



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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Editors Comment

I sometimes become concerned at the way people might use information to correct a brother or sister who may be in error. There are some people who would use this newsletter the wrong way! Without love we become '*as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal*', (1Cor.13:1). If we attempt to inform, correct or even challenge, it should be done with the *right motivation, with love, and in good time*. Otherwise people may well hear the sound of our voice but fail to get the urgency and the truth of the message we have. Any anger or bitterness in our own lives needs to be dealt with before God, and left behind. We may well nullify the effect of the message by the attitude we have.

We, (I speak to myself first), must ask ourselves the question: What is my motivation? What result do I want to achieve and what is the best way to accomplish this? Do I have compassion for the person? *Compassion is someone's pain in my heart*. The shortest verse in the Bible speaks of Jesus' compassion: '*Jesus Wept*', (Jn.11:35). If our motivation is primarily to prove someone wrong, we may well be lacking compassion, and have a selfish pride. Wesley once said, '*If we die without love, what will knowledge avail*'. We must separate the issue from the person!

In this ministry we have often written that love without truth is deception. However, the flip side of the coin is that truth without love can be carnal and empty. Some will say: '*oh, but Jesus got angry and called a spade a spade*'. Although this is true we must also remember that this happened once and for a very serious reason - the people, (whom he loved), were *defiling His holy temple* and this was perhaps close to blasphemy! Although Jesus was angry here, He never sinned. Apart from this case of righteous anger, mostly Jesus ministered with compassion and love to people in darkness. Except for the religious pharisees, He rarely provoked, but rather lovingly challenged. We must witness, inform and contend for the faith - but with love!

Our timing is not always God's timing. Unless God opens the mind of the person in error through what we say to them, we may have little effect. A principle I have always worked on when working with false teaching and the cults is: *give milk before meat*, (Heb.5:11-14). Never shine a powerful light into a persons eyes who has not seen light for some time. Never argue - this rarely ends up with the person being won to truth. If possible, leave the door open for continued contact with the person. Never major on minor doctrines or issues. Stick to the facts when refuting and exposing error, and be sure to replace it with truth.

Let the Holy Spirit search our hearts. May our motivation be pure; let our timing be in season; and let '*the love of God be shed abroad in our hearts*', (Rom.5:5).

Terry Arnold

****Booklet - Reprint Requests****

Several readers have suggested we put together a collection of popular articles from past editions of *Diakrisis* - into a booklet. These would include articles that raised the most comments or gave encouragement to readers, as well as ones we feel are vital to this ministry and need to be distributed.

We urge readers to contact us and suggest the articles you would like to see included in this booklet.

****New Phone Number****

Please note our new Phone number
0411489472

How To Discern and Test the spirits

As the time before the Lord's return shortens, there is more need than ever to **Try the spirits**, (1Jn.4:1; Gal.1:6-9), and **prove all things**, (1Thess.5:21). We are living in days when the attack from the enemy is increasingly coming from *within* the church. False teachings and practices that grow within the church are often not discerned to be error because it is often so well disguised.

In Acts 16 a slave girl followed Paul and his disciples for many days, preaching *truth* about Paul and his followers. Eventually Paul rightly discerned that she was a fortune teller and he cast the demon of divination out of her. *The more truth involved, the more deceptive is the error*. The worst lies are those that resemble truth.

It is my opinion that Satan's methods today are as clever as ever. The line between the real and the counterfeit is thinner than ever for most Christians. **False Christs, False prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even the elect**, (Matt.24:24). This ought not to be, since the Bible and the Holy Spirit have been provided so that we may be guided into truth and see error clearly so as **to discern both good and evil**, (Heb.5:11).

The Greek word for 'discern' is *diakrisis* which means to 'Judge through'. It carries the idea of dividing or splitting something to judge what is evil, unholy, impure and error, and thereby being able to judge what is good, holy, pure and truth. How can we 'judge through' or '*diakrisis*' a work or a teaching, to see if it is all truth? The mistake that the church is increasingly making is to test a work or teaching by its truth instead of by its *error*. In the Bible *leaven* is a symbol of sin, error, (1Cor.5:6-8; Gal.5:9), and false doctrines, (Matt.13:33;16:6-12; Mk.8:15; Lk.12:1; 13:21). In the parable of the leaven the woman hides the leaven (error) in the lump (of truth). This leaven or error affects all that is good. In other parables such as the Treasure in the Field, the Wheat and the Tares, and the Dragnet, the worthless (error) is always separated from the valuable (truth). **A little leaven (error) leavens the whole lump....** We are told to...**purge out the old leaven**, and to **have the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth**, (1Cor.5:6-8).

Following are five ways to discern correctly. However, only one of these is 100% trustworthy!

One of the first ways we may initially discern a thing is by the 'witness ('prompting') of the spirit'. The Bible says we are **to be led by the Spirit**, (Rom.8:14), and **to walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh**, (Gal.5:16). It is **The Spirit itself that beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God**, (Rom.8:16). There are two kinds of spirits in the above scripture: one has a big 'S' being the Holy Spirit and the other has a small 's' being the human spirit. The inner witness is connected with the fruit of the Spirit, as in Galatians 5:22, which is the *character* of the Holy Spirit. Two of these fruits are *peace* and *joy*. When we are testing the spirits we may have a joy, but especially a peace, that the thing is of God. Sometimes we may have a discomfort, uneasiness, or a 'check' in our spirits. This is often a signal to be careful. When the slave girl was following Paul, the Bible says Paul was '*grieved*'. The Greek word for *grieved* here is *diaponetheis* and is in the aorist passive tense which literally means '*having been distressed*'. Paul obviously had an uneasiness and a lack of peace for '*many days*' about the situation and *waited* before acting.

A warning must be given here to the reader - that this 'inner witness' is *not* reliable. It can be mixed with a mindset or emotions and must be considered as only a possibility. Christians should not take an 'inner witness' or a prompting of

the Holy Spirit as their first or last guidance in any matter. Today's signs and wonders movement and especially the Word Faith teaching places heavy emphasis on this method to the damage and shipwreck of countless Christian lives.

A second method of discernment is to check the *roots* of the thing to be tested. *The roots will determine the fruit*. (Matt.17:20). If the roots of the thing have error it will not bear good fruit. Very often we need only go back into the history of something to see the nature of the roots. Those who refuse to learn from history are doomed to repeat it! A study of the roots of every major cult group and every false teaching will find a problem, an over emphasis, or plain error, in the historical roots.

A third method of discernment is to examine the action or non-action of the mind. Can the thing to be tested be *reasoned* out from the scriptures? The Bereans reasoned from the scriptures to test what even the mighty apostle Paul taught, (Acts 17:11). Is there any indoctrination process that will develop a mindset that cannot be reasoned with? Is there a bias towards emptying or putting aside the mind to accept an experience, teaching or practice? It is part of the commandments of God that we love God **with all our minds**, (Mk.12:30). The Bible says to...**bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ**, (2Cor.10:5), and to monitor and control thoughts, (Is.26:3; Phil.4:8; Rom.12:1; Ps.19:14).

A fourth method of correct discernment is to examine the fruit of the thing to be tested. This can sometimes be a difficult process as some fruit can have an outside (soulish) appearance that looks good, and yet be spiritually rotten inside. However, after a period of time the real fruit becomes evident. *One cannot accept a mixture of good and bad fruit as this is contrary to scripture as described above in the principle of leaven*. False spirits look for opportunities to work in the flesh and to give titillating experiences. They will draw people to chase alternate religious experiences. However, the Holy Spirit will inspire in the true Christian a hunger for holiness and purity in manner, living and conduct. Any loss of self control, ('*temperance*' KJV, Gal.5:22), is not the Holy Spirit but the flesh or another spirit.

The great revivalist and teacher Jonathan Edwards gives five signs of good fruit: 1. *God is at work when a persons esteem for the true Jesus is raised*. 2. *God is at work when Satans kingdom is attacked*. 3. *God is at work when the people come to love the Scriptures more*. 4. *God is at work when people are led away from falsehood into truth*. 5. *God is at work when there is an increase in love for God and man*.

A fifth and the *only* truly reliable method of discernment is to evaluate by the Word of God. If the thing to be tested has false or extra-Biblical doctrine or has an over-emphasis in one area, (eg. experience, manifestations, etc.), then this needs to be seen as *mixed* and *bad* fruit. For example, an emphasis on the Holy Spirit instead of Jesus is dangerous and unscriptural. The Holy Spirit always magnifies Jesus and Him alone, and never any manifestation or the Holy Spirit Himself. The Holy Spirit will do His work in total and strict compliance with the Word of God. Any new revelations, odd behaviour, or visions, are extra-Biblical and to be ignored. The Holy Spirit will in fact inspire us to test things with the Word of God. Even if we are not sure at this point, it is wise to shelve the whole thing and pray and study the Word further to later discern correctly. **Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth**, (2Tim.2:15).

Terry Arnold

The 'Holy Father's' Message For World Mission

If the many evangelicals now actively involved in co-evangelising with Roman Catholicism are labouring under the belief that Rome has changed or modified her gospel, they should turn their attention to the message by John Paul II from the Vatican on May 31st, 1998.

The underlining theme is a great increase in world evangelism culminating in what he continually calls '*The Great Jubilee of the Year 2,000*'. It is on this occasion that he is planned to stand in Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives with the leaders of other world religions and present this act to Jesus as some sort of birthday present! He says that there is '*a great missionary re-awakening in the church. After all, is not the primary objective of the Jubilee the strengthening of the faith and witness of Christians?*'

No it is not. The Jubilee was instigated by God for Israel and was known as the year of liberty and was held in the 49th year from the last Jubilee! Its prime objective was the returning of every man to his possession. Therefore if the Pope wants a true Jubilee in Jerusalem - he must arrange for greater Israel to be returned to the Jews. But no such event has been ordained by God for the church to perform, let alone Roman Catholicism.

In flagrant disregard of Romans 3:11 he insists that there is a re-awakening of a sense of religion among the peoples of the world and that this will lead them to find God. '*How can we fail to see in all this the work of divine providence, who guides humanity and history towards more dignified conditions of life for all people*' he continues, '*if we look at today's world, we are struck by many negative factors that can lead to pessimism. But this feeling is unjustified: we have faith in God... God is preparing a great springtime for Christianity and we already see its first signs*'.

Of course, if this is true then the book of Daniel, Revelation, et al. are enormous frauds and we are actually destined for an imminent golden age of Christianity without Christ!

The astounding fact is that he is speaking about the very spiritual activity to be found on earth at the end of the times - so vividly portrayed in Daniel and Revelation - the uniting of the world under one man, heading a universal religion! Therefore, those who innocently or otherwise, join with Rome in missionary activity and evangelism, are working to bring this about!

As if to add insult to injury he completes his address with the following: '*As I entrust to Mary, model of the missionary spirit and mother of the missionary church, all those who ad gentes or in their own territory, in all walks of life, co-operate in the proclamation of the Gospel, I gladly send to all, my Apostolic Blessing.*' **Question** is, what Gospel? **Mike Claydon**

The Cross

'I never knew what rest of heart truly meant till I understood the doctrine of the substitution of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now when I see my Lord bearing away my sins as my scapegoat, or dying for them as my sin offering, I feel a profound peace of heart and satisfaction of spirit. The cross is all I want for security and joy. Truly this bed is long enough for a man to stretch himself on it. The cross is a chariot of salvation, wherein we traverse the high road of life without fear. The pillow of atonement heals the head that aches with anguish. Beneath the shadow of the cross I sit down with great delight, and it's fruit is sweet unto my taste.' (Spurgeon's sermon: '*The Cross Our Glory*', from '*12 Sermons On The Passion And Death of Christ*', P.149)

The History and Fruit of Charismatism

The fruit of Charismatism is now becoming plainly evident. An open ecumenism, (including unity with the Roman Catholic Church), and a documented high 'backsliding rate' (over 80%), has become the fruit of what many believe is the influence of *worldliness* within its ranks. A look at music styles, church growth methods and evangelism techniques, will show how close many Charismatic churches are to the world.

The Charismatic roots stem from the Pentecostal traditions, but with added emphasis and extremes that early Pentecostals actually *rejected*. The early Pentecostals arguably came out of the Methodist and holiness tradition of the 19th Century. The first generation of Pentecostals emphasised sanctification as a second work of grace over and above sanctification as a process. However, they stood against modernism and liberalism. They hated sin and attested to holiness. They also generally denounced faith healers and any overemphasis on healing or miracles. Word-Faith teachers such as Copeland, Hagin and Hinn, would simply not have been tolerated in most camps.

The second generation Pentecostals, (sometimes called 'traditional' Pentecostals), began to add teachings and some extremes and emphasis. New 'revelations' began to creep in and 'hyper-faith' teachings, (similar to today's Word-Faith teachings), also became more evident.

The third generation Pentecostals, (often termed 'classical' Pentecostals), saw more compromise enter into their ranks, including a move towards ecumenism and acceptance of Roman Catholicism. This ecumenism of the third and

fourth generations was furthered and perhaps even caused by: the intrusion of Roman Catholic 'Pentecostals'; involvement in the World Council of Churches; the impact of ecumenists such as Billy Graham; and the prominence of Pentecostal para-church groups such as the *Full Gospel Business Mens Fellowship*.

The fourth generation, (1960's - the neo-Pentecostals), saw a rapid increase in extra-Biblical revelations and an open ecumenism with Rome. Extremes and excesses increased and were boosted by the influence of the beginnings of Charismatism. Many writers believe this generation of Pentecostals saw total apostasy from its former position.

The Charismatic move saw neo-Pentecostalism move into the main line denominations with added emphasis on the gifts, unknown tongues, healings, miracles, and signs and wonders in general. Music styles became more 'contemporary' and accepted by the world. Pentecostal and Charismatic streams have since further merged and influenced nearly every sector of the denominational church and are today perhaps the most potent force towards the building of the ecumenical church.

Today's neo-Pentecostals surely need to study and look into the mirror of history. It has been said that if the first generation Pentecostals could see the state of neo-Pentecostal/Charismatism today, they would 'turn over in their graves' with horror. With the above history in mind, the question could well be asked - where to from here? What will happen to the remnant church that refuses to swim with the tide?

Terry Arnold (Recommended reading: '*Charismatism: Awakening or Apostasy?*' by O. Talmadge Spence)

'Bible Code' & False Prophecies

The book *'The Bible Code'* by Drosnin claims through its codes to show the following events which it says have all come true: the assassination of Sadat, the Kennedies, Lincoln and Gandhi; the atomic bomb on Hiroshima; the start of World War 1 and the Gulf War; and the launch of missiles by Iraq against Israel.

However, the same code system, (Rip's *'skip sequence'*), predicted the assassination of Churchill and the assassination of Netanyahu in 1996 in Jordan - both events did not occur.

The original inventor of the code system now states he does not support Drosnin's claims.

Christians, beware of the claims of Bible codes!

Terry Arnold

Let Martyn Lloyd Jones Speak For Himself!

Over the years I have been surprised at some Pentecostals and Charismatics who claim Martyn Lloyd Jones for their own ranks. Similarly it has been reported of RC Sproul and other church leaders. Today's neo-Pentecostals have become experts at quoting even the likes of Jonathan Edwards and Wesley, (usually out of context!), to support the false counterfeit 'revivals' of today.

It does not take much reasoning and discernment to read these men's works and realise that they would have had serious problems with today's bizarre phenomenon and false teaching evident in neo-Pentecostalism and the signs and wonders movement.

In Lloyd Jones classic works published as *'Joy Unspeakable'* and *'Baptism With the Spirit'*, Lloyd Jones gives the following summaries that many today conveniently do not quote or take note of:

- Do not rely on inward feelings.
- The use of reason: do not abandon your intellect.
- The importance of scripture: do not emphasise the Spirit at the expense of the Word.
- Be suspicious of claims of new revelations.
- Reject that which contradicts Scripture.
- Beware of the spectacular.
- Beware of prophesying of future events.
- Beware of excessive claims of direct guidance.
- Beware of that which draws attention to self.
- Beware of occasions where the physical element is prominent.
- Beware of the power of suggestion.

All of the above warnings by Lloyd Jones are clearly evident in the current signs and wonders movement and especially in the Toronto and Pensacola movements. **Terry Arnold**

Revival?

While the Toronto and Pensacola leaders and enthusiasts are openly claiming 'revivals' around the world, the statistics show the opposite. In England, Muslims are increasing by 30,000 per year while the Church of England attendance is decreasing. At the present rate, by the year 2,000 the two groups will be equal in the number of practising adherents.

Holiness

'Holiness begins in our minds and works out to our actions. This being true, what we allow to enter our minds is critically important...A few years ago sincere Christians were quite selective about the movies they attended, if they attended them at all. Today the same movies that were avoided are being shown on Television in the living rooms of Christians across the nation.'

(*The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges, P.119)

Pope Appeals For Unity

'May God speed up the steps of a total reconciliation so that the dawn of the their millennium sees Christians, if not entirely united, at least much more closer to this goal,' the Pope said...Pope John Paul also spoke of *'the need to carry on with every force ecumenical dialogue'*. (*Christian News*, 2/3/98)

In December 1993 The Roman Catholic *'Herald'* stated: *'The days of the Anglican Church are numbered, and most of its worshippers will return to the true faith of their distant medieval forebears'*.

The Galileo vs Catholic Church Fiasco

The great scientist Galileo was publicly flogged and sent to a dungeon because he believed the earth moved around the sun. On the 22nd of June, 1633, Galileo was obliged to fall on his knees to escape the cruel death ordered by the Pope. He signed with his own hand the following retraction: *'I abjure, curse, and detest, the error and heresy of the motion of the earth...The infallible decree of the infallible Pope, Urban VIII, against the motion of the earth was signed by the Cardinals Felia, Guido, Desiderio, Antonio, Bellinggero and Fabreicio. It says: 'In the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the plenitude of which resides in His Vicar, the Pope, that the propositions that the earth is not the centre of the world, and that it moves with a diurnal motion is absurd, philosophically false, and erroneous in faith,'* *

The false notion that the sun and all the heavenly bodies revolved around the earth remained official Catholic dogma until 1992, when the Vatican at last admitted officially that Galileo was right. How infallible is this Roman Catholic Church? **Terry Arnold**

* *'Fifty Years in the church of Rome'* by Charles Chiniquy, p.51.

What One Great Reformer Wrote

(The following is an extract from the classic *'Holiness'* by Bishop J.C.Ryle, one of the greatest 19th century English Christian leaders and authors)

'Once we let Popery get her foot again on the neck of England, there will be an end of all our national greatness...I warn all who read this paper, and I warn my fellow churchmen in particular, that the times require you to awake and be on your guard. Beware of Romanism, and beware of any religious teaching which...paves the way to it. I beseech you to realise the painful fact that the Protestantism of this country is gradually ebbing away, and I entreat you, as Christians and patriots to resist the growing tendency to forget the blessings of the English Reformation...Let us not drift back to Romish ignorance, superstition, priestcraft and immorality. Our Fathers tried Popery long ago, for centuries, and threw it off at last with disgust and indignation. Let us not put the clock back and return to Egypt. Let us have no peace with Rome...Read your Bibles and store your minds with Scriptural argument...We break the first canon, which bids us preach four times every year against the Pope's supremacy...Read history and see what Rome did in days gone by...and do not forget that Rome never changes. It is her boast and glory that she is infallible, and always the same.'

TV and Homosexuality

In recent years TV channels are increasingly pushing acceptance of alternate sexual lifestyles, with various shows having lead roles showing favourable acceptance of homosexuals and lesbian characters. These shows include *Profiler*, *ER*, *NYPD Blue*, *Friends*, *Spin City*, *Mad About You*, *Party of Five*, *The Carey Sanders Show*, *Cybill*, *Chicago Hope*....

'Sealing' Of the Holy Spirit

God the Father seals us with His Holy Spirit. By this seal He marks us as His own and keeps us unto the day of redemption: *'After that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise'*, (Eph.1:13) *'...this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His'*, (2Tim2:19). Jesus said, *'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand'*, (Jn.10:27,28). We are not secure because of what we do but because of who we are *in Christ*. We are not our own but Gods precious possession, having been wonderfully sealed by His Holy Spirit! **Terry Arnold**

'Christian' Literature?

Over the years I have become greatly concerned by literature that has increasingly been classified as 'Christian'. Most 'Christian' bookstores are selling literature that is increasingly a mishmash of New Age, psychology and humanism. So too are other outlets displaying books that are simply not Christian.

Recently I was visiting in a hospital where I went to inspect a new chapel built on the premises. The room was bare of any literature except for one book placed on a table at the front. The book was called *'Flight To Freedom'*. I opened it expecting to see a Gospel message of some kind. As I read I realised it was a New Age book. I took it home to finish reading it to be sure of what I had read. Some quotes are as follows: *'I believe in myself...'*; *'The beauty..of our inner selves'*; *'...higher consciousness...'*; *'What greater gift...to express who I am'*; *'..Let me be me'*; *'How the ?!*? am I supposed to feel'*.

The book was classic New Age philosophy. I wrote a letter to the author commending her for her beautiful artwork and presentation in the book but reminding her that it was classic New Age writing and in parts contrary to the Bible. I begged her to read an enclosed book *'The Ultimate Questions'* by Blanchard and receive the truth of Jesus Christ.

I received a quick reply: *'Dear Terry,...as begged of you, I have read it...Flight To Freedom'...is my own reality, thoughts and feelings and as such people relate to it...it is because of my honesty that the words reach people...yours is the first and only letter perceiving my writing to be as you say. In some stores it is in the Christian book section...my concern is for the people out there who are looking for something, pick up my words and feel a little better...my honesty and genuine sharing makes a difference for the better...may God bring both of us closer to the truth...'*

Please pray for this woman, that God might draw her to the *only* way to peace and eternal life - Jesus Christ. **Terry Arnold**

Salvation is of God

Salvation always results because God first pursues sinners, not because sinners first seek God. In John 15:16 Jesus said to His disciples, *'You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you.'* Luke 19:10 says, *'The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost'*.

Howard-Browne and Kilpatrick Heresies

Rodney Howard-Browne, ('Toronto Blessing' leader), in his book *'The Touch of God'* (P.13-14), teaches, as do most of the Word-Faith teachers, that Jesus was not Deity while on earth. He writes: *'Nothing Jesus did was because he was the Son of God. The Bible says he laid aside His royal robes of deity and when he walked the earth he did so as a prophet under the Abrahamic covenant'*.

Kilpatrick, (pastor of Pensacola 'revival'), in his book *'When the Heavens Are As Brass'* (P.22), writes: *'...walk as Jesus walked - and remember; he did it all as a man who did not pull from any source other than those that are available to man.'* Kilpatrick says Jesus was merely *'an anointed man'*, (P.19) and that *'Jesus did not move in omnipotence on the earth'*, (P.30).

These teachings deny 2,000 years of orthodox Christianity concerning the Deity of Christ! In centuries past these men would have been called heretics and their false teaching would have been fiercely exposed. Yet, today many ministries and church leaders quote from and give acceptance to these men, to the detriment of millions of Christians. **Terry Arnold**

When Man Becomes As an Animal

In Daniel chapter 4 we see God's judgement upon Nebuchadnezzar because of His pride, his lack of fear of God and his turning away from the Word of the Lord. Part of his judgement was to become as a beast in the field. He acted like an animal, ate grass, and actually took on some of the appearances of an animal.

Today scientists know of a rare mental disease called *Lycanthropy* which comes from the Greek word *lukos* - a wolf, and *anthropos* - a man. With this disease the man imagines himself to be a wolf, a bear, or some other animal.

Today we have so called Christians barking like dogs, howling like wolves, crowing like roosters, and laughing like hyenas. I have video evidence of women howling, of a man walking on all fours like a dog while another man follows with a leash attached. Another video depicts Word-Faith leaders such as Hagin hissing like a snake and Copeland crawling like a dog and drunk with laughter. Such manifestations are common to the *'new thing'* God was and is supposedly doing at Toronto and now at Pensacola.

With Nebuchadnezzar it was called *judgement* and was a unique display to show the utter depravity of a rebellious king. Yet today churches are calling it a wonderful move of God and a 'revival' by the Holy Spirit! The 'delusion' of 2Thessalonians will be judgement and will cause many to believe a lie as truth. To me this could be the most frightening portion of scripture in the whole of the Bible - because it is *God Himself who sends the delusion!* The only escape from this delusion is to *'receive the love of truth'*. As Christians, we must dig ourselves into what we know is safe and sure - the Word of God, for here is the revelation of the *real* Lord Jesus Christ. **Terry Arnold**

Doorknocking - Best Method of Evangelism?

Recently I read an article by an evangelist stating that door knocking is the best form of evangelism. As a matter of opinion only, and results, I question this. The reported results from this form of evangelism are often quite poor. In Australia and in many other countries the Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons may also have perhaps decreased the efficiency of this method. This is not to say I discourage door to door evangelism. If the Lord gives one a burden to use this method, then we should obey God.

I personally find that our *'oikos'* (family, close friends), are the best groups to evangelise first. I have personally found that *'divine appointments'* are the best and most effective evangelism*. Why? Because it is orchestrated by God Himself!

Added to this I have found from experience that literature is a vital key, not only to our *'oikos'*, but also the those wider afield. As far back as Martin Luther men have known the power of the printed word. The communists have won most of their adherents through literature. A missionary in Latin America said: *'In recent months I have been astonished to find that 90% of all converts in Latin America are either directly or indirectly the result of literature evangelism'*. **Terry Arnold**

(* TA Ministries conducts evangelism & witnessing seminars including teaching on various methods)

Pharisaism and Sectarianism

The Pharisee of Luke 18:11 stood alone and in hypocrisy thanked God that he was not like other men and that he was above sin. Like all righteous Pharisees he would have paid tithes, kept the law and fasted publicly twice per week. He separated himself from everyone except those who were like him!

Jesus, however, mixed with the worst of the worst - the publicans and the prostitutes. However, He never sinned while with them, (or away from them). Rather than ministering to the '**righteous**', Jesus mixed with the '**sinners**' whom He came to save, (Matt.9:13). These outcasts in Matthew 9:10 '**came and sat down with him and His disciples**'. He became a friend to them that they might come '**to repentance**', (vs.13). Likewise, Paul became '**all things to all men**' that he might '**save some**', (1Cor.9:22).

The disciples once tried to rebuke others who were doing the same works as them but were not in the same 'denomination' as them. Jesus corrected them and said '**Forbid him not, for he that is not against us is for us**', (Lk.9:50).

Let us separate from false teaching, false teachers, false prophets, and have no fellowship with unrighteousness. Let us separate from sin and false doctrine that affects the very presentation of the Gospel. However, let us build trust with the unrighteous that we might win them to Christ by the sharing of the Gospel and by our holy witness. Let us not build walls against those of other churches who, although their tag and style may differ, are preaching the pure Gospel and faithful to His Word and who are making true disciples separated to the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us not be like the Pharisee of Luke 18 or be sectarian like the disciples in Luke 9.

Terry Arnold

Did You Know?

- That David Koresh who took those deceived people to their deaths in Texas was formerly a Seventh Day Adventist?
- That Jim Jones who took nearly 1,000 lives to their deaths was formerly an AOG pastor?

Where Is The Balance?

When *truth is separated from the Spirit* the door is open for alien spirits and extra-Biblical teaching to enter in. Mixtures are allowed. Testing the spirits is frowned upon. Music styles become more 'contemporary' and even 'Christian rock' may be accepted. The services become more entertaining. Youth numbers may swell as the flesh is appealed to and the world floods in. Doctrine is put to the background.

Many people who are coming out of excesses and extremes in the continuing waves of 'signs and wonders' experiential Christianity, report that it is difficult to find local churches with a 'balance'. Many say that other churches have gone to the opposite extreme and become 'unfeeling' churches and often have doctrine but no 'life'. The complaint is that these churches are 'dead'.

When churches *separate the Spirit from truth* they can become 'dead', formal and even legalistic. Truth without Spirit produces churches with all the right doctrine but no *life* of the Holy Spirit. Change is frowned upon. Visitors do not stay long. Youth numbers may drop off. It seems the characteristics of some of these 'dead' churches are: inflexible structures, ritual and formalism in services and in worship styles; styles that cater for one age group only; resistance to change or to new ideas; and a lack of souls won or an inability to disciple and keep them. Many of these churches are reduced to a handful of supporters or have minimal growth.

The problem with the above characteristics is that such churches are perhaps not providing a suitable alternative to those coming out of churches due to division, extremes, excesses and false teaching.

Let us get excited about Jesus! Let our emotions be stirred. I am not here advocating emotionalism. Emotionalism is emotions taken too far. Emotionalism opens the door for the heart to dominate the mind. The Bible says our hearts are '**deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it**', (Jer.17:9). Our hearts cannot be trusted. Let our mind keep our hearts in check through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. However, let Christ be in every part of us because Jesus came to save every part of us - including our emotions. The early Christians knew of the '**love shed abroad in the heart**', (Rom.5:5) and the '**joy unspeakable and full of glory**', (1Pet.1:8).

Many today are asking the question - where is the balance? They search for balanced fellowships that will teach sound and pure doctrine and stand against error, yet without the lifeless formalism and ritual. I believe good advice to these people is to 'keep searching'. God has always kept a remnant of faithful fellowships to build up His saints. Terry Arnold

Video Review

'Countdown To Eternity' \$25.90

The attractive cover with this video reads: '*Through prophecy, the Bible authenticates that it alone transcends time and space. No other book dares to establish its credibility by telling the future in advance...The Bible lays out mankind's destiny in the last days! Are you prepared?...Are you searching for absolute truth?...The Bible is 100% accurate and prophecy proves it. In this video, we will look at several areas in Bible prophecy currently being fulfilled, including moral decay; Israel; technology.*'

This well received documentary type video is packed with information on such things as changes in the morals of society, Israel, and technology. The professional presentation is graphic and fast moving. The speakers include Dave Hunt, Chuck Missler, Roger Oakland and Chuck Smith.

Some who have reviewed this video believe it perhaps lacks in some areas and gives little time to a clear presentation of the Gospel. However, I have personally trialled this video with the unsaved and found much interest, as well as several opportunities to follow up. I believe it is best used as an ice breaker to make people think about the state of the world and mankind's lost and hopeless condition. Terry Arnold

The Truth Of Neo-Pentecostalism

'No segment of people within the body of Jesus Christ has suffered so many imposters as we Pentecostals. Our free styles of worship and our deep desire to see the Book of Acts has made us susceptible to quick tongues and cheap emotions. Will we ever learn? Apparently not! Now that Pentecostalism has been accepted by a goodly part of the evangelical world, these wild trends are playing havoc all over the church. Some Charismatics (neo-Pentecostals) are intimately connected with the Catholic Church and this has opened the door for even greater deception in our ranks. The Virgin Mary is now being worshipped and many Pentecostals are talking in 'tongues' at her shrines.' (From '**Altered States of Consciousness**' by Joseph Chambers, P. 2)

Your Comments and Questions

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

AOG Disfellowship

'On Friday, 26th June, 1998, I was summoned to the office of the pastor [name supplied] of the [name of AOG church, Cairns, Qld. supplied] and in the presence of the church board was disfellowshipped, being told that when the meeting was concluded I was to leave and not return as I was unwelcome in the assembly. I had in company with me a faithful brother in Christ [name supplied] whom I had...made aware of false teaching coming forth from the pulpit of our church...[He] was disfellowshipped with me. I have been a member of the congregation for fourteen years (five of those on staff at the church...) and my friend...for about ten years.

Our crime was that we thought it more important to defend the truth of God's Word and to warn our brothers and sisters of wolves among the flock than to obey and submit to a pastor who thought it more important to defend the leaders of the Faith movement and the Toronto/Pensacola outpourings. Even though the obvious errors, such as our redemption being accomplished by Christ's spiritual death in Hell, were tendered in our defense, the pastor and board members accused us of being divisive, slandering honourable men of God and of being disobedient to leadership...Even pointing out that unconditional submission to the pastor holds more weight than Biblical truth being defended in the AOG church today. We are living in perilous days, of which the Bible clearly warns, so they are without excuse.

On the following Sunday...I was summarily denounced from the pulpit (I have the tape from the meetings), and named...Fear tactics, including prophecies of death upon myself, my wife and my friends, did not deter my commitment to stand against the introduction of the flow of the Toronto and Pensacola rivers into our congregation...My only complaint of being denounced from the pulpit is that a lot of the congregation would have been absent...due to school holidays...I will continue to expose the error...with more freedom than I previously enjoyed.

Also reviled and denounced from the pulpit of [church named] by pastor [name supplied]...as being a very dangerous person to the body of Christ was...Philip Powell. Apparently...he is also guilty of tearing down the body of Christ and viciously attacking and ripping to shreds honourable gentlemen in leadership...Philip Powell is the former General Secretary of the AOG in Australia...

For two years I have been trying to convince the pastor that it is Biblical to name the names of false teachers, and anyone else who is a danger to the body. He has always denied this is a requirement from the Lord...He has come out in defense of the Word of Faith movement.

...If we don't get a clear direction, we will continue to meet in our homes....

'Blessed are ye, when man shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy; for behold, your reward is great in Heaven; for in like manner did their fathers unto the prophets', (Lk.6:22,23).

***'If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength being small; if you hold back from rescuing those taken away to death, those who go staggering to the slaughter; if you say, 'Look we did not know this' - does not He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who keeps watch over your soul know it? And will He not repay all according to their deeds?' (Pr.24:10-12). God bless you as you stand for Him and care enough to rescue those staggering to the slaughter.'* (H.S. Cairns, Qld)**

Dear Mr. Arnold, In recent issues of 'Diakrisis' you have made comments about Mr. Billy Graham being involved in Freemasonry and also his support of the Pope. This is of great concern to me and many other Christians I am sure...How can a man who has done so much for the Lord and led so many into the kingdom of God be involved with Freemasonry or have a friendship with the Pope?...In regard to the article 'Billy Graham Speaks' in March 98 edition, it refers to a Television programme in America. How do you know this is true? Have you seen this programme for yourself?...May the Lord bless you. Yours in His service, (T.W. Sydney)

Editors Comments: Dear T....I need to perhaps correct you on one point. Although Graham did attend a 32 degree Masonic ritual (at first denied by Graham association, but later accepted), we have never said that Graham is now linked with Freemasonry. Our article in the January *Diakrisis* actually *defended* Billy Graham...You ask, *'How can a man who has done so much for the Lord and led so many into the kingdom of God be involved with Freemasonry or have a friendship with the Pope'*. This is dangerous thinking because it is based on good works being the hallmark of fruit or of a man of God. The same thing was said about Swaggert and Bakker before they fell. Many say the same thing about Copeland, Hagin, Hinn, etc. 'Fruit' is not works but also doctrine, beliefs, etc. The fact is that Graham has had a dramatic shift away from evangelicism to neo-evangelicism, ecumenism and pro-Catholicism.

Yes, I have seen the television programme in America on video and have a copy. You can see for yourself that Graham with his own mouth praises the Pope, Catholicism, Mormonism, etc. All the words printed in the March newsletter are true to the video. Graham actually says he has good fellowship with Catholicism, Mormonism, etc! These are not just 'rumours'!...I was similar to you in my outlook about Graham some years ago until I studied for myself, and the evidence was undeniable and irrefutable...Everything we have written about Graham is well documented...You may not be aware that there is a (well documented) huge 'backsliding' rate in Graham's crusades. Graham himself has admitted that very few really become Christians.

Yes, it is possible to lead people into the kingdom and...be involved in apostasy. It is God who out of mercy allows people to be saved, even sometimes in and through error. We praise God for any who are converted through Billy Graham. What we are documenting is rather the massive shift to, and connections and fellowship with Catholicism, the WCC, etc...[Regarding] Schuller - Graham has close fellowship and connections with this man [Schuller] who in the broadest terms is a dangerous heretic. The issue is not so much Billy Graham but the *false ecumenism* of our time. Billy Graham is openly ecumenical and furthering the ecumenical cause considerably. This is why the likes of Martyn Lloyd Jones and John R. Rice, etc, would not support him when he began to change his views...God bless your desire for truth.

Your Comments and Questions

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

To TA Ministries: I am a young Christian and I go to a Pentecostal church. I often argued with Terry Arnold about what he writes, but one night I went to an Assembly of God Church in Hervey Bay and what I saw changed my mind. I saw a lady trying to fly. I saw another man trying to put imaginary flames of fire out on himself. The words and the music were so repetitive I wondered when it would end. The Pandemonium of shouting and screaming was almost deafening. If that is the movement of God then I hope it gives me a miss! (Name supplied but withheld at editors discretion)

Dear Terry, What a wonderful edition of 'Diakrisis', [July] it was 'unputdownable' for me! (A.W. Sydney)

Dear Brother Arnold,... We appreciate the good work you are doing in your paper in presenting the scriptural view towards popular movements of the day, (Bible College principal, Sydney)

Sydney Seminar Tapes

Audio tapes from the May Sydney teaching seminar by Terry Arnold on 'The State of the Church' are now available. The set consists of 6 tapes and the price is \$19.50+postage or \$4 for individual tapes. These informative tapes are packed with teaching and facts that will expose truth and error. This is a challenge to holiness and purity in doctrine. Topics are:

1. **Which Jesus?** (A concise look at the Jesus of the JW., Mormon, Catholic, Word-Faith; various signs and wonders leaders and movements; etc. Full of documentation and proofs)
2. **Discernment** (What is discernment? Various methods)
3. **Justification** (The vital Biblical doctrine of Justification by Faith; what is *imputed righteousness*?; the differences between Justification and Sanctification in Catholicism & Christianity. A must for every Christian & every pastor.)
4. **Revival or Apostasy?** (A look at real & false revivals and the false teaching of today; what will happen in the end-times?)
5. **Lovers of Truth** (Exegesis of 2Thessalonians chapter 2 - the most frightening Scriptures in the Bible?; the 'delusion'; the 'lie'; God's warnings and how not to be deceived)
6. **The Church - a Reproach** (Commentary on parts of Ezekiel and the amazing comparisons to the church today.

Praise Points

- Praise God for the many people who were especially informed and encouraged by the July *Diakrisis*.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the Sydney trip in October.
- Pray for many we have had recent contact with who are standing against, or shipwrecked by current 'signs & Wonders' movements. Pray that the Lord strengthens those in need.

New Phone Number

Please note our new Phone number
0411489472

Dear Terry,...Please find enclosed copies of ...'On Being' magazine. It is supposed to be Christian...it is definitely heading towards ecumenism...Things have not changed in the church scene here in Melbourne. They are much worse. People say to us 'why aren't you in a church - surely there would be somewhere to suit you'. I'm sick and tired of hearing it, all the churches around here have fallen for the ecumenical lie...there just aren't churches around here that we would set foot in. We know there is no perfect church...we are sick of hearing that...believe me if there was an imperfect church around here that stood for the Word, didn't compromise, spoke out against sin, preached repentance, and exposed error, WE WOULD BE IN IT!...and we would just love the fellowship that this would bring. But for now our fellowship is via newsletters like yours, tapes, videos, and visits from other like minded Christians....

Please keep up the great work, you are all doing a real fine job. We can't wait to receive the newsletter and read it straight away then pass it on to others. ..God bless and guide you as you faithfully serve Him,...(Name withheld at editors discretion)

Dear Terry, Many thanks for your help and information.. Your material is going deep into enemy territory. (A.W. Sydney)

Thanks for 'Diakrisis' - a valuable source of critiques and 'bits & pieces'. Over 100 copies of your critique of Benny Hinn were snapped up here...in the weeks following [Hinn's] Brisbane meetings, Many thanks, (Baptist Union Pastor, Brisbane)

To TA Ministries: 'Watchman must warn'. God bless you and strengthen you in your ministry to the body of Christ, (A church in Brunswick Heads, NSW)

Dear Mr. Arnold, Once again a million thanks for your recent publication. ..you pull no punches. You just get on with the truth, which is so helpful to people like us. God bless you Mr. Arnold, you are well rewarded with our prayers and love...Another thing, speaking in tongues. I'm at a loss, why has not the Lord considered giving me this gift? I've been saved since 1968. There are too many who keep tormenting me regard this.....Thanks for taking time to read through this. I do feel better that I was able to get some hurt off my chest. With heaps of the Lords' blessing to you and your ministry. Until the next time - Bye. (YR. Vict.)

Editors Reply: We hope to be doing a seminar on 'Tongues' this year. Tapes will be available.

Terry's Itinerary

Aug. 2nd, 9.30am Gympie Community Church Ph. (07)54823535
Aug. 2nd, 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ Ph. (07)41289375
Aug. 9th, 6.30pm. Hervey Bay Church of Christ Ph. (07) 41289375
Aug. 16th, 9.45am Howard Baptist, Qld, Ph. (07)41294292
Aug. 23rd, 9.30am Gympie Community Church Ph. (07)54823535
Aug. 30th, 9.30am Gympie Community Church Ph. (07)54823535
October: Sydney visit. If you desire a visit by Terry please contact Terry on 0411489472

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