings, that has caused a watering down of the scriptures from being *fully God breathed* and *for today*. But the apostle Paul, if he were here today, would he not say that scripture is 100% relevant today and forever? Is it not true that ***'the word of the Lord endures forever'***, (1Pet.1:25)? Would he deny that He wrote under the inspiration of God when he penned: ***'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works'***, (2Tim.3:16,17).

### **What Inspiration Is:**

All scripture was given by God as He *breathed* [expired] *it out* of Himself (ie. ***'by inspiration'***). *Inspiration is the*

*means by which revelation is given. Revelation is the content; Inspiration is the vehicle, the method.*

This 'inspiration' had nothing to do with men except that they were God's instruments in writing it down. Because it is from God, this inspiration will not cater for the whims of man's bias in any doctrine; ***'For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost'***, (2Pet.1:21).

'Inspiration' is *not human* when you consider it logically. Who in their right mind would write a book that would describe God and Jesus as they are? Who would add in the doctrines of Predestination or the Trinity? Such doctrines are just not logical! Who would write a book that would damn the whole human race and give no hope except only in Jesus! Who would have a Hell with eternal torment and fire? All other religious books by all other gurus contain salvation by works - they bow to human pride! But The Bible is divine. It's inspired.

### **Attacks on Inspiration:**

Can musicians or their music be 'inspired'? In human terms, perhaps; but none is 'God breathed' like Scripture is. If it is, then we had better add to the Bible the words of the 'inspired' music. But who will do this with the threat of a curse to anyone adding to the Gospel and God's Word? (Rev.22:18,19; Gal.1:8,9).

Are any sermons 'inspired'? Is it 'God breathed' revelation? The best sermon by the best preacher can be edited and made better. Yet, (despite some lousy translations around today), God's word does not need editing at all!

In the Old Testament men were repeatedly commanded to write what God commanded them to write (Ex.17:14; 34:27; Num.33:2; Is.8:1; 30:8). Many times the prophets said *'thus says the Lord'*. Jesus often said: *'It is written'*. He confirmed Genesis and other books time and time again. (He quoted the Old Testament about 180 times). Yet today many do not take parts of the Old Testament, such as Genesis, to be literal truth. They in fact reduce it to a *'fable'* (2Tim.4:4; 2Pet.1:16; 1Tim.1:4).

The doctrine of the Inspiration of Scripture has also been 'reduced' when the modern church increasingly allows men to call themselves 'prophets'. The apostle Peter said these ***'false prophets'*** speak ***'great swelling words of vanity'***, (2Pet.1-18). Prophets spoke on behalf of God and their words were written down as *God breathed*. Dare today's 'prophets' add to that now when the church has already been built upon the prophets *in the past* (Eph.2:20; Heb.1:1,2); and that word is complete and 'once' given (Jude 3)?

Similarly, the doctrine of Inspiration is weakened when humans publicly give a message 'in tongues' which is supposedly interpreted as words from God. If they are really words from God then why don't we add them to our Bibles?

And what is it when someone says *'God told me'*. Some may think I am being pedantic, but does ***'the faith once delivered'*** have a continuing element? Does God have more words to say, or did He give His final words ***'once delivered to the saints'*** (Jude 3)? I have met people who have said *'God told me...the Spirit spoke to me...or...God gave me a vision...a dream...'* Are there such inspired sources other than, or distinct from, the Bible? No doubt the Holy Spirit

may 'prompt' us to speak or act in some way, since His work is to *convict* us and *lead* us. However, what of hearing *revelation* from God outside of the written Word? Does God's word also include such revelations? In Jude 3 the word '*delivered*' is in the past tense (aorist passive) with no continuing element. The passive voice shows this body of faith was given to men *by God*. How has this been done? - through the *closed* canon of Scripture - the Bible!

Today, we have attacks on this 'faith' from many quarters. The range of extra-Biblical teaching and revelations including dreams and visions are too numerous to mention. It is these things that subtly break down a 'high view' of the doctrine of Inspiration.

One author sums up the case well: '*...And why not both? Why not the illumination of Scripture coupled with new revelations of the Spirit? Simply because if you declare a need for both, you have implied the insufficiency of one. You have placed yourself back in the frame work of the Old Covenant, in a time when new revelations were required because of the incompleteness of the old. But Christ is the final Word. No further word for the redemption of men in the present age is needed. In Scripture is found all the truth that is needed for life and godliness...The reformers who paid with their life blood for freedom from dominance by the traditions of the church were especially jealous in guarding future generations from the oppressions created by supposed words from the lord. 'Scripture Alone' was their uncompromising cry. Only the written Word of God, an objective standard which all men can see and read, communicates infallible truth to God's people, since God now has stopped using His former methods of revealing His will to the church, (Heb.1:1). But the search goes on for a new way for God to continue revealing His will in ways other than through Holy Scripture. Each new generation offers a slightly different twist on the recurring theme.'*'\*

### More Erroneous Views of Inspiration...

Some say there are degrees of inspiration of scripture, that the Bible is only inspired in the spiritual or the moral parts but not necessarily in areas such as science or history. This view was spurred on by the 'rationalism' of the 18th century which raised man's reason to being the arbitrator of truth. Such 'higher learning' tended to destroy the infallibility and authority of the Bible. Certainly it is the *whole* of the Bible and *only* the Bible that is necessary for our spiritual walk. But if God cannot be trusted in science, history, creation, etc, then why trust him in spiritual matters? 'Inspired' means God said it! *There cannot be any degrees in this - either God said it or He did not!* It is this '*absolute*' in the doctrine of Inspiration that is so under attack today. The Bible says: '*we have also a more sure word of prophecy...of the Scripture*', (2Pet.1:19,20).

Some say Inspiration is 'mechanical' - that men were mere penman and the word was dictated to them. The folly of this view is that the various authors were different in personalities and characters and that this came through in their vastly different styles of writings. They also shared their experiences, which is hardly 'mechanical'.

Some say inspiration is 'dynamic' but not verbal in that God did not inspire the very words but only guided the thoughts of the writers. But Jesus and the apostles quoted Old Testament *words* as inspired and many times words were also put into the prophets mouths to be spoken by God.

### The Power of Inspiration:

It is the Inspiration of scripture that gives the words of God power to change man. Paul reminded Timothy that it was '*the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*', (2Tim.3:15). The word '*holy*' here is not the usual word for holy ('*hagios*'), but '*hierá*', which refers to a *sacred* holiness implying the authority and character thereof. The written scriptures are well able in themselves to make one '*wise unto salvation*' through the vehicle of '*faith*' in the person of Jesus Christ. No sinner can long read the Scriptures without a change taking place in his or her life. Either he or she will change in a supernatural way or the Scriptures will not be read for long.

Added to this is the power to establish doctrine, teach, correct and make disciples. Only that which is breathed out by God ('*inspiration of God*') '*is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*', (vs.16). Today the teaching of doctrine is often despised. Prominent TV preachers have stated: '*Don't give me doctrine, doctrine divides*'. Yet, this is what it is meant to do - the teaching of doctrine often necessitates dividing truth from error. If 'doctrine divides' then truth divides!

The phrase '*for correction*' means to set right again from error; and the phrase '*for reproof*' refers to conviction or persuasion. The word '*reproof*' also includes the idea of the refutation of adversaries, (two synonyms of this word are 'proof' and 'judgement').

All this power and innate ability comes from the fact that the scriptures are 'inspired' - *God breathed*. Is it any wonder that such words from God are '*profitable...for instruction in righteousness*'?

All these benefits are not independent of each other but are *together* a work of *sanctification* - '*that the man of God may be perfect*' (vs.17). Here again we see the *absoluteness* of Inspiration. The word here for '*perfect*' is not the usual word for 'perfect' ('*telios*'), but is '*artios*' which means these scriptures are *exactly sufficient* and *completely qualified* of themselves to '*thoroughly furnish*' the Christian. The word '*furnish*' ('*exartizo*') is a very close synonym of perfect and again emphasises a work that would be *entirely completed*. The end result is '*unto all good works*' - works that are in salvation and in Christ. These are the works that '*God has before ordained that we should walk in them*', (Eph.2:10).

### Conclusion:

*Inspiration is the means by which God's revelation is given.* The doctrine of Inspiration is *how* God breathed it out - men were 'moved along' by the Holy Spirit to write His thoughts down *exactly* as He desired it.

'Inspired' means God said it! Since the closure of the canon of scripture, we have a '*more sure word of Prophecy...the prophecy of scripture*', (2Pet.1:19,20)

Only if the scriptures are inspired can we truly trust the effect they will have on men and women surrendered to God. They are well '*able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*'. Only if they are fully *inspired* can they be '*profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness*'.

Terry Arnold

\* '*The Final Word*' by O. Palmer Robertson, P.135 & P.86

## Your Comments and Questions

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

[Editors comments in bold and brackets] Dear Terry,...a friend loans me your newsletters which give me much thought...In your article on 'love' by Richard Snowden [July/Aug/2009,P.9] I question the statement 'love is doing what is best for the other person'. Surely...the person is first to be sure that they are obeying the Holy Spirit. **[Agreed. But the recent articles on love already assume the readers are Christians able to obey the Holy Spirit, as do the scriptures that exhort us to love (1Cor.13)]**

I help with 'kids meetings' and it seems for many years I have seldom, if ever, heard a sermon or teaching about fornication. I believe our children need teaching on what the Bible says about this. Also there seems to be little said about what the term 'born again' means...it being the separation of the Adamic earthly nature and the new spiritual nature at conversion metamorphed by the Holy Spirit. **[Fornication is mentioned several times in the Bible and so should be taught at least when we would teach the relevant passages of scripture. Similarly, the words 'born again' (and 'regeneration'). It is well possible to explain all these terms in simple language to children]**

Please also comment on why God told the Israelites to kill the Canaanite men, women and children in contrast to the ten commandments ('thou shall not kill'). I can understand God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah but why expect and command your creation to kill, and what good is there in this? **[The Caananites were hardly better than Sodom and Gomorrah considering their idolatry, etc. The ten commandments were a moral law to God's people in dealing primarily with each other. 'Thou shalt not kill' is referring to murder which arguably is different to killing in war that might be sanctioned by God?]**

Dear Terry, Thankyou for the latest 'Diakrisis' and the article on women in ministry. I fully support the stand you are taking on that subject. It is interesting to observe that it is primarily those churches which have departed most from the word of God which push the hardest for women in leadership over men. Please send me the full version of the free papers advertised on this topic.

**(D.H., Brisbane)**

Dear Terry, We recently left our church...which used to be a traditional assembly but has in the past year decided to go the Hillsong way and introduce women into leadership/teaching, etc. So it was encouraging to read your recent article on women in ministry...

**(A.S., Sydney)**

Terry,...Your book 'To Catholics Whom I Love' was greatly helpful in bringing my mother out of the Roman Catholic religion and into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ - Praise the Lord. Someone has been sending me copies of your newsletter...In our church currently we are under pressure to ignore scripture and place women in positions of authority. I deplore the spirit behind this push and I am praying that this does not come to pass. I appreciate your articles in the newsletters and would love to receive them on a regular basis...Yours in Christ...

**(Name withheld at editors discretion)**

### God's Answer To Pragmatism - Quotable!

'And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land; must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest?', (Gen.24:5).

[There are] certain ministers, who are treacherously betraying our holy religion under pretence of adapting it to this progressive age. The new plan is to assimilate the church to the world, and so include a larger area within its bounds. By semi dramatic performances they make houses of prayer to approximate to the theatre, they turn their services into musical displays, and their sermons into political harangues or philosophical essays; in fact they exchange the temple for a theatre and turn the ministers of God into actors, whose business it is to amuse men...Ah me! The hedges are broken down, the walls are levelled, and to many there is henceforth, no church except as a portion of the world...

This then is the proposal. In order to win the world, the Lord Jesus must conform himself, his people, and his word to the world. I will not dwell any longer on so loathsome a proposal...The Israelites were bad enough, but it was the mixed multitude that always led the way in murmuring. Why is there spiritual death today? Why is false doctrine so rampant in the churches? It is because we have ungodly people in the church and in the ministry. Eagerness for the numbers, and especially eagerness to include respectable people, has adulterated many churches and made them lax in doctrine and practice, and fond of silly amusements...

I have long worked out before your very eyes the experiment of the unaided attractiveness of the gospel of Jesus. Our service is severely plain...I have set before you these many years, nothing but Christ crucified and the simplicity of the gospel, yet where will you find such a crowd as this gathered together this morning? Where will you find such a multitude as this meeting Sabbath after Sabbath, for five and thirty years? I have shown you nothing but the cross, the cross without the flowers of oratory, the cross without the blue lights of superstition or excitement, the cross without diamonds of ecclesiastical rank, the cross without the buttresses of a boastful science. It is abundantly sufficient to attract men first to itself, and afterwards to eternal life! In this house we have proved successfully, these many years, this great truth, that the gospel plainly preached will gain an audience, convert sinners, and build up and sustain a church.

There is no need to go down to Egypt for help. To invite the devil to help Christ is shameful...'

C.H. Spurgeon (1834-1892)

## Your Comments and Questions

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

### **\*\*New Book\*\***

In response to our article 'On the Subject of Women in Ministry' (July-Aug/2009, P.5) some have asked about the recommended book 'Countering the Claims of Evangelical Feminism' by Wayne Grudem. This book is now available from our ministry at \$24.90 + postage. We highly recommend this as an excellent reference book concerning the various issues of women in ministry.

### **Mail Out**

Last month this ministry sent out a letter to 78 Queensland Churches of Christ offering a copy of our refutation to a Church of Christ paper which advocated women in authoritative ministry positions of teaching. Our offer of the refutation paper was taken up by 6 churches.

(Most Churches of Christ we know of in Queensland are sympathetic to women in ministry positions. The Queensland Church of Christ leadership itself has had numerous women in positions of authority and teaching, including past presidents).

*Dear Terry, as a Church of Christ Minister with...which comes under the umbrella of the Aboriginal & Islander Christian Fellowship in Qld, we hold fast to the position of Women being silent in Church in regard to teaching...It is sad to see the way churches view scripture on the women in ministry issue. They fail to understand inspiration...Paul was an instrument in the hands of the master and yet they view him as a man who swayed to and fro in the wind depending on the circumstances and his feelings when putting pen to paper in regard to the word of God. It looks like they are trying to please the majority and win numbers for membership rather than souls for the kingdom. Very disturbing...The word of God is plain...let it stand true...Amen for what you have written, it's good to know that your willing to stand for truth even in a time of turmoil...God Bless you brother. Yours in Christ*

(M.N., NSW)

*Dear Terry, as an extension of the recent 'women in ministry' issue: I think that our society today is suffering much from forced equality of sexes. In so many households both husband and wife work - housing is now much more expensive as financiers know that two people working full time can afford a bigger loan - so prices go up. If the man only worked full time, house prices would be much lower as they simply could not afford the high prices of today. There would be less cars and less road/bridge/tunnel infrastructure as less people go to work. Less workers needed to provide for other workers. Far less child care centres. Less family problems. Less taxes...More stable marriages. More children per household as mum has time for them...etc.*

*God's pattern of family/community does work.*

(SE Qld. Baptist Union church Elder)

*I hold to the truth that the Bible from creation, due to the 'Fall', says God 'cursed' both Adam and Eve, and so women are not to rule over men. But some disagree with me and say Adam and Eve's condition was just the result of the 'Fall' (ie. it just happened that Adam was the strongest physically and so would take over, or that Eve's body was altered to produce painful childbirth). Please comment...*

**Editors reply:** There is evidence that the 'headship' of man began pre-fall:

1. **The order:** Adam was created first and this fact is given in the New Testament as one of the very reasons why women are to submit to their husbands: '*But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve*', (1Tim.2:13).

In the naming of the woman, Eve was taken 'out of' man, (Gen.2:23). Neither was Eve created in the same way as Adam.

2. **The representation and naming of the human race:** Adam represents the human race, not Eve, (Gen.3:6; 5:1,2; 1Cor.15:22; 1Cor.15:45-49 Rom.5:12-21). God named the human race 'man', not 'woman'.

3. **Primary accountability:** Although Eve sinned first, (1Tim.2:14; Gen.3:1,6), after the Fall God called Adam first to accountability, (Gen.3:9).

4. **Eve was a helper to Adam:** Eve did not have the same authority as Adam. 'Helper' is a supporting role. Adam had the authority which Eve did not have, to name God's creatures and to look after the garden, (Gen.1:26-30).

5. **The relationship of husband and wife goes back to pre-fall:** Ephesians 5:31 quotes Genesis 2:24: '*For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh*'. This marriage relationship is said to be 'from the beginning of creation', (Mk.10:6-8). The relationship and role of husband and wife is not culturally variable. It is in fact the pattern for Christ's church! (Eph.5:22-33). Wives are commanded to learn Godly submission and husbands to learn Godly tender leadership. Any authority that a Christian man has over his wife is as protector, carer, leader - as she willing submits to his lead. Ephesians 5 specifically correlates this to Christ and His church. We submit to Christ the head of the church who is its protector, carer and leader.

The conflict of sin in the Fall did not create new roles but defined and established what was already there. God said '*your desire shall be to your husband, and he shall rule over you*', (Gen.3:16). And redemption does not redefine creation. It restores it.

Even if the order and function of man and woman now is a 'result of the fall', the scriptures commanding women not to have authority over men in leading and teaching are still to be obeyed. Whether this is said to be a cause of the fall or not, it cannot be the reason man 'took over' since that is not the reason given by Paul when he refers back to creation in 1Tim.2.

As for the question of males being stronger, Peter simply states that women are the 'weaker vessel', (1Pet.3:7).

## Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, could you write an expose of the 'Alpha course'. It is financed by the world bankers. Ken Costa is, or was, chairman of Alpha Partners and vice chairman of the United Bank of Switzerland.

**Editors Note: We did an expose of the Alpha course in Nov/Dec 2003. Copies of that are available on request.**

Dear Terry...Good to get your latest 'Diakrisis'. Thank you for all the hard work you do in putting it together. I always get something out of them...

1. I liked the 'Love' article and the concept 'What is best for'. Very interesting way of putting this topic.

2. The 'Modesty' article is timely. The Biblical 'flee youthful lusts' is not just for the youngsters. I can vouch that 'youthful lusts' continue well into life! Living in a smallish town, in a climate which is not conducive to 'polka dot bikinis' and other immodest dress for femmes, I have to put on the armour of God when visiting the city. The amount of temptation (in the way of eye-catching femme fatale) that is thrown at you is bewildering; I really don't know how the youthful handle it.

3. 'Confessing sin and not 'asking' forgiveness' is worth a comment too. In the light of your writings, I hadn't properly considered this. However, the 'Lord's prayer: 'forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ...' - does not 'forgive us' tend to be a request or asking?

(A.O., Sydney)

Dear Brother Terry, thank you again for a wonderful ministry into our lives by your humble obedience to our Lord and His precious Word. We continue to pray for you, and your family. Would you please e-mail a copy of the paper 'On the Subject of Women in Ministry'. Your 'Diakrisis' is a welcome oasis in our lives and it challenges us in our daily walk with the Lord...Love through Jesus Christ our Lord,

(M&K. L., Brisbane)

### Quotables

'One may have a great zeal in God's service, and may be used to influence many for good, and yet, when weighed in the balance of love, be found sadly wanting. In the heat of controversy or under unjust criticism, haste of temper, slowness to forgive and forget, quick words and sharp judgments, often reveal an easily wounded sensitiveness, which proves how little the Spirit of the Lord Jesus has full possession or real mastery of the life'.

(Miles J. Stanford, 'None But the Hungry Heart')

'Our Lord attracted sinners because there was something different about Him...And the word always expects us to be different. This idea that you are going to win people to the Christian faith by showing them that after all you are remarkably like them, is theologically and psychologically a profound blunder'.

(Martyn Lloyd Jones)

Dear Terry, Do you have any information on John Avanzini, as I have received his booklet titled 'Miracle Money'. He makes the claim that we give to God, then expect Him to bless us back 100 fold...Many thanks for the 'Diakrisis' newsletter!

(Name not given)

**Editors Comment: We did an article on Avanzini and 'Miracle Money' in the 'Diakrisis' May/99 edition, P.3. In that year he made the front page in a UK local newspaper, the Walsall Advertiser, because of his 'bill burning campaign' where he encouraged supporters to send bills to his UK Walsall office with a pre-printed 'Paid in Full' sticker adhered to them with a recommended one hundredth of all the participants outstanding debts. The bills (not the money) would then be burnt by his ministry personnel at a special ceremony. (Recently Benny Hinn replayed this same scam and advertised a 'Debt Free Day' where people sent him money and their debts would be 'cancelled' as he prayed over them with a special 'anointing').**

Following the US September 11 terrorist attacks Avanzini sent out chain letters to Christians in the UK saying that God would protect them and their loved ones from future terrorist attacks if they joined a 'Chain of Safety'. Avanzini claimed that on September 8th, God told him to form a protective 'chain' with his friends and partners in which he envisaged all of them inside a spiritual force field of God's protective power. As an added bonus, Avanzini stressed that God would also provide large material blessing for a minimum payment of £35, (but donations of up to £100 were to be accepted).

In February 2000, the Australian Office of Fair Trading in Victoria took steps to warn people about Avanzini's money making schemes. But there is no shortage of gullible Christians who send him money, judging by the wealthy lifestyles of such false prophets. (Avanzini is also endorsed by other false prophets such as Oral Roberts, Kenneth Copeland and Creflo Dollar).

In 'Miracle Money' Avanzini endorses his money making theories with scriptures that have nothing to do with sending money to a prophet. Scriptures that mention 'prosperity' are used. The word 'prosper' is actually used only a few times in the NT and they primarily have nothing to do with money. The word 'prosper' literally means 'easy to travel through; to prosper ones journey, to give success'.

Yet Avanzini says: 'God wants to reveal Himself to you in the hundredfold release'. According to Avanzini, God took him aside and taught him the formula for prosperity. That involves giving money to Avanzini and the 'offering will be multiplied back one hundredfold'. Avanzini says that God said to him: 'My part will be to miraculously release the hundredfold return to those who obey...John, you must carefully watch for those who receive the hundredfold. I will use these obedient ones to encourage you and others in the hundredfold increase.'

Put simply, the man is a brazen charlatan who misuses scripture and blatantly produces one scam after another and then perpetuates them in the name of God!

## Your Comments and Questions

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

**Note: New e-mail address: taministries@bigpond.com**

### **\*\*New Travelling Ministry for 2010\*\***

God willing, the editor will be back travelling in 2010 and hopes to fill various itineraries within Australia. For the first time, he will be joined by his wife, Beth. They plan to purchase a Coaster bus and travel from March to May. It is hoped that apart from the usual cities, many other areas including western areas could now be visited on route.

If any colleges, churches or fellowships are interested in being part of these March-May itineraries, please contact this ministry. There is now a wide range of topics and seminars to choose from. As well, Beth is a gifted teacher on various topics to women and children. As a school teacher she is also interested in home schooling needs. Terry and Beth are also interested in teaching on the subject of marriage.

Please contact this ministry if you are interested in having Terry visit and we could advise possible dates for various areas of Australia.

Dear Terry, Re: the articles on 'love' - Funny, for a long time now I also have been trying to understand God's love for me more, and in turn my love for Him and others. I fail at times with hardness of heart and my constant prayer is for His softening of it. I really cannot comprehend His love for us; it is too great a thought to fully take in. It is 'amazing love'. I know that He loved us first and if not for the miracle working power of His Holy Spirit on our hardened hearts we would not ever be saved. To say that man has anything to do with this election and regeneration is a great insult to the creator of this universe. The miracle working power that is at work in the human heart and conscience can only come from the one who created all things seen and unseen. Any other explanation is absurdity...

(G.C., Sydney)

### **Praise/Prayer Points**

- Praise the Lord for the voluminous feed back from the last newsletter and the letters of encouragement.
- The Lord has provided a Christian brother who is currently fitting out a coaster bus for the editor and his wife. Pray for the funds to complete the fit out and for it to be ready for travel in 2010. Please pray for the working out of the 2010 itineraries and this new venture by Terry & Beth (see above).

Dear Terry, I was interested to read of Peter Clements passing away [Diakrisis May/June]...A true man of God who stood on the word. He did not sway to the left or right. I was a student of his at Bimbadeen Aboriginal Bible College. I was saddened to hear of his death but thanked the Lord for his life and that now he is with the one he loved the most. His life was centred in Christ. He will be greatly missed. Praise the Lord for a man of integrity, truth, unwavering belief and continued reliance on the word of God.

(M.N., NSW)

Hi Terry, Just want to thank you and your team for the encouragement 'Diakrisis' is to me!...I saw some newsletters back to 2005 recently at my mum's place and couldn't get enough of them! I have been enjoying going through them. Please add me to your e-mail list. Thanks.

(C.C., Sydney)

Dear Terry, I have been receiving 'Diakrisis' for some years and want to thank and encourage you for the wonderful work you are doing. I am 80 years now, was saved when 40 and love my Lord Jesus so much. He has helped me through the sudden loss of my dearest Christian husband 20 years ago and the sudden tragic drowning of our only son 6 years ago. My lovely only daughter who is 50 and happily married has one daughter who is married and 3 weeks after her marriage she was diagnosed with MS. They are all Christians and love their Lord Jesus too. We all feel so blessed in knowing Him and thank Jesus every day for all His help, love and encouragement through His word and people like yourself who diligently help and encourage so many people. I look forward to receiving 'Diakrisis' so much, especially because of the times we are in now. Thankyou again, with God's blessing and love...

(N.N., NSW)

Dear Terry,...Your newsletters are so important! My little granddaughter attends a school where there are a plethora of various scripture classes and she was befriended by a Mormon girl who asked her to her church...I thankyou for the material you sent... We need to protect our little ones and be discerning. I am blessed to have many grandchildren but I get anxious about their spiritual future in these days...but I rely, depend and trust on the promises of God regarding our children and children's children...

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

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