



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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PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld,
Australia, 4655 Ph. 0411489472
Fax (07)41240915

Website:<http://www.cyberalink.com.au/tam>

Email: tam@cyberalink.com.au

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

Editor: Terry Arnold (Dip. Bib. & Min.,
Dip. Teaching, Author.)

Advisory Panel:

(Sub Editor) Mike Claydon (Christian Welfare Worker) E-mail: mbc@terrigal.net.au

Ps. Bruce Murray (Senior Pastor; Dip. Min.)

Ps. Steve Sauvageot (Assoc. Pastor, C.B.A., M.Ed., M.A.)

Ps. Buddy Smith (Senior Pastor, Former Bible College principal)

Ps. Ian Davidson (Senior Pastor, Dip. Min.)

Ps. Keith Piper (Senior Pastor, Author)

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 Comments

Are we ready and living our lives as though Jesus might return *today*? If so then we must believe that there is an apostasy within the church *now*. The apostasy and a last days signs and wonders movement *must* come before Christ returns, (2Thess.2:3-12)!

Many prophesy teachers are now even more excited about the signs of the nearness of the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. One of the signs they point to is the widespread '*falling away*' ('*apostasia*'), in our midst, (2Thess.2:3). Its engine is the ecumenical movement which is being fuelled, not by Catholicism as some might expect, but by the neo-Pentecostal and the neo-Evangelical movements! The one world church is building before our very eyes!

One of the most frightening things to me is that most do not see or realise this apostasy as *currently in our midst*. Those not discerning apostasy in the church today are perhaps already deceived! Almost all commentaries before the middle of this century proclaimed there would be a major apostasy before the end. Yet today large sections of the church are either unaware of the current state of the church, or are preaching the *opposite* - a world wide end-time revival! How often do you hear a sermon on 2Thessalonians 2:3? Do we realise that if this Scripture is true then most of Christendom *will* be deceived and what we see as 'Christian' today may well be deception!

Many pastors and church leaders are today unknowingly furthering this delusion. By supporting ecumenical evangelical leaders and evangelists, by accepting Catholicism as Christian, by compromising with neo-Pentecostalism and the signs and wonders movement, and by failing to *earnestly contend for the faith once delivered* (Jude 3), the church has thus been decimated by a pseudo-Christianity. When we accept evangelists who are sympathetic to, or praising Catholicism and the Pope, as 'not so bad', we are aiding the building of the one world church. On the other hand, ecumenism is also furthered by *silence*! Today most churches are unwilling to state clearly that they are *non* ecumenical or *not* a part of the false signs and wonders movement.

Recently I heard a pastor state from his pulpit why his church did not support the World Council of Churches and why he will not run with the Hinns and Copelands. His people know where the church stands and as the pure Gospel is preached tares and wolves are less likely to remain in such a church. This kind of stand, (which does not have to be preached every week), may not grow a mega church but will protect the saints from the mish mash of perverted gospels that are in our midst.

Let us encourage each other to make others aware of the signs of the times. May we watch and prepare ourselves in the Word, in prayer and fellowship, for that momentous event when our Saviour and King returns for His saints! **Terry Arnold**

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Sydney Trip

The itinerary (P.8) for the October 11th - 25th Sydney trip has not been filled nor finalised at this printing. Any fellowships wishing to be included please contact Terry on 0411489472 Those wishing to know the final itinerary please ring or fax Terry or ring Mike Claydon on 0414689260

Church Requests

A subscriber from Westbury, (Tas. 7303) has requested 'a Bible believing (non-Pentecostal) church'. Another subscriber from Pimpama, (Qld, 4209), has left a church because of false ecumenism. If any readers know of sound churches in these areas please notify this ministry.

Gnosticism

'Gnosis' is a Greek word meaning revelation knowledge or hidden truths. Gnosticism is defined as a '*A religious movement in which central importance was attached to the gnosis, or revelation knowledge of God and of the origin and destiny of mankind. The source of this special gnosis or knowledge was held to be either the apostles from whom it was derived by a secret tradition, or by direct revelation.*' (Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church)

In early gnostic cults Hymns and magic formulas were recited and even wine and drugs were used to help achieve a vision of God and enter the spirit realm. Gnosticism existed before Christ but it was 'Christianised' after Christ. This movement continues to resurface throughout history.

The essence of Gnosticism is the teaching that the inner spirit must be liberated. One way to do this is through Mysticism, and often via illuminists or visionaries. Examples of Mysticism abound in eastern religions and in Catholicism. Many of the Catholic 'saints' were mystics. As evangelical churches move ever closer to Rome, such phenomena as trances, visions, angelic visitations and manifestations, are furthering the cause of ecumenism by moving evangelicism closer to mysticism.

Teresa of Avila (1515-82) was a Catholic 'saint' who experienced a mystic sacred marriage - a divine union with Jesus. Her experiences included manifestations, levitation and trances. This 'saint' has been promoted by 'Toronto Blessing' enthusiasts as one who experienced the 'blessing' before its time! However, a close look at her life and beliefs will show that she was influenced by a deceiving spirit. She never abandoned the teachings of the Catholic Church.

In 1647 Quakerism was popular as Goerge Fox taught a '*Christ within*' which developed into the idea of the '*inner light*'. They believed the divine spark of God existed in everyone. Shaking manifestations would occur as 'revelation' hit followers. The late John Wimber (*Vineyard Movement*) came from Quakerism and his writings are full of their beliefs. He emphasised experience and that '*God uses our experiences to show us more fully what He teaches us in Scripture...*' (1) Wimber said '*God is greater than His word*'. This is contradicted by Scripture since God rather *limits* Himself to His Word, (Ps.138:2).

In the 17th and 18th centuries many French prophets among the Protestant Huguenots experienced manifestations and believed they were part of bringing the kingdom of God on earth. Some reports had young children being seized by a spirit and calling for repentance and adults falling backwards with contortions and experiencing 'extended bodies', (catalepsy).

In 1946 Franklin Hall taught fasting and prayer for immortality; salvation in the body; and a powerful 'anointing' that would perfect believers and make them teleport, defy gravity and never be sick. He believed in a substance like the 'anointing' that would be on their bodies. Later, William Branham followed with a ministry of astonishing signs and wonders. He received revelation from a 'guardian angel' and believed that they were in Joel Chapter 2 and that world revival was near. (Compare this with today's neo-Pentecostal leaders!). Branham eventually denounced the teaching of the Trinity and falsely prophesied the return of Christ. Today's revival prophet, Paul Cain, of the failed *Kansas City Prophets*, travelled with Branham and called him the greatest prophet that ever lived! Branham and Hall were forerunners of the *Latter rain* movement.

The *Latter Rain* movement (see *Diakrisis*, June/97) taught that the church would be restored with the five fold ministry gifts; that there would be visible unity and perfection; that a spiritual elite number would arise and would purge the earth

of wickedness and judge the apostate church and that these saints would inherit the earth and rule from the throne of Christ The *Latter Rain* teaching brought a proliferation of prophecies, visions and revelations that were elevated to be equal to or above the Word. This, and impartation theology (see *Diakrisis*, July/98), and the misuse of laying on of hands, ultimately caused Pentecostal groups including the Assembly of God in America, to reject the movement. History is now repeating itself in the 'Toronto Blessing' and Pensacola 'revival' where *Latter Rain* teachings and impartation theology are again being accepted! It is interesting to note that like the 'Toronto Blessing', the *Latter Rain* meetings began at an airport (North Battlefield), and in *Canada*.

Gnosticism and mysticism often come through Illuminists who have moved onto so called 'higher planes' and have new secret teachings and doctrines that they pass on to less enlightened initiates. The 'new thing' is the common thread that runs through Gnosticism. In recent centuries the examples of this were found in the cult of Christian Science which was an offshoot of 'New Thought' type metaphysics. E.Kenyon took on board much teaching from Christian Science and metaphysics. Kenneth Hagin, who is considered the founder of the Word-Faith Movement, plagiarised (copied or stole) much of Kenyons' works. Portions of Hagins works are in fact copied word for word from Kenyon. Kenneth Copeland has since taken the teachings of Hagin world wide. Their teachings state that true man is spirit, not flesh; that we can rise above sickness, sin, death, etc. to life in the spirit; that we have a creative power in words that can, if operated the correct way, release us from the material restrictions of the world.

One of the better known 'illuminists' today is author Rick Joyner who has captured the heart of millions of Christians with his wild visions and angelic prophecies, (see *Diakrisis*, Oct, 96). Few realise that amongst Joyner's many visions and prophetic statements are several blatant false teachings and *false prophecies*.

Mystic cults (eg. Buddhism) offer inner revelation; Illuminist cults (eg. Rosicrucianism) offer hidden doctrines that lead to 'enlightenment'. The 'Toronto Blessing' has both of the above! Rodney Howard-Browne says: '*The power of God is not going to flow through those that have a theory; it's going to flow through those that have revelation.*' (2) Many churches are openly stating as an excuse for adopting the 'Toronto Blessing' that 'we must have church growth - we must have revival - the Bible has failed us - so now we must have the Spirit, the new 'anointing' to do the work.' The curious thing is that this 'anointing' works whether one is saved or not, and cares not whether one is Catholic, Buddhist, Hindu, etc. The word Christ has almost been replaced with 'anointing' and the cry now is to receive the 'anointing' as much as to receive Christ!

The new 'revivals' say '*more, more!*' Why do we ask for more? Jesus came to satisfy and offer living water that would quench!: '***Whoever drinks of this water [natural water] shall thirst again: But whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life, (Jn.4:13-14)...he that shall cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst'*** (Jn.6:35).

For decades we have been warned of New Age teaching. The Gnosticism of old was called the New Age movement. Yet so much of today's 'revival' phenomena and teachings have the same characteristics of the New Age! **Terry Arnold**

(1) '*Power Evangelism*' - In this book on 'evangelism' Wimber never explains the Gospel or how to be saved! (2) '*The Coming Revival*', P.23

The Vatican & Lutheran World Federation

The Vatican has now revealed that it is prepared to soon sign a joint declaration with the Lutheran World Federation with regard to the doctrine of *Justification!*

The signing is to take place in the spring of 1998. The document was produced during 1997 and studied by the Lutherans for a year. In June the ruling council of the Lutheran World Federation declared that they had *unanimously* declared the declaration and was now *lifting its condemnation of Rome's gospel of salvation!*

This is ecumenism at its most ludicrous point! Rome has never taught that salvation is by Grace alone, *through faith!* It has always insisted that works and sacraments be intermingled with faith for salvation.

In an attempt to offer some clarification the Vatican issued a statement outlining Rome's position on justification and boldly stated: '*We can therefore say that eternal life is, at one and the same time, grace and the reward given by God for good works and merits.*'

However, the joint declaration declares that grace alone is sufficient for salvation! Apparently Rome agrees with this position on justification - but it sees grace in a different light than the Lutherans! The duplicity of this charade is staggering! Down the running centuries Rome has always claimed to believe that salvation is by grace through Jesus Christ. To them this does not mean that a sinner can obtain full, free, eternal salvation by placing his faith in the finished atoning

work of the cross of Christ! No, Rome redefines grace to, of necessity, include *works*. Roman Catholicism teaches that Christ died to save man from his sin but that this salvation was given to their *church* to be distributed through the sacraments - which continues *even after death* - as the *faithful* endure the tortures of Purgatory to finally expunge their iniquities!

Biblical terminologies must be defined Biblically! To reshape grace so that it involves works and sacraments is to pervert the Gospel of Christ to the extent that its efficacy is nullified. In Galatians 1:6-8, Paul writes saying that any who teach or preach a gospel other than that of grace alone are *accursed!*

In trying desperately to find common ground with Rome, Christendom is cobbling together an agreement with something with which they *fundamentally* disagree! The naked pursuit of power and approval is rapidly bringing about a monumental acceptance of a false Gospel in the name of *unity*. Be forewarned; God sees this as a monstrous abomination!

Hundreds of years ago the Roman Catholic Church put itself under the Galatian curse - and those deluded who are currently joining Rome in any way possible are placing themselves under the same divine curse! '*If there comes any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed; for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds,*' (2Jn.1:10,11).

Mike Clayton

Who Is the Queen of Heaven?

The Roman Catholic Church calls their Mary the '*Queen of Heaven*'. This title was first given to Mary by Pope Martin in the seventh century. In Scripture the only mention of the '*queen of heaven*' is to a *pagan* mother goddess *Ishtar* (Jer. 7:18), where moon shaped cakes were offered to her. This same goddess is also mentioned in Jeremiah 44:17,18,19,25.

The Roman Catholic statues of Mary are in fact almost exact replicas of ancient statues of Babylonian goddesses. The Goddess Isis (Egypt) was represented as standing on a crescent moon with stars surrounding her head - exactly as the virgin Mary is represented today. Even archaeologists have had difficulty distinguishing these from the statues of Mary!

What must Mary think of this idolatry! **Terry Arnold**
(Further reading: '*To Catholics Whom I Love*' by the author)

Tozer on Tolerance

'The fashion now is to tolerate anything lest we gain a reputation of being intolerant. The tender-minded saints cannot bear to see Agag slain, (see 1Sam. 15), so they choose rather to sacrifice the health of the church for years to come by sparing error and evil; and this they do in the name of Christian love.

We are under obligation to disturb all seats of wickedness, and where this is done out of sincere love for God and men, great good is bound to follow. No true work of God will suffer from the prayerful examination of spirit filled men. Timidity masquerading as love has allowed useless forms and unscriptural practises to persist in many a church till they have slowly smothered the life out of it and brought it to desolation. And many a promising work of revival has been wrecked because no one was courageous enough to stand against the abuses that entered to destroy it.

We must not be afraid to enquire. The difficulty, of course, is to do this in a Christian spirit. It is hard to find fault without being a fault-finder or to criticise without being censorious. But we have it to do if we hope to keep the work of God pure in a day of iniquity.' **A.W. Tozer: 'The Price of Neglect'**

Spurgeon on the Cross

'I go into Gethsemane,...and I see my Saviour. I see Him wallowing on the ground in anguish, and hear such groans come from Him as never came from human breast before. I look upon the earth and see it red with His blood, and while His face is smeared with gory sweat, and I say to myself, My God, my Saviour, what aileth thee?' I hear Him reply, I am suffering for thy sin', and then I take comfort, for while I faint would have spared my Lord such an anguish, now that the anguish is over I can understand how Jehovah can spare me, because he smote His Son in my stead.

Now I have hope of justification, for I bring before the justice of God and my own conscience the remembrance of my bleeding Saviour, and I say, Canst thou twice demand payment, first at the hand of thy agonising Son and then again at mine? Sinner as I am, I stand before the burning throne of the sovereignty of God, and am not afraid of it. Canst thou scorch me, oh consuming fire, when thou hast not only scorched but utterly consumed my substitute? Nay, by faith, my soul sees justice satisfied, the law honoured, the moral Government of God established, and yet my once guilty soul absolved and set free. The fire of avenging justice has spent itself, and the law has exhausted its most rigorous demands upon the person of Him who was made a curse for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Oh the sweetness of the comfort which flows from the atoning blood! Obtain that comfort, my brethren, and never leave it. Cling to your Lord's bleeding heart, and drink in abundant consolation.'

(Spurgeon, sermon: '*The Agony of Gethsemane*' from '*Twelve Sermons on the Passion and Death of Christ*', P.114.)

Signs & Wonders Testimonies

'...Many testimonies and claims should be screened and eliminated by asking one simple and evangelical question - is it in the Bible?...The testimonies may be very moving, but if Scripture has nothing to say about them, then neither should we.' ('*Signs and Wonders - Exposed*' by Mark Haville, P.51)

The Hopelessness of Many

'Church teaching is that I don't know, at any given moment, what my eternal future will be. I can hope, pray, do my very best - but I still don't know. Pope John Paul II doesn't know absolutely that he will go to heaven, nor does Mother Theresa of Calcutta...' (New York's Catholic Cardinal O'Connor, *New York Times*, 1/2/90)

Editors Comments: God's Word says: *'By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast, (Eph.2:8,9). When we receive the Spirit of Christ by confessing and believing Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, (Rom.10:9), 'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not in the flesh but in the Spirit..' (Rom.8:1).*

If Cardinal O'Connor would accept the *finished* work of the cross of Calvary and the power of the blood of Jesus, by faith, and follow Jesus and His Words he would believe the assuring words of John: *'These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...and this is the confidence that we have in Him..,(1Jn.5:13,14).*

George Mueller on the Second Coming

'...having been a careful, diligent student of the Bible for nearly fifty years, my mind has long been settled on this point, and I have not the shadow of doubt about it. The Scriptures declare that the Lord Jesus will not come until the apostasy shall have taken place, and the man of sin, the son of perdition (or personal antichrist) shall have been revealed, as seen in 2Thessalonians 2...' (Conference in Toronto, Canada, 12th. Dec, 1879)

Editors note: Today in the 'Toronto Blessing', Pensacola 'revival' and the signs and wonders movement in general, the opposite is being taught! How often do we hear sermons on 2Thessalonians 2:3 *'Let no man deceive you by any means for that day shall not come unless there come a falling away first...'* Instead we are being pumped with the ninety years old promise that a world wide end-time revival is close. Despite there not being one single Scripture for this false teaching, many Christians are being drawn to 'blessings' and 'revivals', and pumped with literature, tapes, and sermons to convince people of a *lie*.

Tracts Everywhere?

Sneeringly a young man said to a Christian who had given him a tract, *'tracts everywhere'*. 'No', replied the Christian, *'there's no tracts in Hell!'*

Pensacola Extra-Biblical Revelation

Dick Reuben is a common figure in the Pensacola 'revival'. He says: *'The Holy Spirit couldn't put everything that he did in the book of Acts...And so God didn't put everything in the Bible that happened...when God shows up, it gets kind of chaotic...read the book of Acts...beneath those words [is] total chaos...we're getting back to normal. And it appears to be abnormal because we've been abnormal so long until the normal appears to be abnormal. So just relax. Just relax!...you don't have to understand it.'**

* Dick Rueben at an intercessory service in Pensacola.

Editors comments: Dick Rueben is one of the danger men at Pensacola. Contrary to what this false teacher claims, we do have to understand things! (Reader refer 1Cor.14:20; Eph.1:17-19; Eph.5:17; 2Tim.2:7). The Bible is also clear about adding to the Word of God and that this will bring a curse, (Pr.30:5,6; Gal 1:8; Rev.22:18; etc).

Cross Dressing, Earrings, etc.

Worldly unsaved rock and movie stars are increasingly wearing womens ornaments such as earrings. This is a sign of the times, that men are looking more and more like women and visa versa. In Old Testament Israel, only women normally wore earrings if they were to wear them at all, (Is.3:17-20). However, Israel often collected unnecessary baggage and pagan habits from Egypt and the surrounding heathen nations such as the Caananites. Some men in Israel eventually wore womens adornments such as earrings, (Ex.32:2).

The problem is not so much the ornaments but the *heart* and the *spirit* that is behind the desire for a man to look like a women and visa versa. The scriptures are clear: *'The Woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment. For all that do so are abomination unto the lord thy God, (Dt.22:5).*

Walk today's streets and you will sometimes find it difficult to distinguish males from females. 1Corinthians 11:14-16 shows clearly the distinction God deemed as necessary between sexes. In Biblical days pagan worship often involved men dressing as women and women dressing as men, to please the gods and to offer sacrifices. Idols were often represented with the features of one sex but with the dress of the other sex. God made male and female different and to attempt knowingly or unknowingly to blur the boundaries shows the rebellious nature of mankind.

May we respect God's creation. What God has joined let no man separate but what God has separated let no man join.

Terry Arnold

Scripture Alone

'The teaching of our Lord and the apostles - the authoritative Word of Scripture alone - has been the only protection against every deception and heresy that has assailed the Church in every generation since Christ walked the earth.' (*'Signs & Wonders Movement - Exposed'* by Mark Haville, P.7)

What Benny Hinn Says of Roman Catholicism

In Hinn's book *'The Blood'* he writes of his experience with some nuns at a Roman Catholic Mass: *'The sisters gave several words of prophecy'* that encouraged him...*'By then I was on my knees crying because I sensed such a tremendous presence of the Lord there. It was an anointing that I had never before experienced in a communion service, not even in my own church. It was a divine, powerful presence of God that I can't describe except to say, 'Jesus walked into that little room.'...the Mother General put the wafer in my mouth. At that moment I felt a fire literally go through me and as that took place something else amazing happened. I sensed on the tips of my fingers something like a robe - a soft, silky fabric.'*

On TBN National Television Hinn spoke of this experience that God gave him a revelation: *'...its not just communion. We are partaking Christ Jesus Himself. He did not say, 'Take eat, this represents my body, he said, This is my body, broken for you...'*

Editors Comments: It is against Roman Catholic teaching to give the communion elements to any that are not Catholics. Why would the nuns give Benny Hinn the wafer?...How Roman Catholic or how Protestant is Benny Hinn? His remarks on the doctrine of communion show him to be quite Roman Catholic and a believer in the false doctrine of Transubstantiation, (that the bread and wine are literally transformed into the body and blood of Christ by the hands of the priest). How long will Christians be deceived by this man?

'Holy Hardware'

Many bookstores today sell what managers commonly term 'Holy Hardware'. This includes ornaments, plaques and gimmicks that have a Christian message. Many of these are noble and good. However, many things that are sold in Christian bookstores today are blatantly not Christian but rather New Age.

Recently I was shown a laminated glossy poster with the following prayer imposed over a picture of a beautiful sunset. This and many other New Age hardware and books are available at a local Christian bookstore.

*'Creator spirit, come inspire
our lives with light and heavenly fire
Now make us willing to receive
the seven fold gifts you freely give.
Your anointing from above
is comfort, life & fire of love;
So heal with your eternal light
The blindness of our human sight.*

The 'creator spirit' is a New Age term as is the 'eternal light'. Is it this 'eternal light' that 'heals us'? And since when are there 'sevenfold gifts' in Scripture? The 'pure anointing' spoken of is a term falsely used in the current false signs and wonders movement. The true anointing is already 'in us' (1Jn.2:27).

This prayer is very much New Age, yet seemingly this is not discerned by such bookstore owners, nor by so many Christians caught up in the current movements, who buy such products. **Terry Arnold**

Raise The Standard!

'There is no justification without regeneration. Jesus said 'You must be born again' (Jn.3:7)...the mark of true justification is a perseverance in righteousness - to the very end. Jesus said'...he who stands firm to the end will be saved, (Matt.10:22)...'without holiness no one will see the Lord', (Heb.12:14)...Why is today's church so weak? Why are we able to claim many conversions and enrol many church members but have less and less impact on our culture? Why are Christians indistinguishable from the world? Is it not that many are calling people Christians who are actually unregenerate?...A well publicised opinion poll indicated that nearly a third of all Americans claim to be born again. Those figures surely represent millions who are tragically deceived. There is a damning false assurance...why should we assume that people who live in an unbroken pattern of adultery, fornication, homosexuality, deceit, and every conceivable kind of flagrant excess are truly born again?' ('The Gospel According To Jesus' by John MacArthur Jr., P.XII-XXII)

Holiness

Christians can never in themselves merit salvation through their personal holiness. Our righteous deeds are like filthy garments in the light of God's holy law (Is.64:6)...Holiness is not necessary as a condition of salvation - that would be salvation by works - but as a part of salvation that is received by faith in Christ...Therefore we can say that no one can trust in Christ for true salvation unless he trusts in Him for holiness. This does not mean the desire for holiness must be a conscious desire at the time a person comes to Christ, but rather that the Holy Spirit who creates within us saving faith also creates within us the desire for holiness. He simply does not create one without the other...Everyone, then, who professes to be a Christian should ask himself, 'Is there evidence of practical holiness in my life? Do I desire and strive after holiness? Do I grieve over my lack of it and earnestly seek the help of God to be holy?' (The Pursuit of Holiness by J. Bridges, Ch.2.)

'Trance' or Hypnosis?

Many neo-Pentecostals use Acts 10:9-17 to claim that Peter was in a trance and that today's strange church phenomena such as the 'Toronto Blessing', the Pensacola 'revival', and other signs and wonders experiences, are therefore scriptural. However, an examination of the text clearly shows that Peter was not in an altered state of consciousness as are the experiences of today. Peter was in fact in the very presence of the glory of God. The original meaning of the Greek word 'trance' ('ecstasis') is 'astonishment, amazement, glory'. However, today's dictionary meaning of 'trance' is rather 'another state, an exalted state, a sleep like state, a displacement of the mind, an altered state of consciousness, etc'.

Unlike today's understanding of 'trance', Peter was fully conscious and hearing and responding to God himself. Unlike today's signs and wonders type experiences this was a very special divine appointment with no other *medium* present. This appointment with God was to be part of Holy Scriptures, not any extra-revelation! To use this text to support today's Charismatic experience is to do a terrorist act to Scripture!

Today's experience driven Christianity sees phenomena that produces comatose and drunken states often involving catalepsy. Hypnotists watching today's Charismatic phenomena state that it is *hypnosis*.

Today the Holy Ghost never forcibly controls a person against their will. One of His own fruit is 'self control', (Gal.5:22 - '*temperance*'). **Terry Arnold**

The 'Brisbane Christian Fellowship'

The 'Brisbane Christian Fellowship' (BCF) is a sect having other arms in Sydney and Melbourne. This church has many strange teachings that contradict Scripture. They do not recognise baptism in the name of the Father or the Holy Spirit. New members must be baptised into the BCF. Only those who speak in tongues have the 'Baptism of the Holy Spirit'.

For more information on this sect we recommend a book by David Holden: '*Who Are the Brisbane Christian Fellowship*'. Copies can be obtained from: Aletheia Publishing, Box 486, Alderley, Qld. 4051

The Contradictions of Catholicism

'The Roman Catholic Cardinal, Henry Edward Manning (1808-92), said in his autobiography that, as a priest, he knew of thousands of reasons why people became Roman Catholics. But he only knew of one reason why someone would leave the Roman Catholic Church - that was because they had read the Word of God and ended up with more questions than any priest could ever possibly hope to answer.

Scholars say that at least seventy per cent of the Roman ritual is of pagan origin. Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801-1900), in his treatise, 'The development of the Christian religion', stated that 'Temples, incense, oil lamps...holy water, holy days and seasons of devotion, processions, blessing of fields, sacerdotal vestments, the tonsure (of priests, monks and nuns), images, etc., are all of pagan origin.' (P.359).

Two of their greatest theologians, Thomas Aquinas and Augustine of Hippo, denied the immaculate Conception. St. Bernard, their own saint, denied Transubstantiation...When you see people in the Roman Church who claim to be born again, who will not leave when they are shown the truth, they were either not saved to begin with or they are backslidden into rebellion...All over the world there are men and women at the well. They are waiting for Jesus. They are waiting for us.' (Moriel, 7/97, P.8)

****Ex-Catholics for Christ Tapes****

TA Ministries has put together three conference video messages, of the *ex-Catholics for Christ Conference* held in the USA, 1997, on to one video tape. I believe the following three messages need to be heard by every Catholic but also by every Evangelical Pastor and Christian.

Message No.1 by G. Durel is '*The False Gospel of Roman Catholicism*': This is a concise summary of what Roman Catholicism really teaches done in a fast moving display of overhead transparencies. This is packed with information of Catholic doctrine. The summary should leave no doubts in the minds of Catholics and evangelicals alike as to what Catholicism teaches in comparison to the Gospel. A must for any deceived by Rome or ecumenism.

Message No. 2 by John MacArthur is '*Contending for the Faith*.' MacArthur deals with justification by faith and what the reformers really taught in comparison to Catholic teaching. Excellent teaching on Rom Ch. 4 and the the real issue - the *imputed righteousness of Christ* - .

Message No.3 by Dave Hunt is '*Where Are We Headed?*' Hunt evaluates the direction of the evangelical church. He quotes examples of compromise such as evangelical organisations deleting references to Catholicism, (eg. Halley's Bible commentaries). He pulls no punches when he quotes names of various evangelical leaders who today are selling out the evangelical church. This is an unusual emotive plea from Hunt to the church at large.

These three messages are good outreach materials and a must for every Christian who is a lover of truth and wanting to be informed. Price is \$9.50 + postage.

Church Statements on Social Issues

Today many churches are weakening or have no stance on social issues such as homosexuality, abortion, marriage, sexual purity, women in leadership, etc. Few churches have issued clear statements on these issues. These few churches have taken a stand either for doctrinal reasons or for social concerns. One such church, the Wesley Methodist, have taken a definite stand on abortion, marriage and homosexuality.

A church statement sent to us reads: '*...divorce is a sin, sexual intercourse before marriage is a sin, and sexual intercourse with anyone except one's spouse after marriage is likewise a sin...God's plan for marriage is for one man and one woman together for one entire life...treat a sinner in each case with loving confrontation, a call to repentance, forgiveness and restoration.*'

On homosexuality: '*...we specifically reaffirm our strong position that the practice of homosexuality is a sin, and that even the propensity toward homosexuality is out of step with both the order of creation and the will of God. On this matter we cannot and will not compromise - the only marriage blessed by God is a lifelong commitment between one man and a woman. Those practising homosexuality should be treated like any other sinner - with love and concern, yet with a call to repentance and conversion through God's grace which results in the cessation of sinful behaviour...*'

TV

'The technique is wonderful...beyond my expectation. But the programs! I would never let my children even come close to this thing!' (Vladimir Zworykin, inventor of Television)

'We have come full circle. Gnosticism - the very reason for the existence of some of our New Testament books - was a first century heresy...Many have fallen for the age old heresy of believing the Holy Spirit operates independently from God's spoken Word,' ('Signs & Wonders - Exposed' by Mark Haville, P.8)

'War On the Saints' - Publishers Change Manuscript To Prevent Readers Knowing the Truth!

You would have heard or read of the happenings of the great Welsh Revival which was very much a work of God through one man, Evan Roberts. A lady by the name of Jesse Penn-Lewis, in association with Evan Roberts, wrote a book which was called '*War On the Saints*'. You will find it in most Christian bookstores.

Take note that I am **not recommending** the book. The reason being that the book that is commonly available is *abridged*. Penn-Lewis and Roberts both understood how **Satan counterfeited God's working and how many Christians were deceived by false manifestations**. Apparently there were those who stood to gain by keeping Christians unaware of what these two forerunners of Pentecostalism knew.

On page 130 of the *unabridged* book we read: '*Counterfeits of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are recognisable by the manifestations given to the senses, i.e.. in the physical realm; for the true indwelling of God is in the spirit alone...the body, quickened by the spirit, is governed by God from the central depths of the human spirit; through the self control of the man; acting by his renewed will. The counterfeit presence of God is given by deceiving spirits working upon the physical frame, upon the senses. We have seen the beginning of this, and how the first ground is gained. It is deepened by these sense-manifestations being repeated, so gently, that the man goes on yielding to them thinking this is truly 'communion with God'.*

Believers too often look upon 'communion with God' as a thing of the sense and not of the spirit. Here he commences praying to evil spirits under the belief that he is praying to God. The self control is not yet lost, but as the believer responds to, or gives himself up to these 'conspicuous' manifestations, he does not know that his WILL POWER IS BEING SLOWLY UNDERMINED. At last, through these subtle, delicious experiences, the faith is established that God himself is CONSCIOUSLY IN POSSESSION OF THE BODY, quickening it with felt thrills of life, or filling it with warmth and heat, or even with 'agonies' which seem like fellowship with the sufferings of Christ, and travail of souls...From this point the lying spirits can work as they will, and THERE IS NO LIMIT AS TO WHAT THEY MAY DO TO A BELIEVER DECEIVED TO THIS EXTENT.

Counterfeit manifestations of the divine life in various ways now follow quickly; movements in the body, pleasant thrills, touches, a glow as of fire in different parts of the body, or sensations of cold, or shakings and tremblings; ALL ACCEPTED BY THE BELIEVER AS FROM GOD, BUT SHOWING WHAT FULL ENTRY THE DECEIVING SPIRIT HAS OBTAINED FOR HIMSELF...exhaustion and fatigue...drainage of strength...grief and joy, heat and cold... laughter and tears.

The senses are aroused, and are in full mystery of the person, APART FROM MAN'S VOLITION...' (Our emphasis)

Surely no more needs to be said to cause you to wake up to what enormous deception is surrounding us today. Please we beg you, **heed the warning!** (Grace Bible Church, Brunswick Heads, NSW)

Your Comments and Questions

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

To TA Ministries :I have a copy of the first page of newsletter Vol.1 No.23 I need the other pages. I notice Promise Keepers comes in for some criticism. I have heard a 'perfectly good explanation' for the alleged support of Mormons to PK's.

I would hope that you would contact all those criticised for their response so that you can present both sides of the story.

Because I have recently joined the Charismatic scene I am most interested in that issue...My employer has promised to send \$20 on my behalf! The Lord may come first (before you get it). Yours in Christ.

Ps. A ministry of criticism is likely to develop a lot of heat and probably very little light. Apparently you are self appointed 'watchdogs of the truth'. I would think it would be better for me to spend time 'in prayer' rather than spending time in theological debate. However, I do not wish to be a 'gullible fool' who is 'conned' into spiritual error. (Name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors reply: Dear...Thankyou for your letter. I enclose the newsletters you asked for...I have also included a book ['Finding the Balance'] compliments...If you are a lover of truth you will read and study the material. For your information when we contact or challenge leaders in false movements, they rarely if ever respond. This only proves to me they do not want to hear truth and facts.

We do not see our ministry as a 'ministry of criticism' but of 'earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints', (Jude 3). We are told to 'reprove' (expose) with doctrine, etc. I could give you dozens of Scriptures for this. Compared to Paul we are but wimps. If you think we are critical then read Paul's writings (most of the New Testament).

I have never claimed to be a 'watchdog of the truth'. I have never claimed to be 'self appointed'...

We do not engage in 'theological debate' but we teach, which is God's calling and command. If you are involved in some of the Charismatic movements (not all) then you may well already have been 'conned' as so many have. Our phones ring often and the mail is full of testimonies from people who find out the danger they are in.

The newsletters will provide facts for you to make decisions based on Scripture. We deal in facts and Scripture. I am coming to Sydney and would be glad to meet with you if you want to discuss anything. Thankyou for your donation and if the Lord comes as you say before that arrives, then we will have finished the race and the work set before us.

Yours in His service,

Dear TA:...Re: 'Finding the Balance' - I've only read this book three times. It contains much or some truth! However, in your personal letter you say: 'not all Charismatics will 'con' me. Maybe so - but the tone of your book is: All Charismatics are 'bad'. There is so much about delusion, etc. There's nothing left that's 'good'. If I believed you, I would shun all Charismatics like the plague. I think this book is 'out of balance'. It needs another chapter on something positive...Some allege the Charismatics talk too much about the Holy Spirit. I feel the same way about your book - too much negative - seducing spirits stuff...I like the story of the little boy who was asked to tell all about the Holy Spirit. His reply - The Holy Spirit is Jesus' other self. What a uniting thought. Who can separate Jesus from the Holy Spirit, Yours in Him, (Name as above)

Dear TA: Until further notice, cancel my name off the mailing list. Put it on the prayer list. It may take me considerable time to digest prayerfully all this information... (Name as above)

Dear TA: Re: newsletter No.29 Vol 1 'The Error of Impartation Theology': Please breeze through the book of Acts (after Pentecost). Many references...Ch.8:18; 11:15; 14:3; 19:11. Search the Scriptures! Yours in Christ. (Name as above)

Editors Reply: Dear..Thankyou for your letter and I ask that you take careful note of the following: You obviously did not read the full article (P.2 July) on impartation carefully. I wrote: 'Never in Scriptures are we told to wait for some external power to fall on us after we have received the Holy Ghost. The apostles and disciples never had anything fall on them or received anything from without after Pentecost...' (Editors emphasis)

All the verses you quote are first time experiences and to unsaved. My statement clearly refers to the 'apostles and disciples' and elsewhere in the article to us Christians. To be more specific to your verses:

Acts 8:18 - This was a first time receiving of the Holy Spirit. They were not 'apostles and disciples'. They were not Christians.

Acts 11:15 - Peter is recounting the experience of Acts 10 - again an experience to non-Christians and for the first time.

Acts 14:3 - This Scripture has nothing to do with the Holy Spirit, impartation, etc. I cannot understand why you have used this Scripture at all.

Acts 19:11 - Again this Scripture has nothing to do with impartation and the Holy Spirit but rather evil spirits!..Please read my quotes and the article again and then tell me where the article is wrong. All your references have nothing to do with the article I wrote. There simply is no impartation of the Holy Spirit from *without after conversion* but rather fillings from *within*...I agree - search the Scriptures. Yours in Christ, Terry Arnold

****Cult Evangelism Seminars****

Terry Arnold will be conducting three seminars followed by an address to the student body at New Tribes Bible College. The seminars will emphasise *evangelism* techniques. There will be a booktable on display. Donations of \$5 accepted for morning tea and photocopying. All welcome.

When: Oct. 14-16th. Mormonism: Wed. 14th 8.45am-12.30pm; Jehovah Witnesses: Thurs. 15th 8.45am-12.30pm; Seventh Day Adventism: Frid 16th 8.45-11.30am.

Frid 16th. 11.45am. -12.30pm. Address/ministry to student body.

Where: New Tribes Bible College, Rooty Hill, Sydney

Enquiries: Roger Brewer Ph. (02) 96258118 or Terry Arnold 0411489472

Did You Know?

The only 'denomination' or Christian group in the world never to have written a book about false signs and wonders, or how to discern between the true and false of such, is the Charismatic movement.

Evolution Or Creation?

Primitive --->--- Modern Plants

Missing!

'Supposedly somewhere within the group called algae lay the sources of the higher plants, the vascular groups. Whatever these ancestors may have been, they seem to have been irrevocably lost in the vastness of time.' (Evolutionist, E. Olsen)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry...Most of your articles are interesting and provoke thought, especially those written about the 'Faith' teaching which is tied in with the 'prosperity' message. Christians are being besieged these days with all sorts of half-truths and strange teaching...there is great difficulty in entering a church without some form of mistrust...we had difficulty in selecting a permanent spiritual home. We have in recent times protected ourselves from much false teaching and heresies by having devotions at home...but we know that to do that for a prolonged period is not the complete answer.

We were about to adhere to one church but at the last minute we decided to back off because of its acceptance of the 'Toronto Blessing'. We did feel a little super critical but I personally denounced the movement from a pulpit at one time so it would have been a compromise on my part to adopt a 'nudge nudge wink wink' pose at some future manifestation time. We could have written books about the 'Word Faith' teaching years ago for we were assistant pastors with Col Stringer and Greg Biddell and had much to do with that church...when one third of the congregation marched out...We have always known that those who promote that message are the only ones who experience prosperity whilst by and large the flock struggle....(Name withheld at editors discretion)

Dear Terry...I very much appreciate reading your newsletter each month. Sometimes I feel quite frustrated afterwards, because of the fact that so many 'ministries' are all coming under fire. When I read about 'Alpha'...There seems to be a lot of amazing stories coming out of it, to bring people to Himself, or are these conversions spurious?...I...was able to get some books on Catholic teaching, Toronto 'Blessing', etc. and I can now see a lot of things more clearly.

Well, thank you for sticking to your digs in spite of opposition and keep enlightening us...I would appreciate it if you would put my friend on the mailing list,...God bless you, (C.M. Toowoomba, Qld.)

Editors Comments: I praise God for any true conversions through the 'Alpha' course. God is merciful and, in spite of error and false ecumenical teaching, will bring people to Himself. Our responsibility is to separate from and not to support any thing that is a mixture of false teaching. Alpha is a gospel of compromise and mixtures.

Praise Points

- Praise God for the feedback and encouragement from the August and September newsletters. Please pray for Holy Spirit guidance in upcoming editions.

-This month we ran low on finances to print this edition. However, some days before printing we received the necessary amount. Praise God for His timing!

Prayer Points

- Pray for the upcoming Sydney trip and seminars.

- Pray for the funds to purchase a video recorder to copy tapes.

Dear Terry,...the ECT video...[I] was so encouraged to see Macarthur, Kennedy, etc. 'contending for the faith'...Regarding a letter in the September 'Diakrisis' - the writer seemed to think that you should get in touch with Fred Nile to find out 'what is happening' in the area of his not having resigned from the Uniting Church having said he intended to. I totally agree with your 'editors comments' - and further to this...; [he] went to Toronto and never said anything against it; [he] wrote a full two page article on Mother Theresa - saying how wonderful she was. He asked his readers to pray for the Pope (for his recovery from an illness). The only prayer Christians (true Christians) could possibly pray is that the man [the Pope] REPENTS! [Nile] has become very ecumenical...I was rung up and asked if I'd help in his election campaign (which I did several years ago)...[I] rang back to give my reasons. I was quite calm - not rude - but touching on Catholicism was a red rag to a bull - she ended up screaming at me down the phone! (She rang back later and apologised). The lines are certainly being drawn - we are the divisive intolerant ones - the real 'flies in the ointment'...Keep up the good work. (Name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors Comments: Let us pray for Fred Nile that he will separate from apostasy and not compromise on the ecumenical issues. We thank God and continue to pray that he will be a voice against the abomination of homosexuality.

Dear Terry, The August newsletter is the BEST so far! Reads really well and is full of good teaching. It is arguably one of the best, if not the best newsletter worldwide now...Congratulations! (M.C. Sydney)

Sydney Trip

The itinerary for the October Sydney trip has not been filled nor finalised at this printing. Terry is in Sydney for two weeks commencing 11th Oct. Any fellowships wishing to be included please contact Terry on 0411489472 and those wishing to know the itinerary please ring or fax Terry, or ring Mike Claydon on 0414689260.

Terry's Itinerary

Oct. 4th. 9.45am Howard Baptist, Qld, (07)41294292

Oct. 11th. Guildford Christian Assembly 8.30am (02)98351513

Oct. 14-16th. New Tribes Bible College, Rooty Hill, Sydney: Ph. (02)96258118 Half-day (8.45am start) Seminars on Mormonism (Wed); Jehovah Witnesses (Thurs); Seventh Day Adventism (Frid). Frid. 11.45am Address to student body.

Oct. 21-22 Cootamundra Christian Fellowship, NSW (02)69423541

Oct. 25th. 6.30pm Soul Salvation Assembly, Rooty Hill, Sydney. Ph. (02)96266502

Nov. 1st 10.30am & 6.50pm Corinda Brethren Assembly, Brisbane. Ph.(07)32170321

Nov. 8th. 10am & 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. (07)41289375

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