



# Diakrisis (Australia)

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*'But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised 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 Comment

Why is it important to '*earnestly contend for the faith once delivered*' (Jude 3)? Apart from the fact that this is a command in scripture, one of the main reasons is that *false teaching affects the Gospel*.

The 'prosperity gospel' so often taught today takes away from the true Gospel because it *adds* something to Christ's work on the cross by making it what man might do to be 'blessed' by God. But the Gospel is not at all about mans wealth, but about *what Christ has already done* in dying for our sins.

The 'healing gospel' also places emphasis on what man can get from God. Healing of the body will in the *future* be a *result* of the work of the cross in atonement (Rom.8:23; Eph.1:14; Phil.3:21); but it is not the message of the Gospel! The Gospel is about what Christ did for us to appease the wrath of a holy and righteous God. *At the heart of the Gospel is Christ's work in a substitutionary sacrifice for our sin.*

The 'success gospel', so often touted by churches today, is also man centred. But the Gospel is not about our 'success' or our felt needs but rather the success of Christ's mission of death and the need of God to be satisfied in Christ for our sins! ('*propitiation*' - Rom.3:25; 1Jn.2:2; 4:10).

There is great confusion today between Sanctification - the work of the Holy Spirit *in us now*, and Justification - the work of Christ *for us in the past*. The Gospel message does not put 'the cart before the horse'. The Gospel is about Christ and Justification, not the Holy Spirit and Sanctification.

The Gospel is 'good news', but it is good news only because it is the remedy for the bad news of our sin. The consequences of breaking God's law with just *one* sin was, and is, Hell - the place assigned for the sinful angels in the beginning, and then for sinful man - because of Adam's sin and allegiance with Satan. We cannot blame Adam, for we all sin by nature, (Rom.3:23). God's plan from before the foundation of the world (Acts 2:23; 4:28; 1Pet.1:19,20) was to redeem a people for himself and to give Christ as a sacrifice for the sins of men. The scriptures are replete with man's inability to do anything toward this of himself. A sacrifice better than what any sinful man could offer had to be offered as mediation for God's hatred for sin. That sacrifice was God Himself in the flesh, '*the lamb slain before the foundation of the world*' (Rev.13:8; 1Pet.1:19). This message is 'foolishness' to men; yet it is so important that it be given to all men, as it is the only remedy for sin and the only way to eternal life and that peace and joy the world so hungers after.

So, why expose false teaching? - because it affects the Gospel; and only the Gospel in its true doctrine and purity saves. '*Another gospel*' (2Cor.11:4; Gal.1:6) does not save, no matter how wonderful it may sound!

In the Gospel is '*contained the righteousness of God*', (Rom.1:17). Only by believing the Gospel can man be credited with this righteousness. Only the Spirit from that same Gospel can raise us up in the same power that Jesus rose from the dead to conquer sin and death, (1Cor.6:14; 2Cor.4:14).

*The Gospel must be central to everything we do in church and the foundation for all our worship, service and practise for Him.* When we move away from this foundation in church life it becomes nothing better than any human club with all the pleasant activities that satisfy and please men.

The ultimate goal in 'defending the faith' will be to keep the Gospel pure and central. **Terry Arnold**

## Who Does The Pope Claim To Be?

Let Rome speaks for herself...

Pope Innocent III (1198-1216) wrote: *'We may according to the fullness of our power, dispose of the law and dispense above the law. Those whom the Pope of Rome doth separate, it is not a man that separates them but God. For the Pope holdeth place on earth, not simply of a man but of the true God'*. (1 Book of Gregory 9 Decret. c.3)

The Lateran Council addressing Pope Julius II in an oration delivered by Marcellus said: *'Take care that we lose not that salvation, that life and breath which thou hast given us, for thou art our shepherd, thou art our physician, thou art our governor, thou art our husbandman, thou art finally another God on earth'*. (Council Edition. Colm. Agrip. 1618)

Pope Nicholas said of himself: *'I am in all and above all, so that God Himself and I, the vicar of God, hath both one consistory, and I am able to do almost all that God can do...wherefore, if those things that I do be said not to be done of man, but of God, what do you make of me but God? Again, if prelates of the Church be called of Constantine for gods, I then being above all prelates, seem by this reason to be above all gods. Wherefore, no marvel, if it be in my power to dispense with all things, yea with the precepts of Christ'*. (Decret. par. Distinct 96 ch. 7 edit. Lugo 1661)

The title *'Lord God the Pope'* appeared in the Canon Law of Rome. *'To believe that our Lord God the Pope has not the power to decree as he is decreed, is to be deemed heretical'*. (The Gloss extravagances of Pope John XXII Cum. Inter, tit XIV Ad Callem Sexti Decretalium, Paris, 1685)

Speaking for the Pope, Cardinal Manning said: *'I acknowledge no civil power...I am to be the supreme judge and director of the conscience of men...I am sole, last, supreme judge of what is right and wrong...we declare, affirm, define, and pronounce it to be necessary to salvation to every human creature, to be subject to the Roman Pontiff'*. (Sermon in the Pro Cathedral, Kensington, Tablet Oct 9, 1864)

Then in 1870 (9th Jan), the Vatican Council proclaimed: *'The Pope is Christ in office, Christ in jurisdiction and power....we bow down before thy voice, O Pius, as before the voice of Christ, the God of truth, in clinging to thee we cling to Christ'*.

(Address to Pope Pius XII, 1949) *'We the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland, prostrate at the feet of your Holiness, humbly offer you our warmest congratulations on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of your ordination to the priesthood...our thoughts go back to that great event fifty years ago by which your Holiness was taken from amongst men and appointed for men in the things that pertain to God, was made a minister of Christ and a dispenser of His mysteries, received power over the real and mystical body of our Saviour and became a mediator between God and man - another Christ'*.

The Roman Catholic New York catechism states: *'The Pope takes the place of Jesus Christ on earth...by divine right the Pope has supreme and full power in faith, in morals over each and every pastor and his flock. He is the true vicar, the head of the entire church, the father and teacher of all Christians. He is the infallible ruler, the founder of dogmas, the author of and the judge of councils; the universal ruler of truth, the arbiter of the world, the supreme judge of heaven and earth, the judge of all, being judged by no one, God himself on earth'*.

Writers on Canon Law say: *'The Pope and God are the same, so he has all power in Heaven and earth'*. (Barclay Cap. XXVII P.218 Cities Petrus Bertanous, Pius V)

## Peter Versus The Popes

Roman Catholicism teaches that the first Pope was the apostle Peter; that this succession is passed on from Pope to Pope; and that the Pope is 'infallible' in matters of faith.

1. There is no evidence Peter was ever in Rome. Peter's first epistle was written from Babylon, not from Rome. Paul wrote to the church at Rome (approx. AD58) and greeted many people but *never mentions Peter*.
2. Peter was married (Matt.8:14; Lk.4:38; 1Cor.9:5). Popes are commanded not to marry.
3. Peter was a sticker for 'Sola Scriptura' (1Pet.2:8); yet the Popes teach their traditions as equal to the Word of God.
4. Peter refused worship (Acts 10:25-26); yet the Popes allow people to kiss and bow to them.
5. Peter taught that salvation comes by the substitute righteousness of God through Jesus Christ. The Popes teach salvation is by the sacraments which are *'necessary for salvation'*.
6. Peter wore no crown (1Pet.5:4). He did not allow people to bow to him, kiss his ring or foot, as does the Pope today.
7. Peter taught the high priesthood of Jesus Christ and the priesthood of all believers (1Pet.2:9); but the Popes have set a special class of priests not found in the New Testament.
8. Peter taught Jesus Christ is the Rock, (1Pet.2:4-8). The Popes teach Peter is the Rock and the vicar of Christ on earth.
9. Peter taught that man is born again through the Word of God (1Pet.1:23). The Popes teach we are born again through water baptism.
10. Peter taught that Christ 'once suffered for sins' (1Pet.3:18); yet the Popes teach that Jesus is offered at every 'Mass' as the *'same sacrifice'* as at Calvary.

# When Love Divorces Doctrine and Unity Rejects Truth

by Dr. John C. Whitcomb, Jr.

It is evident that leading neo-evangelicals believe our main goal is to eliminate doctrinal distinctives and to emphasize unity among those claiming to be believers. One of the basic ideas of today's philosophy of ecumenical evangelism is that love is more important than doctrine. Ecumenical evangelists say that doctrine divides, whereas love unifies. What does the Bible say? Is it true that in the New Testament love is more important than doctrine or Truth? In the so-called Love chapter of 1 Corinthians 13, we are told: '*Now abideth in faith, hope, love, these three, but the greatest of these is love (agape)*' (vs.13). Some say - *That settles it: love is supreme!* But when we examine that chapter more carefully, we discover that Truth is also mentioned in the chapter. In verse 6 we are told that, *love rejoices in the truth*. In other words, faith, hope, and love are *virtues* but Truth has an altogether different status. It is the *frame of reference*, the *foundation*, the *atmosphere* without which virtues such as *love* cannot exist at all.

## **Love Rejoices In The Truth...**

Why? Because without Truth to define it, to interpret it, to protect it, to guide it, to channel it - love can become a total disaster. We dare not place Truth on the same level as virtues. Virtues would shrivel up and die if it were not for Truth.

We cannot imagine life on this planet without water. Water is absolutely essential for life, as long as it stays within proper channels, within its canals, aqueduct, and pipes. But when water gets out of control, it is the second greatest catastrophe that can happen to this planet, second only to fire. On the one hand, it is an absolute blessing, but on the other hand, it can be a total disaster. So it is with love.

## **God's Definition Of Love...**

Love without divine definition (God's revealed channels within which it must flow) becomes the most horrible thing on earth. It can destroy human beings by the millions, and can be reduced to satanic sentimentalism. Love, as defined by God, is doing for a person that which is best for him in the light of eternity, no matter what the cost may be. That is how it is defined by God. Somehow, when it comes to world evangelism, many people have forgotten God's definitions and have fallen into sentimentalism. Consider some key Scriptures which illustrate the distinction between love and Truth.

*'Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free'*, (Jn.8:31,32).

Ultimate freedom may only be achieved by total submission - unconditional surrender to Truth. There is nothing here about love.

## **Love Obeys The Truth...**

There are many who speak glowingly of their love for Jesus Christ and for lost men. In John 14:15,21,23,24, John stresses that obedience to Truth is the best form of love:

*'If ye love me, keep my commandments. He that hath my commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves me. If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love*

*him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keeps not my sayings:...*'

This is what we call the acid test of love - does a man obey the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ? It makes no difference how much we talk about our love if we do not obey Christ. It is obedience that counts, not words. Obedience without love is theoretically possible, but love without obedience is, in practice, impossible. It is a satanic substitute for God's plan.

## **Love Teaches The Truth...**

John 21 gives an example of one who said much about his love for Jesus. But when it came to obedience, it was not there. When the pressure came, his resolution collapsed and he denied his Lord. After the resurrection of Jesus, our Lord confronted Peter lovingly, but in truth:

*'Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs...Feed my sheep...Feed my sheep'*, (Jn.21:15-17).

How do we express love to the Lord Jesus according to the lesson of this confrontation? By feeding His sheep, as He also commanded in the great commission, by teaching His people and training them in the whole counsel of God, *'teaching them whatsoever I have commanded you'*. In Acts 20, we find a good example of an apostle who obeyed the great commission. He says nothing about love to the Ephesians in this passage. But he exhibited the supreme love of any disciple toward the Ephesians. What did he do for them? Did he say, *I love you, I love you, I love you?* Acts 20:26-27 gives the answer: *'Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God'*.

## **Love Leaves Nothing Out...**

The result was that all which dwelt in Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord Jesus. Paul based his evangelism on sound doctrinal instruction. That is God's key for world evangelism. The words of Paul in Galatians 1:6 were blunt and necessary as Paul says in Galatians 4, in order to tell them the Truth. Ephesians 4 tells us how we can achieve the perfect balance. Note the gifts God gave the true Church, the body of Christ, for service and ministry in this age: *'And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers'*, (Eph.4:11). Every one of these gifts in the form of a person is a *doctrinal* person. They are all totally involved in *Truth*. All were totally involved in preaching, teaching, and discipling in the light of revealed Truth.

*There is no teaching whatsoever in the New Testament suggesting that love is more important than doctrine or Truth*. Love is referred to in Galatians 4:15 where we read of, *speaking the truth in love*. Love is the manner and method of speaking Truth. Love is the servant of Truth. It makes it easier to receive, absorb, and digest. But it must never be allowed to eclipse or set aside Truth. God's Truth can never change, but God's Truth in the hands of human messengers is a very delicate and fragile thing.

## **Love Resists Poisons...**

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There is no living system known to science that can survive without an intricate, elaborate, and constantly-used system to purify itself from poisons. This is true of God's Church. It is impossible for any organization to survive unless it has a system to purify itself from poisonous influences. We need to remember we are in a highly poisoned environment. We are immersed in Satan's world. He has constant access to every servant of God through his fallen nature. How can the relative success of a Christian's ministry be evaluated apart from God's infallible inerrant Word? Who is to determine what success means?

### **Love Protects The Flock...**

Did the Lord Jesus encourage His disciples to listen sympathetically to other religious leaders of that time? His answer is given in Matt.7:15, '*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves*'. Yet we are told today by neo-evangelicals that we should both teach and study in liberal universities and colleges of theology. There is one thing worse than division and that is *peace with compromise*. Truth is

infinitely more important than the false unity of the world.

### **Love Corrects Error...**

Why? Because for the sake of Truth, even families will be split with hostility so that at least someone within that unit can perpetuate God's Truth. In Romans 16:17 Paul says, '*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which causes divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them*'.

If we honor and love the Lord Jesus we will watch for anything which may destroy His Truth. We will avoid such people. A good way of life or good doctrine is always contaminated by a bad environment or bad associations. A mere association of the good with the bad will never make the bad thing better. The good gets worse; the bad does not improve. It is the same with a rotten apple in a barrel. The bad one never gets better, but the good ones go rotten, (1Cor.15:33). Is it right for doctrinal purity to be blatantly submerged for the sake of worldly ecclesiastical unity? Surely this is a total denial of the Holy Spirit's Word through the Scriptures.

Dr. John C. Whitcomb, Jr.

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## **Propitiation**

by Matt Perman

Let us take a look at 'propitiation'. Wayne Grudem rightly defines propitiation this way: '*A sacrifice that bears God's wrath to the end and in so doing changes God's wrath toward us into favour*' (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, P.575). Whereas expiation referred to the removal of our sins, propitiation refers to the removal of God's wrath. As the Scriptures make clear, God is intensely angry at sin because it is the contradiction of His holiness. This anger that God has at sin and sinners is called His wrath.

Often times we hear the phrase 'God hates the sin but loves the sinner'. That's not fully true. God hates the sin and the sinner. He hates the sinner because what is in a sinner other than sin? Psalm 5:5 says, '*Thou dost hate all who do iniquity*'. Ephesians 2:3 says that we are '*by nature children of wrath*'. So God hates and is angry at all people as they are by nature, and the end result of this for those who don't trust Christ is eternal torment in hell. Do you think that this truth is important to tell people? If you don't, you are not fully alerting them to the danger that they are in, and thus are presenting the way of salvation to them without showing them exactly what they need to be saved from. Furthermore, if you would prefer to ignore the truth of God's wrath, then you are preferring to devalue in your heart the greatness of Christ's death. Why? Because one reason that the death of Christ is so marvellous is that it rescues us from the terror of God's wrath.

In other words, the good news is so good because the bad news is so bad. The bad news is that God hates all sinners. The good news is that God also loves sinners, and therefore sent Christ to take away His Almighty wrath and righteous hatred. Christ's death didn't make God love us. He already loved us. But it took away God's just wrath that was against us so that we could experience this love forever.

Let's look more closely at the biblical teaching on this issue. After teaching the just wrath of God upon all people for their sins in Romans chapters 1-3, the apostle Paul

teaches that Christ was the propitiation to take away this wrath from God's elect: '*God displayed [Christ] publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus*', (Rom.3:25-26). If God had forgiven sins without satisfying the justice of His wrath, He would not have been just. For God is holy, and therefore He must punish all unholiness to vindicate His righteousness. Therefore He sent Jesus to be the propitiation for our sins (that is, to absorb the wrath for our sins and make God favourable) so that He might be just and the justifier of those who believe.

Hebrews 2:17 says that Christ made '*propitiation for the sins of the people*'. 1John 3:10 says, '*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins*'. As this verse points out, propitiation magnifies God's love because it shows the great cost at which He loved us. He became man and died to save us by enduring the worst possible fate - His own Almighty wrath. To deny that Christ was the propitiation for sins is to deny that He paid the penalty for sins, for God's wrath is the penalty of sin.

This truth is at the heart of the Gospel. We need to take comfort in this truth! Don't you ever find yourself terrified as you consider the wrath of God? Thanks be to God that we have no need to fear if we have come to Christ, as Christ our sacrifice has endured it instead of us, removing it from us forever. Thus, without an understanding of propitiation, we are not only misinterpreting Christ's death, but destroying the rock solid ground of our consolation. Let us admire Christ for His ability to remove the wrath of God from us, and praise Him for His amazing love!

Matt. Perman

## Church Is For the Church

by Paul Tautges

*Does the Bible really teach the aim of our worship is to attract unbelievers?*

With all the hype about creating ‘seeker-sensitive’ services in today’s churches, you would almost think the Bible at least remotely suggests that worship gatherings are for unbelievers. Yet, that idea is strangely absent from the New Testament. In fact, only one passage acknowledges the presence of unbelievers in a public worship service and, when interpreted in its context, actually argues *against* the very premise that the entire church marketing movement is built upon: *ie. find out what unsaved people want and design your church accordingly*.<sup>(1)</sup> The Apostle Paul wrote, ‘*Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all*’, (1Cor.14:23,24).

Notice the emphasis: ‘*If the church is gathered and unbelievers enter*’, not ‘*Since the church has gathered in order to attract a large number of unbelievers*’. What provoked Paul to write this was the glory-seeking Corinthians who were misusing the gift of tongues, the purpose of which was ‘*for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers*’, (14:22). His point was to show them how ridiculous it would be for an unbeliever to come to their church only to watch a circus. Instead, they should have made the proclamation of God’s revelation (part of the gift of prophecy) the chief priority toward the edification of God’s people. ‘*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God [the believer] may be adequate, equipped for every good work*’, (2Tim.3:16,17).

In Corinth, prophets were given to edify believers by means of revelation. Now, God’s revelation is complete in the canonized Scriptures and the mode of revealing this truth to men is verbal proclamation of the text and meaning of Scripture by means of preaching and teaching. This is the Spirit’s primary tool for edification. When this takes place, and an unbeliever attends, the preaching will be used by the Spirit to convict. ‘Convicted’ and ‘called to account’ are two judicial words indicating that, by means of preaching, the Holy Spirit bears down on the mind of the unbeliever to show him that he is in error and, therefore, must repent. As a result, ‘*the secrets of his heart are disclosed*’, that is, the Holy Spirit exposes the heart by means of the Scriptures, so that ‘*he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you*’, (1Cor.14:25).

Do you see the difference? If an unbeliever walked into the assembly at Corinth while everyone was speaking in tongues they would exclaim, ‘You are mad! Get me out of here!’ However, if an unbeliever walked in while the Word was being preached, he would conclude, ‘Surely God is present here’. These two totally different outcomes result from two totally different priorities. One is to serve and glorify man by means of ear-tickling entertainment in the name of ‘worship’, and the other is to serve and glorify God by means of Word-saturated preaching.

What all of this means for us is that every worship service should continue to have the glory of God as its

utmost goal. The way to ensure this is to maintain the supremacy of preaching the Word. As a result, believers who attend faithfully will grow in their Christian faith and unbelievers who ‘happen’ to come in will be convicted by God’s truth, hear the hope of the Gospel, and repent or flee.

But this manner of thinking is not normally promoted by the church growth ‘experts’ that tell me as a pastor to design non-offensive worship services to appeal to the unsaved or ‘unchurched’ (a classification of people unknown to the biblical writers). I find it interesting that the apostles never racked their brains trying to come up with ways to church the unchurched or attract unsaved people, but instead they focused on equipping believers toward maturity through preaching, instructing and preparing them to scatter *outside* the church to evangelize.

One of the natural consequences of this ‘new’ emphasis on attracting and pleasing the masses is a de-emphasis on biblical preaching. The reason for this is so obvious. Preaching, by its very nature, is authoritative, declarative, and confrontational. Preaching may request a verbal response from its listeners, but by no means requires it to be effective. It can be 100% effective even if every listener scoffs at the message. Entertainment, on the other hand, requires a positive response if it is ever to be deemed successful. This ‘need’ for outward measurements of success has ushered in an entirely new way of doing church. Steven Lawson summarizes it well in his great little book ‘*Famine in the Land*’: ‘*A new way of ‘doing’ church is emerging. In this radical paradigm shift, exposition is being replaced with entertainment, preaching with performances, doctrine with drama, and theology with theatrics. The pulpit, once the focal point of the church, is now being overshadowed by a variety of church-growth techniques, everything from trendy worship styles to glitzy presentations and vaudeville-like pageantries. In seeking to capture the upper hand in church growth, a new wave of pastors is reinventing church and repackaging the gospel into a product to be sold to ‘consumers’. Whatever reportedly works in one church is being franchised out to various ‘markets’ abroad. As when gold was discovered in the foothills of northern California, so ministers are beating a path to the doorsteps of exploding churches and super-hyped conferences where the latest ‘strike’ has been reported. Unfortunately, the newly panned gold often turns out to be ‘fool’s gold.’ Not all that glitters is actually gold*’.<sup>(2)</sup>

The strange thing about the New Testament believers is they actually *hungered* for truth-saturated preaching; they actually liked it! Lawson writes of them, ‘*There was no need for gospel gimmicks or spiritual sideshows to entice them to come, for these starving souls were craving the pure milk of the Word*’.<sup>(3)</sup> Modern-day church marketing gurus must think this is awfully strange, but in actuality, this is *normal* biblical Christianity.

When referring to the explosive growth in the second chapter of the book of Acts, Lawson notes,

‘*...this ‘evangelism explosion’ was the result of their teaching, not the stated purpose of it. They gathered for edification; they scattered for evangelism. The primary focus of their corporate worship gatherings was for building up the believers, not for reaching seekers. When this priority*

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*becomes reversed and the church meets primarily to save the lost, the apostles' teaching soon becomes compromised and diluted'.(4)*

It is sad, but true, that *'too many preachers today bear more resemblance to entertainers than expositors, stand-up comics rather than knee-shaking servants'*.(5) All the while, God's truth and God's church are severely compromised.

Let me speak very plainly: seeker-sensitive church marketing is for lazy or misguided pastors. Let's face it - purchasing the latest 40-day program to 'grow your church' is *much* easier than wrestling with the difficult meaning and application of biblical texts as they confront your own sinfulness for days, and sometimes weeks, before they ever touch the sin problems in the pew. And staying on your knees in prayer for your church is *much* more strenuous than following the latest trend.

There is a choice to be made. Will church leaders in America repeat the errors of the glory-seeking, carnal-minded Corinthians and turn their worship services into performances for man's glory? Or will they wake up and realize that *the church is for the church*. That is, according to the Scriptures, the primary function of the corporate worship service is not to attract and entertain the unregenerate in order to soft-sell the gospel to them, but to consistently bring God's people face to face with His revelation and glory in the Bible. The need of the hour is truth with a capital T. And the only biblically consistent way to keep that priority is faithful

Bible exposition. Then when unbelievers enter our churches they will be pierced by the Spirit's conviction and fall on their faces and worship God, declaring that God is surely among us. David Doran's observation is correct, *'the mission that Jesus Christ has given to His church cannot be fulfilled apart from the proclamation of the Word...the contemporary church is losing sight of this truth and many are losing the resolve to stand against this terrible tide'*.(6) May God continue to give us the grace to persevere in that which matters most.

(1) Rick Warren, a leading spokesman for this unbiblical philosophy of ministry, believes, *'It is my conviction that anybody can be won to Christ if you discover the key to his or her heart'* (*The Purpose-Driven Church*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995, P.219). In other words, this way of thinking reasons that if a church will identify the perceived 'felt needs' of the lost or the unchurched and meet them, they will become Christians. This is simply bad theology that stems from too high a view of man. When I first read this book nine years ago, I scribbled in red ink in the margin, 'Where is the Holy Spirit?'. We must *never* forget that the genuine conversion of a depraved sinner from enmity to Christ is a supernatural work of God by means of the instrument of the preached Word, not something that man can bring about through clever marketing. (2) Steven J. Lawson, *'Famine in the Land'* (Chicago: Moody Press, 2003), P.25-26. (3) *Ibid.*, P.42-43. (4) *Ibid.*, P.44. (5) *Ibid.*, P.94. (6) David M. Doran with Pearson Johnson and Benjamin Eckman, *'For the Sake of His Name'* (Allen Park, MI: Student Global Impact, 2002), P.108.

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## **Benny Hinn; Todd Bentley**

Two of the recent and foremost tele-evangelists/faith healers have separated from their wives. This year Benny Hinn's wife divorced him. And Todd Bentley, after an affair, has separated from his wife.

We exposed Todd Bentley in Nov/Dec/2008; and for many years warned and exposed Benny Hinn as a false prophet, false teacher, false healer, a compulsive liar, as well as a charlatan. (For a sample, see: May/June/2006; March/April 2001; May/2008; Jan/Feb/2002). The video

*'Sign & Wonders Exposed'* (part 1) showed the extent that Benny Hinn will lie to further his cause. The third video in that same series (part 3) also showed the tragic deaths that have occurred because of his fraudulent practices.

It is sad that the families of these men are destroyed. But these men continue in ministry. (Todd Bentley suspended a counselling process and continued in ministry).

Very few voices from the church have spoken out against these men who have already made much merchandise of God's people, (2Pet.2:3).

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## **Your Comments and Questions**

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

*Hello Terry, I have attached some information I found useful concerning SDA's teaching on the law.*

**(H.C., Nth Qld.)**

**Editors comment:** I have quoted part of this attachment below. The law of Moses and the 'Law of Christ' (Gal.6:2) is often confused by Seventh Day Adventists. This quote highlights the importance of rightly dividing this difference: '[The] moral law God expects us to obey. 1John 5:3 tells us, 'This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome'. What is this law God expects us to obey? It is the law of Christ - 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments' (Matt.22:37-40). No, we are not under the Old Testament

*Law. Yes, we are under the law of Christ. The law of Christ is not an extensive list of legal codes. It is a law of love. If we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we will do nothing to displease Him. If we love our neighbours as ourselves, we will do nothing to harm them. Obeying the law of Christ is not a requirement to earn or maintain salvation. The law of Christ is what God expects of a Christian...The fact that we are graciously freed from the demands of the Old Testament Law should result in our living our lives in obedience to the law of Christ. 1John 2:3-6 declares, 'We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands. The man who says, 'I know Him,' but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys His word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in Him: Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did'.*

## Your Comments and Questions

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

*Dear Terry, You and Beth have recently been 'nomadic' in your ministry. You would be pleased to see the 'remnant' still striving to be His witnesses; and despairing...as you see the decline of the Body in our land. May you be an inspiration to the Church in these last days. Your latest Diakrisis is like the previous issues: good stuff...except for one article [P.2 - John Piper] and because of recent events. Maybe you are not aware of John Piper inviting the ecumenical-emergent-purpose driven Rick Warren as a keynote conference speakers in the USA. The Katoomba Christian Convention [NSW] is also trumpeting the coming of John Piper to Australia in August 2011. I am determined to tell them that they should check Piper's latest credentials, although I fear many are not aware of the dangers lurking in the American 'evangelical scene'...Many of the trusted big names are being deceived...*

[A.O., Sydney]

**Editors Comment: Unfortunately I became aware of**

**the situation with John Piper just after we published his excellent article on 'prosperity teaching' in our newsletter [May/June, P.2]. Some websites and apostasy 'alerts' have published a picture of Piper together with Warren on a stage. However, that picture is in fact not at any 'conference' but at a funeral. (Some of these websites fail to do their homework and are very quick to judge, often with scriptures that do not always apply to the immediate situation). But it is very sad to me that Piper would associate himself with the likes of Rick Warren, when others, including John Macarthur, have exposed Warren clearly as a false teacher giving a false Gospel (eg. youtube.com). Piper's theology and philosophy of the Gospel seems so distant from that of Warren's. But it is enough for me that Piper would publicly associate himself with Warren. We will be watching this and distancing as the scriptures would teach necessary. I thank those who wrote in and warned us of this sad event.**

*Dear Terry, I have taken a great interest in your reply to K.W's letters concerning the keeping of the Seventh day Adventist Sabbath, and False teachings, prophets and prophecies of the Seventh Day Adventist Church...You made mention of Ellen White's teaching on the 'shaking time' as being prior to the second coming. I found information on this and have forwarded it to you...*

**Editors Comment: I have printed excerpts of these 'prophecies' by Ellen G. White below. It is enough to show that this lady was a false prophet. These 'prophecies' add to scripture on angels, sanctification, God's perseverance of the saints, etc. If these are words from God as claimed, then why were they not included in the canon of scripture when it was affirmed in the second century? The Bible clearly says not to add these words to scripture, yet SDA says this is prophecy by a 'true prophet' who herself openly claimed these were words from God.**

**(The 'Testimony' and the 'True Witness' mentioned below is often used as a reference to the SDA church and Saturday Sabbath keeping in the last days):**

*'I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God...large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. [EW 269.1]...Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view, that their eyes might be drawn to the darkness that surrounded them, and thus they be led to distrust God and murmur against Him. Their only safety was in keeping their eyes directed upward. Angels of God had charge over His people, and as the poisonous atmosphere of evil angels was pressed around these anxious ones...The heavenly angels were continually wafting their wings over them to scatter the thick darkness. [EW 269.2]...Some, I saw...were not resisting the darkness...The angels of God left these and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones...[EW 270.1] I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony*

*called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans...Some...will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people. [EW 270.2] I saw that...the solemn testimony upon which the destiny of the church hangs has been lightly esteemed, if not entirely disregarded. This testimony must work deep repentance; all who truly receive it will obey it and be purified. [EW 270.3] Said the angel, 'List ye!' ... 'Look ye!' My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken...They had obtained the victory [EW 270.4] The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness...[EW 271.1] I heard those clothed with the armor speak forth the truth with great power...I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, 'It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel'. [272] [EW 271.2] Said the angel, 'Look ye!' ...next I heard them crying unto God earnestly... 'make a way of escape for Thy people! Deliver us from the heathen around about us...' [EW 272.1]...the angels, in sympathy, desired to go to their deliverance. But a tall, commanding angel suffered them not. He said, 'The will of God is not yet fulfilled. They must drink of the cup. They must be baptized with the baptism' [EW 272.2] Soon I heard the voice of God, which shook the heavens and the earth. There was a mighty earthquake...Their captivity was turned. A glorious light shone upon them...until Jesus was seen in the clouds of heaven, and the faithful, tried company were changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, from glory to glory. And the graves were opened, and the saints came forth, clothed with immortality, crying, 'Victory over death and the grave'; and together with the living saints they were caught up to meet their Lord in the air...' [EW 272]*

## Your Comments and Questions

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

### Terry's Itinerary - Brisbane

Brisbane subscribers may be interested in this weekend:

July 17,18th (Sat, Sun) Corinda Brethren Assembly, Brisbane Ph.(07)37256458 or 32776487

[Sat.2pm-4.30pm (Seminar on Pentecostal/Charismatic issues/errors); Sun.9.30am morning service]

### Bible College News

As well as the continuing night classes, the *Pacific Bible Institute* is expecting to provide correspondence courses in 2011 for the 'Certificate of Theology' and 'Diploma of Theology' courses. Application forms are available by writing to *Pacific Bible Institute Inc*, PO Box 1992 Hervey Bay, Qld, 4655; or e-mail: [pacific.bible.institute@gmail.com](mailto:pacific.bible.institute@gmail.com)

### Website News

The website for this ministry is now back on line due to the work of a volunteer in Sydney who spent many hours re-building it. We will be adding more material and resources over the next few months, but there is much material now available, including all the newsletters to date as well as important articles over 16 years of ministry. The address is: [www.taministries.net](http://www.taministries.net)

Dear Terry, Please send a list of your books and DVD's. I went to one of your meetings in Sth. Australia recently and it was good to hear the truth preached for a change. We have just left our church after 31 years but are happy to have found another church and one which is sound...

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

### Prayer/Praise Points

- Praise the Lord for a very fruitful 3 months tour of 4 states in Australia with over 40 meetings conducted in more than 18 churches or fellowships, as well as many other meetings with subscribers. Thank the Lord for safety and health. Terry and Beth were greatly encouraged by the response and support of many and the experience of this ministry and travel was very rewarding. They will now be looking to do the same travelling ministry every year between February-May.

- Please pray for the continued growth of the *Pacific Bible Institute* as the board attempts to move the college into higher degrees and correspondence courses. Pray for students to come.

Greetings Terry, Thank you for some excellent teaching in your latest *Diakrisis* [May/June]. Your reply on man's 'free will' [P.7] is excellent and so true.

I have also been following with interest the articles concerning Seventh-day Adventism. They certainly hold some heretical doctrine. I was reading some time ago what the SDA teach concerning Leviticus 16:20 21,22 where the priest laid the sins of the people on the head of a goat and it was led out into the wilderness and let go. Seventh-Day Adventist teaching I had read says this is a picture of the future day when all our sin will be laid on Satan and he will be cast into the Lake of Fire. This to me is absolute, if not ultimate, heresy, and it must be some of their worst false teaching. Surely, Our Lord Jesus Christ suffered the full and final penalty for the sin of every truly born again believer... In Christ.

(L.L., Toowoomba, Qld)

Terry, Thankyou so much for your faithfulness in addressing the hard issues in 'Diakrisis'. We especially appreciated all the input regarding 'women in ministry'. We are in total agreement with you on this because the scriptures are clear and unambiguous on this. We have encouraged church leaders to read your articles in the light of scriptures but we have received responses that have grieved us. There seems to be a determination to continue on regardless of God's Word...we eagerly look forward to every issue of 'Diakrisis' and we pray regularly for your ministry.

(Name withheld at editors discretion; Qld).

It was great receiving the latest copy of 'Diakrisis'! We also thoroughly enjoyed coming to hear you speak last month at Padstow Heights in Sydney. We pray your ministry trip has gone well, as you settle back into life at home, and that you have not only blessed others, but yourself and Beth have been blessed also! Praise Him also for safety, as you've done a lot of travelling...

(M&K.L., Brisbane)

Dear Terry, I do appreciate and love reading 'Diakrisis'. May God bless you always,

(S.S., Vict)

### Subscription Form

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