



Diakrisis

A Ministry of Teaching

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age...to discern (diakrisis) both good and evil (Heb. 5:14)
Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine?... (Is.28:9)*

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The members of the advisory panel may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed in this newsletter. We welcome comments and articles contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

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Editor's Comments

When I look back on 1997 I see it as a year of the church reaping what it has sown. The fruit of certain movements has been progressively exposed. Anyone who is delving into truth and watching these 'waves' of the spirits can easily see and then explain the fruit that it will produce. In some churches that were heavily into the Toronto and Pensacola movements, pastors have now left with separated marriages, severe illnesses, split churches, sexual immorality, scandels, etc. Some of these churches previously had information sent to them by this ministry and some I had personally contacted, asking them to consider documentation and their direction.

The above are no longer isolated instances. However, to document them now runs the risk of being sued, (the Australian Assembly of God (AOG) have already sued a Christian). Many of these scandels simply have the carpet of silence rolled over them.

Why should we be surprised at the scandels and troubles in many of these churches? If we believe that they are entertaining fleshly doctrines and fleshly practices, then we should expect the flesh to rule in other areas also.

Yet the hardened signs and wonders enthusiasts are arguing that God is separating the 'tares' from the 'wheat', (the tares being us who would reject this 'move of God'). When we have tried to get some of the above leaders to watch tapes and read information, we have been accused of blaspheming the Holy Spirit, 'doctoring' tapes, speaking against 'anointed' leaders, or working for the devil. The closed mindedness is nothing short of frightening! The Bible clearly says that those who are not lovers of truth *will* be deceived by lying signs and wonders, (2Thess.2:9-12)!

This brings me to an important point. I am convinced more than ever that *literature*, (books, articles, tapes, etc.), is a vital key to unlocking minds, exposing error, and rescuing those who might be *tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine*, (Eph.4:14). I praise God that I am finding increasing numbers of people who are seriously questioning the direction of their churches and requesting literature.

The beauty of literature is that it can be viewed and studied in secret without fear. Literature may ultimately affect the mind, (cult groups know this too well); literature can go where we cannot and spread exponentially to multitudes. This year I am encouraging readers to distribute articles that you believe are vital to the church. I urge you to pass on the books and tapes that will make people *think*. Copy '*Diakrisis*' and get it into the hands of those that may need it. I can report that those who have done this have turned many around from false doctrine and caused others to think and test things by going back to the Word of God.

It is sad that most Christian bookstores will not now stock anything 'controversial' or 'divisive'. Some churches have put pressure on bookstores so that they do not stock our books, and I no longer chase bookstores to stock them. Many are stocking a mish mash of ecumenical froth and bubbles in ink. However, I would ask readers of this newsletter to pray and lovingly enquire of bookstore owners that they might stock the books you believe are important. We have found this to have some success. There have been several conversions to Christ in the last few years through the book '*To Catholics Whom I Love*', because of bookstores that stock this book. The curious thing is that the books we speak of do sell! (The book '*Signs and Wonders Movement -Exposed*' has had large sales in England and many of our other books have enjoyed similar sales in the past).

Although we are to be watching and aware of the times we live in, let us not forget that God is in *total control*! I encourage readers to make 1998 a year in which we challenge ourselves to hunger after the Lord in prayer and seek more understanding of His precious Word. Worship Him in Spirit, in truth, and in the beauty of holiness. Let us proclaim the truths of the Lord Jesus Christ and be jealous of His name! **Terry Arnold**

How to Assess a Charismatic Phenomena

1. What are the psychological factors involved?

A. Are there hypnotic aspects such as pressure to discontinue the use of the mind?; pressure to yield to a powerful personality?; use of words that trigger phrases?; repetitive music or music beat? B. How much of the worship experience is spiritual and how much is aesthetic? All music has both these elements. However, in excess, music can produce an altered state of consciousness, (ASC) C. How much peer pressure is there to conform to a behaviour?

2. Are Biblical criteria being strictly applied?

A. Are the experiences or manifestations clearly scriptural? Are they at least in harmony with Biblical principles? (e.g. animal noises and involuntary bizarre behaviour may humiliate a human being and is not a blessing but in Scripture is a judgement.)

3. Is Scripture being interpreted according to proper, objective criteria?

The Scriptures used should be in total context.

4. Is there a strong emphasis on the ministry of the Word?

The normal method used by the Holy Spirit is to reveal spiritual truths from Scriptures which then leads to a response in the hearers.

5. Do you or did you have an uneasiness in your spirit about aspects of the phenomena?

Your 'witness of the spirit' (Rom.8:14,16; Gal.5:16) is a guide!

(Adapted from '*Charismatic Crossroads*' - A report by Charismatics on the current situation in the church; Centre for Contemporary Ministry, Yorkshire, Grt. Britain.)

The Tongue

(The following is a memorandum once issued to members of a church in Qld.)

To: members and adherents of.....(church name)

From: [a church elder]

Subject: '[town] *mouth epidemic*'

I have been advised by the pastor that a particularly nasty strain of the dreaded disease known as '[town] mouth' has again broken out in our town. All are susceptible to this disease but I hope we all take precautions against contracting this terrible affliction. The following information is published for the benefit of all:

Symptoms: 1. An unquenchable desire for knowledge about other people.

2. As No.1 progresses the desire is that we must be first to know.

3. Allowing tongue to do the talking without putting brain into gear.

4. Having no concern for the hurt caused to other person or persons regardless of whether subject matter is true, exaggerated or false.

5 'Pumping' someone for information about others.

Treatment: 1. Have a desire to know God and his Word better.

2. As our knowledge of Scripture increases, share the gems with others.

3. Prayerfully consider what should and should not be said - hasty cruel words are not easily retracted.

4. Respect the secrets of others - they are entitled to a private life and their secrets belong to them.

5. If you do not want someone talking about you, do not encourage them by 'pumping' them for information about others.

Finally be advised that symptoms could strike at any time or place - at home, at work or even at a prayer meeting. (It has been known to strike while someone is actually praying). So be on guard at all times as we could have this disease for all time.

Alpha Course

The Alpha course is an evangelistic program begun by Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) Church in England, a church well known for its promotion of the 'Toronto Blessing'. The Alpha program is designed to reach unbelievers and is run by most denominations and is strongly supported by many Catholic churches. The pastor of HTB, Nicky Gumbel, is no doubt a skilful communicator.

Alpha starts off by preaching the Gospel but as the course progresses some of the sessions detail experiences and testimonies of the Toronto Blessing (TB), as experienced at HTB. Gumbel relates some of the bizarre experiences to do with the TB and claims it to be the Holy Spirit, (video 3, Talk no.9). He has also said: '*I believe it is no coincidence that the present movement of the Holy Spirit [TB] has come at the same time as the explosion of the Alpha courses. I think the two go together.*' * In section 4, Gumbel promotes laughter and spiritual drunkenness. He says: '*...that's what we're seeing today, laughter and fun, and people getting drunk - not with wine...come to the party where you can get drunk on God...I was at a party like that last night ...it was a party thrown by the Holy Spirit...the church is meant to be a party...*' Compare this with the following Scriptures on spiritual drunkenness, where God speaks of *judgement* on His people: '*...they are drunken, but not with wine; they stagger, but not with strong drink. For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes...*', (Is.29:9,10); '*...they shall roar together like lions' whelps...and I will make them drunken...I will bring them down...*', (Jer.51:37-40). The Bible never speaks *for* spiritual or alcoholic drunkenness of any kind but always *against* it! In short, the theology of the Holy Spirit as taught in the Alpha course is at times more than questionable. Added to this, the testimonies given by Alpha participants at the beginning of the first Alpha video lack mention of repentance, the cross, and conviction of sin.

Alpha is openly ecumenical and promotes unity between Catholics and Protestants. Many opponents of the Alpha course claim the program promotes ecumenism counterfeited as Christian unity. The course itself claims: '*The Alpha course is...adaptable across tradition and denominations...I know of its uses in Catholic...churches.*'** In talk 8 Gumbel teaches that the differences between Protestants and Catholics are '*totally insignificant compared to the things that unite us...we need to unite around the death of Jesus, the resurrection of Jesus.*..' Gumbel either does not know Catholic doctrine or he has whitewashed the differences. Catholicism does not believe that the sacrifice of Jesus was *finished* but that it is to be perpetuated in the *continuing* sacrifice of the Mass each Sunday. The death and resurrection have different benefits to Catholics and Protestants.

Although the Alpha program may be used differently by various churches, the roots of the course itself and the promoters are to be viewed with caution. Alpha is ecumenical. It blurs the lines between Catholicism and Bible Christianity. It promotes extra-Biblical and controversial new revelations, (eg. the 'Toronto Blessing'). The above *mixtures* can only dilute the Gospel.

Awakening News!

'For the first time all of the churches were working together - Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, Pentecostal - and already plans are underway for next year...The Catholic priest was on the dunking machine, the Uniting Church minister was turning the barbie, the Salvation Army managed the tea and coffee, the Pentecostal fellowship looked after the craft and Seventh Day Adventists were doing footwashing - it had a very big impact on the community. It's a great opportunity to see churches working together - it broke down barriers that have been there a long time...C.R.C., Anglican, Catholic, U.C. all participated...[they] gave away 1,300 sausages - it really turned the attitude of the town towards the Christians. Shoppers, most of them Turkish, were treated to a carnival type atmosphere as shoes were shined, balloons given out, faces painted, craft completed, sausages and apple pie offered... the pastor of [the] local Baptist Church [shared] the Easter story and the hope of the Gospel under the banner of the 'Awakening 2000'. Around 100 came along to the family festival with a great response to the Great Australian Gumboot Toss. Participants said: 'This was a tremendous old fashioned family day, just like we needed, this is how the church should be!'. It became increasingly apparent that the people of Bunbury were open and ready to receive Jesus. The head of my church would kill for this kind of connection outside the church'.

If all this was not in print, you would find it hard to imagine that people could be deceived to this extent over the nature of evangelism and salvation in general. However, these are just excerpts from the latest chronicle of the 'Aussie Awakening News', 7/97, Vol.3 No2. Under this banner operates the campaigns of *Easter 97*, *Awakening 2000*, and the *March For Jesus*. The patrons and supporting/sponsoring organisations of these movements include leaders from Anglican, Greek Orthodox, Presbyterian, Salvation Army, Uniting, Baptist Union, Lutheran, Fusion, YWAM, Servants Of Jesus (Roman Catholic ecumenical), and the Evangelical Missionary Alliance.

Once more we see this human effort to evangelise Australia by presenting an apostate union of true and counterfeit Christianity as **Unity!** The reverent Michael Goodluck of the Anglican church is quoted: 'I am really grateful to the Awakening Movement for the initiative that says 'its OK and right for churches to work together'. It's the initiative that the Awakening provides - it becomes legitimate'.

Is it really legitimate in God's sight? Is this amalgamation not evil and an abomination to Him with whom we have to do? The shocking fact that our condition necessitates the death of the Son of God to satisfy Divine Justice is nowhere presented in this material. It is therefore no Gospel, and back of it, another Jesus!

What will it take to convince God's dear people that Rome, Seventh Day Adventism and others deny the truth of Scripture alone for doctrine and salvation by grace through faith alone without works? How long before they realise that by participating in the activities of movements such as these, they are aiding and abetting the rise of the syncretic world religion, adequately revealed for the end times in Scripture? God's judgement is upon these organisations - *come out from among them my people*, (Rev.18:4)! **Mike Claydon**

Christ's Nappy?

'Rome: A cloth said to have been the nappy of the infant Jesus and declared authentic in the year 1175AD is to go on display at this year's Christmas midnight Mass at Spoleto in Central Italy. The course spun linen cloth was among the relics found in Spoleto Cathedral during the restoration work, according to reports. The cloth, 25cm. by 20 cm., is said to be of a type used as nappies in Jesus time.' (Daily Telegraph, 23/12/96)

Editors comments: Relic worship stems from about 850AD, when stories of miracles performed through relics were circulated. Early councils decreed against images or image worship, yet later the council of Nice re-established what the former councils had abolished! In medieval times several churches claimed to have the crown of thorns, the baby clothes of Jesus, the wine, the cup used at the last supper and specimens of the hair of the virgin Mary, (all different colours). Other churches claimed to have the body of Mary's mother. In Rome are two heads of St. Paul, a slipper of St. Joseph, the girdle of the Virgin Mary, and what is said to be milk from her breasts. Catholics also believe that the house in which Mary lived in Nazareth is now in Loreto, Italy, having been transported there by angels. This house has bricks in the structure which were baked in an oven and also has a chimney. This is strange considering bricks were sunbaked, (not oven baked), at the time of Christ and the houses of Palestine did not have chimneys! Yet this last tradition was fully sanctioned by the Pope and has attracted some wealth for the Catholic church. To escape the Scriptures for idolatry the Catholic church has conveniently removed the second commandment and split number ten into two, thus keeping ten commandments! Few Catholics realise that the Catholic ten commandments are not the same as the ten commandments in the Bible, (Ex.20:4,5; Dt.5:8,9). Pray for our Catholic friends and those that this ministry may see

Did You Know?

More Christians have been martyred in the 20th Century than in the past 19 centuries combined! It is estimated that in 1996, 160,000 believers were martyred. This is occurring in countries such as China, Morocco, Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, Pakistan, Nth. Korea, Laos, Vietnam, Cuba, Ethiopia, and some countries in the former USSR. (Biblical Fundamentalist, 6/97)

The Slide Continue

A recent *Time Magazine* American poll has shown 81% believe in Heaven and 63% believe in Hell. However, the last such poll six years ago showed 86% believed in Heaven and 74% believed in Hell. (Australian Beacon, 5/97)

Did You Know?

The Jehovah Witnesses had the highest growth percentages (15%) prior to their 1975 prediction of Jesus return. Following this failed prophecy, the growth rate rapidly dropped in half and by 1977 their growth rate actually fell to minus -3% and the total numbers fell. Over a twenty five year period almost a half a million have left the organisation. In 1993 and 1994 they were experiencing only a 1% growth rate. (Figures are from the *Watchtower* organisation publications and the *Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*)

The Church In the Mardi-Gras?

A Uniting Church group intends to put a float in the next Mardi Gras.

When Tribulations Come

'If we are having our share of battles, we need to be sure that they are all the Lord's battles and not troubles of our own making, caused by disobedience or ignorance of God's ways.' (The Pentecostal Issue' by K. Smith P.32)

Religion & Christianity

William Booth of the Salvation Army predicted: 'Religion without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God and Heaven without Hell'

Billy Graham and Freemasonry:

Several documents have been circulated and sent to us over the years attempting to show Billy Graham to be a Freemason. On the internet the Freemasons presented a list of famous men who were, or are Freemasons. Billy Graham is officially on that list.

Tom McKenny of the USA, an expert on the Masons, has publicly stated and is adamant that many of Graham's staff are Masons. Eventually the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association did admit that Graham was present at a 33 degree Masonic ritual for Rev. Jim Shaw in 1966.

Whether Graham was or was not a Freemason, he has now publicly stated he is not a Freemason and has at least once warned of the dangers of Freemasonry. While Graham has been critiqued for several errors, (false ecumenism and support of Roman Catholicism), the link to freemasonry lacks direct evidence.

While I deplore such ecumenical errors as Graham sending converts back to Catholic churches, I believe that in this matter of his connections to Freemasonry, unless there is *direct current* evidence we should accept the following statement by the Graham organisation: '*...We understand your concern about rumours that Mr. Graham is in some way associated with Freemasonry. The reports are erroneous...Mr Graham is not, has not been, and does not expect ever to be involved in Freemasonry.*' * **Terry Arnold** * Letter to 'The Berean Call' by Don Kinde, see *article*,10/97.

Promise Keepers and Catholicism

Bill McCartney, founder of the *Promise Keepers* calls himself a 'born again Catholic'. * *Promise Keepers* now also has a Roman Catholic, Mike Timmis, on its board. With the above in mind, it is understandable why they amended their statement of faith, revising the lines 'by faith alone' because it is 'offensive' to Catholics. An article in a Catholic magazine, 'New Covenant', writes of *Promise Keepers* Catholics honouring Mary as 'the spouse of the Holy Spirit'. ** *Promise keepers* continues on the *broad path!*

This false ecumenism has been helped by Billy Graham who has said: '*It is my conviction that we are going to see a great spiritual renewal in America. Already evidence of this is apparent, as Bible studies, prayer groups, and movements such as 'Promise Keepers' increase.*' *** Graham's son, Franklin, has already spoken at *Promise Keepers* meetings.

Promise Keepers is an ecumenical mish-mash of false doctrines and compromises. This is why it is supported by the Catholic and Mormon churches.

* From *Ashes to Ashes*, autobiography by McCartney. ** *Adullam News*, 6/97, P.13. *** *US News and World Report*, 1/1/96.

Wimber Took Responsibility For False Prophets

John Wimber, who died last November 16th, was head of the Vineyard Movement, which played a key role in the acceptance of the *Kansas City Prophets* and the birth of the 'Toronto Blessing'. The *Kansas City Prophets* arose out of the failed *Latter Rain* Movement back in the fifties. This movement taught a mighty imminent end-time revival with a militant church triumphing in the world. As years and false prophecies went by it was obvious this teaching was erroneous. Churches such as the *Asemblies of God* withdrew association, yet the movement continued. John Wimber eventually accepted the leaders into the Vineyard movement and was himself involved in a failed prophecy in Britain.

However, in an interview with *Christianity Today*, (14/7/97), he said: '*We had been advising the Kansas City leaders for six years to withdraw from the Vineyard, but they refused on the grounds that they felt called to be part of us. However, their entrance into the Vineyard was entirely my fault, and I take full responsibility for that. I turned my brain off for a*

Benny and brother Christopher Hinn are to face trial over the unlawful arrest and detention of Christians who gathered outside Hinn's church in 1996. Ten people have filed complaints totalling \$25 million after being harassed and detained for complaining about Hinn's tactics which include intimidation, unlawful surveillance of Christians, threats, and unlawful seizure of property. The complaints have been also filed against the police department. Police officers are alleged to have been receiving illegal payments from Benny Hinn. Evidence will be tabled that Christopher Hinn was working in the police department at the time as a go-between. Hinn is arguing that he receives many death threats and therefore had to take drastic actions.

Roman Catholic Editors of Christianity Today

'At least three of the editors of the influential monthly publication 'Christianity Today' are Roman Catholics. Robert Wilkin is a corresponding editor, and Richard Neuhaus and Michael Novak are advisory editors.' ('Fundamental Baptist News Service', David Cloud, 25/4/97)

What Some Catholics Think of Evangelism

(The following is an extract from a Catholic magazine 'One Heart and Mind' - 6/96)

'The majority of Catholics are not inclined towards evangelisation. The very term has for them a Protestant ring...They see it as the chosen trademark of fundamentalist sects, some of them virulently anti-Catholic. They distrust the Biblicism, emotionalism, and aggressive proselytism of evangelistic preachers. Many are repelled by the failings of several prominent tele-evangelists...Too many Catholics seem never to have encountered Christ...they lack direct personal familiarity through reading the Gospel and personal prayer...they become easy prey for sectarian preachers who, notwithstanding their incomplete and distorted understanding of the Christian message, give witness to a joyful encounter with the Lord.

There needs to be a dialogue between Catholics and evangelicals...the evangelicals can help Catholics overcome their pre-occupation with inner church issues, while Catholics can help Protestants achieve a greater focus on sacraments and tradition, and a greater responsibilities for the social issues...The Catholic Church should be the lead church in proclaiming and exemplifying the Gospel.'

World Council of Churches

In September 1996, the committee of the WCC met in Geneva to discuss the serious financial difficulty now facing the WCC. 'Radical changes' were called for. The WCC also intends to deepen its fellowship with the Roman Catholic Church.

Increasing numbers of denominations and prominent evangelists have supported and spoken at the WCC. On 27/8/91 at a National Council of Churches meeting, Billy Graham praised this group: '*There's no group of people in the world that I would rather be with right now than you all...we follow with great interest the things you do...And I love everybody equally and I have no problem in fellowship with anybody who says that Jesus Christ is Lord.*'* Yet polls have shown that Less than one quarter of the NCC leaders believe in the virgin birth and many do not believe in the deity of Christ. The NCC is pro-abortion and pro-homosexuality. Over 100 of its leaders have been cited for aiding communists organisations.**

* 'Foundation', June/Aug. 91, P.34. ** Darrell Turner, *RNS Assoc. Editor*, 17/8/91

'*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.*' (Is.5:20)

How Protestant Are You?

In surveys to date the following questionnaire, (adapted from '*Present Truth*' 3/72), has shown that a large proportion of Protestants are more Catholic than Protestant in their concepts of *justification*. Please think each question out carefully before answering. The correct answers represent Biblical truths straight out of the reformation. The answers are on page six and we encourage readers on completion of the test to study carefully the article '*Justification - A Truth Under Siege*.'

In each of the following ten questions, mark either (A) or (B) as correct.

1. (A) God gives a man right standing with Himself by mercifully accounting him innocent and virtuous (B) God gives a man right standing with Himself by actually making him into an innocent and virtuous person.
2. (A) God gives a man right standing with Himself by placing God's goodness and virtue to his credit (B) God gives a man right standing with Himself by putting Christ's goodness and virtue into his heart.
3. (A) God accepts the believer because of the moral excellence found in Jesus Christ (B) God makes the believer acceptable by infusing Christ's moral excellence into His life.
4. (A) If a Christian becomes 'born again' (regenerate, transformed in character), he will *achieve* right standing with God. (B) If the sinner accepts right standing with God by faith, he will then experience transformation in character.
5. (A) We receive right standing with God by faith alone. (B) We receive right standing with God by faith which has become active by love
6. (A) We achieve right standing with God by having Christ live out his life of obedience in us. (B) We achieve right standing with God by accepting the fact that he obeyed the law perfectly for us.
7. (A) We achieve right standing with God by following Christ's example by the help of His enabling grace. (B) We follow Christ's example because His life has given us right standing with God
8. (A) God first pronounces that we are righteous in His sight, then gives us his Spirit to make us righteous. (B) God sends His Spirit to make us righteous, and then he will pronounce that we are righteous.
9. (A) Christ's intercession at God's right hand gives us favour in the sight of God. (B) It is the indwelling Christ that gives us favour in God's sight.
10. (A) Only by faith in the doing and dying of Christ can we fully satisfy the claims of the ten commandments. (B) By the power of the Holy Spirit living in us, we can fully satisfy the claims of the ten commandments.

Justification - a Truth Under Siege?

At the time of the reformation a lamp of truth that was barely alight was re-fuelled. As the Bible became more accessible to the common people, various reformers began to attempt to restore Biblical truths to the masses. The reformers were unanimous in their emphasis of, and in the teaching on, justification by faith alone, through Christ alone, and not of works, (Eph.2:8,9). Today I believe that flame is flickering.

The word justification comes from the Greek word '*dikaion*' which means: to regard as innocent, to render just, in a judicial sense as a *legal* and *forensic* thing. The word is mostly used in connection with judgement or in a legal sense: '**For I know nothing by myself yet am I not justified; but He that judges me is the Lord**', (1Cor.4:3,4). Many other verses could be used to show the legal and judicial sense of the word. In Luke 10:29 it is written of an expert lawyer that he was '**willing to justify himself**', (see also Lk.16:15). The reformers therefore taught that justification was a *legal* and *forensic declaration* in Heaven that means a person is now right with God. The word *forensic* is used in connection with a court of law. Today we have *forensic scientists* and *forensic psychologists* who are specialists in legal matters and give evidence in a court of law.

This *declaration* of justification in the sight of God is described in the Bible as an '*imputed*' thing, (KJV Rom.4:11,22,23,24; James 2:23; other versions translate the word as '*declared*', '*reckoned*', '*accounted*'). In Romans chapter four Paul progressively and clearly teaches justification by *imputation*. In this chapter the words translated '*accounted*' '*reckoned*' and '*imputed*' all come from the *same* Greek word, '*logizomai*', which is used no less than *eleven times* in this one chapter! They are *legal* and *judicial* words, (see also 1Cor.4:3,4; Matt.12:37; Rom.3:4).

At the reformation, the reformers insisted on going back to the Bible in their understanding of *justification*. Yet the Roman Catholic Council of Trent placed an '*anathema*' (curse) on any who taught that justification comes '*through the imputation of Christ's righteousness alone*'. This was despite several Scriptures such as Romans 4:11 which state righteousness is '*imputed*' (accounted; declared) **unto them**'. The Catholic Church was well aware that a doctrine of imputed righteousness would dispel the need for continuing justifying graces being mediated through priests in the many Roman Catholic sacraments and rituals.

The word '*imputed*' is an *outside* event. It is here that Catholicism is diametrically opposed to reformation theology. Catholic doctrine focuses heavily on justification as being a *process* occurring *inside* a person. Catholic doctrine in fact confuses and at times marries *justification* with *sanctification*. It is here too that many Christians today lack the teaching to discern the difference. As John Bunyan said: '*...If you do not put a difference between justification wrought by the man Christ without, and sanctification wrought by the spirit of Christ within...you are not able to divide the word aright; but contrariwise, you corrupt the Word of God, and cast stumbling blocks before the people, and will certainly one day most deeply smart for your folly, except you repent.*' ('*The Riches of Bunyan*' P.140).

Although men like Wesley and other holiness preachers placed much emphasise on sanctification, they were united with the reformers in the teaching of justification. Justification is an *outside, legal, objective* and *forensic* work of *Christ for us*, (Rom.4&5). It is a once only act, (Rom.4:1-13; 8:32-34), where the sin question is settled forever, (Rom.5:1; 6:23). Sanctification, however, is an *inside subjective* work of the *Holy Spirit in us*, (Phil.2:12,13; 1:6). Most believe this sanctification is both *positional* at salvation and *progressive* throughout our life on this earth, before glorification, (Phil.2:12,13; 1Jn.1:7-10; 3:3). Justification is *imputed*, (righteousness accounted to; '*unto*' us); sanctification is *imparted into* us. Sanctification is the blessing of justification. At justification the gift of the Holy Spirit is given to make us holy and to do the work of sanctification in us. Paul speaks of two gifts - the gift of righteousness (Rom.5:17), and the gift of the Spirit. (Rom.5:5). The gift of

righteousness is imputed or credited to (*imputed*) our account, but the Spirit is imparted *into* us. This imputation or 'transaction' of righteousness to us is repeatedly taught in Romans using different translated English words: '**For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness**', (Rom.4:3)... '**But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness...faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness**' (vs.5-9) '**...it was imputed to him for righteousness...but for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised Jesus our Lord from the dead**', (vs.21-24). All the above underlined words come from the *same* Greek word '*logazomai*'.

This righteousness that comes through the above mentioned 'imputation' ('*logazomai*') is not in ourselves or on this earth, but in Heaven! Our righteousness is '**The Lord our righteousness**', (Jer.23:6), who sits at the right hand of the Father! John Bunyan said: '*Indeed this is one of the greatest mysteries in the world - namely that a righteousness that resides with a person in Heaven should justify me a sinner, on earth*'. Man's *experience* and outworking of this on earth is in sanctification through the Holy Spirit. Paul says that the Spirit brings life '**because you have been justified**', (Rom.8:10).

As with sanctification, similarly '*regeneration*' is the fruit of justification. Catholicism teaches the reverse - that regeneration is a condition for justification, hence the emphasis on works to procure it. However, only the justified receive the gift of the infilling Spirit which regenerates them. Man cannot bring about justification in any way - no man comes to the Father unless drawn by the Holy Spirit, (Jn.6:44). Catholic doctrine, however, sees justification as the renovating of the internal man, ie. human sanctification. Rome says we are justified by *infusion* of righteousness and this is linked to a continuous impartation of graces through the sacraments which are mediated out through a priest. Because this is never completed it amounts to a program of faith and works to attain justification. Arguably, does this not end up in more works than faith? The problem with this theology is that one never knows whether he or she is saved or how much of this type of sanctification is necessary to be justified in the end. It invariably falls into *working* for one's salvation. Hence the end to this is doctrines like that of *Purgatory* - a place after death to purge and atone for sin so as to be righteous enough to enter Heaven. Rome says that we are justified by God's work of grace in man. Yet the reformers taught that we are justified by God's work of grace through Christ and that any work in man is sanctification by the Holy Spirit as a *result* of justification. It could be said that Catholic theology is subjective and man centred, while the other is objective and Christ centred. Of one you can never be sure if you have enough of God's grace in your heart; the other is sure because *Christ has it all*. Romans 3:24 says: '**...being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**'. In other words, rather than being justified by anything *in* us we are justified by what God did *outside* us in Christ. We cannot feel it. We should never look within for salvation or we will only see ourselves ('*filthy rags*'), but we should look to Him - our Lord and Saviour and our righteousness! By *faith* we have the possession of justification and from that comes peace and assurance, because it is based on a *finished* work done by *Christ alone*! '**...By the obedience of one shall many be made righteous**', (Rom.5:19).

The reformers argued that justification was by faith alone, (*Sola Fida*), without works: '**Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law**', (Rom.3:28); '**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast**', (Eph.2:8,9). Justification by faith alone without works essentially means that a man may believe in what God has already done *for* him, not *in* him. Catholicism in practice tends to focus on works rather than faith for righteousness. Yet the Bible is littered with passages that mention faith without any mention of works or the law, for righteousness, (Rom.3:21,22; 4:1,13; 9:30; 10:6; Gal.5:5; Phil.3:9; Heb.11:7; etc.).

I believe in this twentieth century there has been a particular shift by various so called 'Protestant' groups to a more Catholic type theology on justification. This has been enhanced by experiential and 'impartational' type teaching and phenomena, now so prevalent, not just in neo-Pentecostal/Charismatic circles but also across the evangelical church. The emphasis is increasingly on the Holy Spirit and less on Christ. 'Anointed' leaders focus on an 'impartation' of spiritual power through 'power encounters'. Subjective mystical New Age type experiences are mediated out. Today the Holy Spirit is increasingly being glorified. Yet Scripture says He will never attract attention to Himself and that He will always point only to Christ, (Jn.16:13,14). The current waves of the signs and wonders movement teaching is truly lapping on the shores of a Catholic type sanctification. The ecumenical thread running through the above movements is unmistakable. The increased acceptance of, and unity between, Catholicism, Charismatism/Pentecostalism, and evangelicals in recent years, is indisputable.

More than ever we need to return to the foundation of, and teaching of, the doctrine of Justification, as well as the other reformation truths. These truths were upheld at the expense of much bloodshed and many martyrs, who suffered at the hands of the Catholic Church. With an understanding of justification comes a peace and assurance and an increased appreciation of the grace of God and the *finished* work of Christ. With this understanding of truth, many will be better able to discern the true from the counterfeit.

The reformation truths such as justification were truths that once burned in the hearts of many. Today there is a generation rising up that may well have little or no knowledge of the importance of such doctrines. The lamp of reformation truth burns dimly. Many seek after revival and signs and wonders. Perhaps what we need the most is another mighty reformation! The cost of truth is high. The reformation was costly. However, the alternative is an increasingly apostate ecumenical church. May the Spirit of the Lord bring the truth of justification to the hearts of many in this generation. May the Holy Spirit use us to teach it to the next generation, that this lamp of truth might yet again burn bright. Terry Arnold

TA Ministries, PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld. 4655, Australia. Ph. 018183093

Answers To Questionnaire P.5

1. (A) 2. (A) 3. (A) 4. (B) 5. (A) 6. (B) 7. (B) 8. (A) 9. (A) 10. (A)

Editors Comments: Do not be too surprised if you scored dismally, as very few to date have scored all correct. If there are any misconceptions concerning justification and sanctification, this will tend to colour the way you will answer *most* of the questions. We recommend a careful and note taking study of the above article, '*Justification - a Truth Under Siege?*'.

The results of this questionnaire to date have shown that there is an urgent need for pastors and teachers to teach on objective reformation principles, (faith alone, grace alone, Christ alone, Scripture alone for doctrine, etc). We recommend that this questionnaire and the article on page 5 and 6 be copied and distributed.

In recent issues of this newsletter we have exposed the endorsement by the AOG Superintendant, Brian Houston, of the 'Share the Holy Spirit' conference in 1997. This conference had an amazing mixture of Catholic priests, nuns, and evangelicals of many denominations. Several AOG people including pastors have contacted Brian Houston requesting an explanation as to why his name appeared as endorsing this conference. I recently have received a copy of a fax sent to an AOG pastor with the following comments by Pastor Houston:

'...The endorsement I gave to the conference 'Share the Spirit' was approximately three years ago and at that time the Catholic connection was not known to me. I do not ever recollect giving them permission to use any endorsement on their advertising material and I have asked them to cease doing so in the future. Unfortunately, one or two people that have an axe to grind look for any opportunity to criticise the leadership of our fellowship but I can assure you it will not affect it in the slightest. Any endorsement ever given was not given as National Superintendant of the Assemblies of God in Australia...'

Editor's Comments: Firstly, it is good to see the withdrawal of any connection by Brian Houston with this false conference. We hope and pray that he is aware of the dangers of Catholicism and the false ecumenism taught and portrayed in these conferences. However, something is seriously wrong with this fax by Houston. At first he says he gave his endorsement but later says he never gave permission to use it. Why give an endorsement when it cannot be used? The other question is, how can the endorsement be given by an AOG leader and not expected to be taken as AOG endorsing the thing?

More importantly, the statement that Houston was not aware of the 'Catholic connection' is difficult to believe. The first 'Share the Holy Spirit' conference in 1995 showed no less a 'Catholic connection' than any of the others that have followed. The Catholic connection is obvious as the word 'Catholic' is written after all of six names! With the brochure came a flyer listing Catholic books. Also the convenor was openly stated as Catholic. Added to this, the organisation that promoted the first 1995 conference and all the others is the 'Servants of Jesus' - a well known Sydney ecumenical Catholic organisation. How could it be that Brian would not have been aware of the 'Catholic connection'?

This matter raises more questions than answers. However, we pray that many will continue to question any ecumenical trend of such churches.

The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship (FGBM) - A Testimony

'...I have decided to resign from all involvement with the Full Gospels Business Mens Fellowship International (FGB)..My initial involvement with the FGB movement started...when I received a 'Voice' magazine. I read it and enjoyed the testimonies..I attended an FGB breakfast..After a round of songs the meeting progressed to an informal meal where I was made to feel most welcome. ...an invited speaker shared,...on what God was doing in his life..My initial impressions...were that these men...got together as a method of outreaching to the unsaved (and the unchurched!)...my impressions are still the same to this day...

We had a visit from National Director (SA)...The president [of the local branch] and I met with [him] to discuss several concerns we had...I asked...about the three men who had their membership cancelled some time ago...He [said] these men had 'misused their positions in order to speak out vehemently against the 'Toronto Blessing' and for that reason, had been removed. ..Around a week before conference, I had a phone call...this person offered to set up a meeting with these three men, so that I could hear their version of the story. ...the story which unfolded is summarised:...The three men had decided not to contest the election of officers for the following year. When no nominations were put forward [the same National Director] decided to cancel the memberships of the three...members. The aforesaid statement that these three men had 'misused their positions' in order to attack the 'Toronto Blessing' is, I believe, unfounded and untrue...At no time did these men seek to cause friction within FGB with the knowledge they had...They were falsely accused and gotten rid of, so they wouldn't be able to 'rock the boat' over TB and RHB...

...At a recent FGB conference in Adelaide the keynote speakers were Mr. & Mrs. Kevin McNaulty, who are Word of faith people, based in Russia..Throughout the conference it was obvious that they are indeed of the same stable as the Hyper-Faith leaders [Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland], quoting the same cliches and using the same passages of Scripture used to pre-empt that view...I strongly disagree with the Hyper-Faith stance in many areas as being heretical and unbiblical.

...Another major area of concern for all true Bible believing Christians is the issue of the Charismatic movement and its links with the Vatican. ..I was brought up as a Roman Catholic...Now my question is simply this: 'If I was a Catholic, and I was already in a vital relationship with God at thirteen, then why did I have to get born again at age eighteen after leaving the church?'

I have seen several letters and an article which confirm FGB's involvement with Roman Catholicism..one comes from a brother called Terry. Terry had dealings with FGB back in 1995 in Sydney, NSW, and part of his letter to me reads: 'I have been aware that you were involved in FGBM and have been praying that you would see the problems of being associated with them...I do appreciate some of their testimonies in their magazines. I was once a regular attender in... Queensland until the ecumenism of it became too much. We had Catholic priests and Catholics infiltrating it and eventually a Catholic was the president. In Sydney I challenged them at a morning prayer meeting that I was invited to. At this meeting the invited songleader and speakers were three men from 'The Servants of Jesus' who are an ecumenical Catholic organisation that I had researched only a few months before. Two of the men were Catholic and the other High Anglican. No one in the meeting seem to be aware of this except the president and myself, and the president was not aware that I knew. [The three men] tried to cover up and excuse Catholicism...they had no answers to vital questions. I never went back to any prayer meetings of FGB...'

..The 1981 FGBMF convention in Philadelphia had as its theme 'Bridges, Not Barriers'. More than 20,000 Pentecostals and Catholic Charismatics gathered to celebrate...the main speaker was Catholic priest, Dean Braun. The November 1981 Voice called a front page advertisement 'Amazing John XXIII'. The magazine presents Pope John as a genuine child of God...'Certainly, John was a saint, a saint of God sanctified in Jesus Christ.'...

What can I say? Am I just a bigoted 'protestant' who hates Catholics, Hyper-Faith people, and the leaders of FGBMF? No...What I am attempting to do, is to warn unsuspecting members of the Christian community that there are plans afoot to ensnare many of you into a liason with an ungodly pagan power - notably Rome, through the Charismatic movement, and organisations such as FGB and other para church groups...

When good men are falsely accused, when Hyper-Faith teachers are put on the platform at a National Conference, and are encouraged to promote their false gospel, it's time to take a stand! When parachurch organisations start shaking hands with the Vatican, it's time to take a stand! (Extract from article by Austin Hellier, 'Christian Enquirer', Alice Springs, Aust. Available from TA Ministries)

Dear [TA Ministries], It would be extremely appreciated if you could include my name and address on your mailing list...the latest issue of 'Diakrisis'...is outstanding and I have already distributed it among fellow workers - may the Lord continue to bless your excellent work in these last days of apostasy, (A.F. Cape Town, Sth. Africa)

Dear Terry, It was good to meet with you during your visit to the North. Do come up often. I just want to write to you to thank you and encourage you in your ministry. I have no doubt that the Lord has called you to this ministry...of sounding the warnings to God's people about false prophets and false teachings. If we profess to be followers of Christ, then surely we should heed the Lord's numerous warnings...we should test all things against the Word of God, and expose any errors or falsehood.

Please stand firm in the Lord and His Word. Don't worry about the wind and the waves. The Lord...only has to speak his Word and the wind and waves will be no more. But then how is our faith to be tested? How do we know what is really in our hearts? The Scripture says: 'His winnowing fan is in his hand and He will thoroughly purge his threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire', (Matt.3:12). Personally, I see this Scripture is being fulfilled in these last days of self sickly, popular Christianity.

I do know that your ministry is not going to be easy or pleasant. But then we are told to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Just let the light of God's truth shine through your ministry. Don't worry about the darkness nor the results...be encouraged and stand firm and speak the truth boldly as you ought to speak. Be guided by God's love and wisdom. Be faithful. May God bless you all in your ministry. Yours in Christ, (C.Y. Cairns)

Editor's Comments: Praise God for the gift of exhortation and encouragement!

Dear Terry, Thankyou indeed for sending...your book 'The Toronto Blessing - A Critique' which I found most interesting and informative and which, to my delight, my pastor has taken to read. I praise the Lord that he is not in favour of the TB and your book will reinforce that I'm sure....Congratulations on what you are doing for the Lord - may He strengthen and protect you to keep up the good work.

My friend from...has been through a bad time on account of the TB...My close friend from...has gone to hear Kenneth Copeland - I have tried to warn her, but it is difficult when some of our own pastors (Christian Revival Crusade) have embraced it. I am of course praying for her eyes to be opened. Yours in Jesus name, (Name withheld at editors discretion)

Prayer Points

- Please pray about a possible ministry trip to Sydney in March/April this year.
- To date we have not had our own fax machine but with the increase and urgency in faxes there is a need to have one close on hand.
- Please pray earnestly for labour in this ministry.
- Pray for a venue to teach and produce tapes on various topics.

Dear Terry Arnold! It was lovely to have received your 'Diakrisis' newsletters. Be encouraged, we appreciate them here in Melbourne...Our answer is in the Word of God...God will bless you and your newsletters to get the body of Christ back on track!...We shall pray for you and your ministry..Your brethren in Christ Jesus our Lord! (B.&R.W, Essendon, Vict)

Dear Terry, We thank God for raising up a ministry such as yours in a day in which it is patiently evident that the words of Jesus are so true when he said:'.narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it'.

We are finding that on a daily basis we meet people who are living their lives oblivious to the danger they are in. Because they have 'made a decision' or said 'the sinners prayer'...they are confident that they have been 'insured' against spending eternity in Hell.

I feel angry when I think of these poor deceived people and the wolves and false teachers who have led them to this false premise. I believe these 'teachers' and 'leaders' who teach this deception will find themselves standing before the awesome righteous gaze of our Lord unable to answer for their frivolous and destructive teaching. They like all who profess to be Bible teachers, must know that as such 'we shall receive a stricter judgement', (James 3:1).

We are seeing such a departure from the 'faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men (and women) have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ'. It will be such as these who will say to Him, 'Lord! Lord! Look at all the great things we did in your name. Look at the numbers of people we have built into our denomination. See the expensive buildings we built for you. We prophesied in your name, cast out demons in your name, and look at the way we finally got the churches to forget about doctrine and to get together as one big happy family. We've done wonders in your name!'

Instead of teaching their flocks that if they are genuine Christians God has an expectation for the exhibition of fruit due to repentance for a complete change of heart towards sin, these charlatans encourage carnal behaviour by promoting grace at the expense of law. It is hard to find churches that are not seriously afflicted by this cancerous scourge of antinomianism.

Those most serious of all the words that can be spoken by our Lord from eternity past to eternity future will echo in their ears forever, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practise lawlessness'.

...The members decided [and] it is our intention to make contributions on a regular basis for your support. We continue to pray for yourself and the ministry...Yours in Christ Jesus, (Pastor, Ocean Shores, NSW)

Terry's Itinerary

- Dec.28th. 9am Maryborough Presbyterian, Qld. (07)41247018
- Jan.4th. 9.45am Howard Baptist, Qld. (071)294292
- Jan.4th. 7pm Hervey Bay Presbyterian, Qld. (07)41247018
- Jan.11th. 7pm. Hervey Bay Presbyterian, Qld. "
- Jan.18th. 7pm. Hervey Bay Presbyterian, Qld. "

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