



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.cyberlink.com.au/tam>

E-mail: tam@cyberlink.com.au

NSW office: PO Box 3043
Wamberal, 2260 Ph. 0414689260

E-mail: mbc@terriganet.net.au

Correspondence in regard to articles & editorial content address to NSW office

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)

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

This ministry continues to grow rapidly. The Lord has given much increase in recent times. When the Lord produces the growth, he supplies accordingly.

Many churches today are so wrapped up in church growth activities, 'revivals' and programs that the urgencies and deceptions of the hour sometimes escape the attention of many.

It frightens me to think that many people are going to Hell yet thinking they are going to Heaven. Impossible?...yet the Scriptures plainly state the above as fact, for *'Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven...Many will say to me in that day, Lord Lord; have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have we cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity'*, (Matt.7:21-23).

The above Scripture often pricked me to the heart when I was involved in, and supported, the signs and wonders teaching. While this Scripture could well refer to a wide cross section of professing Christians, it most certainly should strike a warning to those in the current neo-Pentecostal and signs and wonders movement, the leaders especially.

However, I am convinced that one of Satan's more subtle masterpieces today is the easy believism gospel of western evangelism. The ultimate deception could well be that many think they are saved because of an experience or 'decision', and yet they end up in Hell. Biblically, *'tares'* are a fact. Could we be building churches made up of tares? When one considers the fact of a documented 80% 'backsliding' rate from modern day evangelism, the above statement must be considered seriously. It is only near harvest time one can most clearly discern between the wheat and the tares. The tares do not bear fruit yet look very similar to the wheat. Biblically there are no such people as fruitless Christians.

It is the burden of my heart to warn of false teachers, false prophets and false christ. We are no less than dogmatic in our exposure of men like Copeland, Hagin Benny Hinn, Howard-Browne, etc. These men are all false teachers and in most cases false prophets. The evidence is *irrefutable*. Countless people have already ignored the warnings and the facts, and are already deluded, perhaps to their eternal shame.

However, again, a more subtle deception is taking place in the ecumenical easy believism 'decisional regeneration' gospel. Millions make 'decisions' at crusades but fall away and bear no fruit. The problem has got to be in the *message* or the *methods*.

If the message (the seed - the gospel) is added to, diluted and thus polluted in any way, then bad roots produce bad or no real fruit. If the methods are worldly or carnal then the message will point to the flesh rather than the spirit. The methods can affect the message. *'The flesh profiteth nothing'* but the *message* of Jesus is *'spirit and life'*, (Jn.6:63).

Terry Arnold

Sub-Editors Note

Due to the heavy increase of correspondence being received with regard to editorial content and articles, we would ask that you address this material to our NSW office. This will enable us to reply if necessary. **Mike Claydon**

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The History of Ecumenism

The ecumenical movement as we know it today, although it arguably has roots as far back as the tower of Babel, can be clearly traced to 1910 when 1,355 Evangelical Christians gathered together at a missionary conference in Edinburgh. The idea was to take the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the world. However, thereafter it became clear that there were two camps within the movement. The first longed to preach the unadulterated grace of God to lost tribes. The second group thought rather in terms of world peace and brotherhood. By the 1980's, with the influence of the World Council of Churches (WCC), there was an unmistakable emphasis on political and social issues and a distaste for preaching on sin or bold Biblical evangelism.

The word 'ecumenical' means: '*representing the whole Christian world; seeking world-wide unity; world-wide*'. This word in fact comes from the Greek '*oikoumenikos*' meaning '*of the inhabited earth*', (*Aust. Oxford Dictionary*). Two opposing points need to be stressed here. Firstly, the word 'ecumenical' has to do with an *earthly* thing, ie. 'of the inhabited earth'. Secondly, the Biblical word for church is '*Ecclesia*' meaning '*called out ones*' - ie. called out of the world and from earthly things. Ecumenism is a man made worldly thing. In contrast, the true 'ecclesia' is a called out group of a *heavenly* nature. Today the modern ecumenical movement is increasingly worldly and *inclusive*. It therefore must by nature accept the broad road to include *many* rather than *few*. This is why the WCC accepts any church that 'professes Christianity', regardless of whether they accept the Bible as the Word of God or whether they accept homosexuality, liberal theologies, modernism, humanism, etc.

The WCC up until the latter part of this century was considered by most evangelical and fundamental churches to be apostate and even to be the work of the antichrist in building the prophesied end-time church to come. Yet today, one by one, denominations and evangelical leaders are accepting the WCC and the ecumenical movement!

A look at history will show the apostasy of the ecumenical movement:

1947: First world Pentecostal Conference where the '*father of Pentecostalism*', David Du Plessis, was introduced. This conference advanced the idea of worldwide unity. Yet in previous years the church leaders fought strongly against new Pentecostal doctrines. However, by the 1950's the barriers had been steadily broken down as Charismaticism infiltrated mainline churches.

1950's: The *Latter Rain* teachings began to take root when false prophet William Branham brought this heresy to the USA under a new name: *The Manifest Sons of God*. It penetrated the Assemblies of God but they finally rejected it as heresy.

The *Full Gospel Business Fellowship* Hosted a World Convention of Pentecostals in Orlando, Florida, where they agreed to '*putting aside...little doctrinal points*'. Catholic keynote speaker was Father James Bertalucci, who said: '*...When the sleeping giant of Rome comes alive, watch out world...especially in a day and age where we can co-operate and collaborate in winning the world for Jesus Christ.*'

1960: Episcopal (Anglican) Dennis Bennet experienced the Charismatic gift of the 'Baptism in the Holy Spirit and tongues' and the experience spread quickly throughout Episcopalian, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Lutheran denominations.

1966: The Pope accepted the 'Charismatic renewal' in the Catholic Church. Father Edward O'Connor wrote in his book (*The Pentecostal Movement*): '*The new Pentecostal fire has likewise leaped from person to person, and thus has gone across the country.*' The common experience uniting Catholics and Protestants was *unknown tongues* and this caused

many to accept each other as brothers and sisters in Christ for the first time.

1970's: Dr. Billy Graham received the Catholic International Franciscan award for '*his contribution to true ecumenism*.'

Kathryn Kulman and other leaders began to meet with the Pope. Crusades and conferences continued with Catholic and Protestant speakers joining hands.

1973: Bill Bright promoted *Key 73 Evangelism* in which Catholics, ecumenists and Evangelicals were brought together as one. Dr. Billy Graham in this *crusade* recommended Roman Catholic literature and a biography of the Pope as a '*classic devotion*', (which included Saint worship, Marian devotion, sacraments, etc.).

1976: David Du Plessis received the *Pax Christi* award by the Catholic Church.

1977: The *Kansas City Charismatic Conference* was held. This ecumenical conference featured Pentecostals, Charismatics, Catholics, Assemblies of God, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Southern Baptists and others. For the first time classical Pentecostals, neo-Pentecostals and Catholic Pentecostals were brought together.

1979: On live TV Billy Graham publicly welcomed the Pope to America and praised him as a great '*spiritual leader*.'

1980's: 15,000 participate in the first *March For Jesus* in the UK. These marches became a catalyst in breaking down doctrinal barriers between Catholic and Protestant.

The Trinity Broadcasting Network saw Paul Crouch teaching *Latter Rain* heresies as well as promoting ecumenism and Charismatic faith healers.

1986: Jay Gary introduces the idea of reaching the world by 2000, which included Roman Catholic participation. There was a huge response from many denominations. The AD 2000 committee was set up with Jay Gary as director.

1986-88: *Coalition on Revival Congress* (1986); *North American Congress on the Holy Spirit* (1987): Father Tom Forrest (Catholic) was one of the main speakers. A booklet was distributed with plans that included Catholics evangelising the world by 2000. In 1988 Bill Bright planned for '*New Life 2000*' which brought together major denominations and para-church groups to set goals to reach the world by 2000.

1990: Ecumenical *Promise Keepers* began. The ecumenical 1994 *Catholics & Evangelicals Together* document was signed by Roman Catholics and several leading evangelical leaders. This document stated Roman Catholicism as Christian and agreed not to evangelise each other but rather to work together.

1991: Billy Graham praises the *World Council of Churches*.

It is not hard to see the connection between Pentecostalism, Roman Catholicism and shared experiences. The acceptance of Roman Catholicism is the trade mark of the ecumenical movement. However, the swing has not come from the Roman Catholic church but from the evangelical church!

The ecumenical movement which is rapidly bringing churches together has all the hall marks of love but it lacks *truth*. Many that have joined it have forsaken the essentials of salvation, the authority of Scripture, and the reformation principles that many gave their lives for at the hands of the Roman Catholic Church. *Ecumenical love sacrifices Biblical truth on the altar of church unity*. This movement is the open door of compromise for New Age ideas and false doctrine.

By all means we should have fellowship with any Christians who share the same Biblical beliefs. However, Jesus never sought to find common ground with the religious leaders of the day. The ecumenical movement and it's leaders are selling out '*the faith once delivered to the saints*'! **Terry Arnold.**

'Commitment'?

As we have written before (*Diakrisis*, 4/97), beware the wisdom of Dr. Robert McQuillan, D.Litt. D.Min (Can), M.Min. MA. BB.th., National Publications Director, Assemblies of God and Editor of their *Evangel* magazine.

In the October 1998 edition his editorial is titled '*Commitment*'. We are told of three young men who came out of obscurity in 1945 and onto the worldwide Christian scene. One was considered the most gifted young preacher in the world and it was thought that he could be the greatest evangelist in history. Five years later he apparently left the ministry, renouncing Christ. The second was reckoned the most talented and powerful speaker of the three. He was even offered the lead role in the '*Robe*'. Within five years he had deserted his wife and three children, become an alcoholic, and had died at age 35.

The third evangelist was thought of as the least talented of the three, and whereas the world has long forgotten the other two, '*this man is an international figure commanding respect everywhere, still faithfully and fruitfully serving God. His name is Billy Graham.*'

Is this correct? Billy Graham now boldly asserts that Christian salvation is not solely through the shed blood of Christ and that universalism is now a part of his belief system. If that is so, then what god is he faithfully and fruitfully serving? You see, people read these articles written by men

who should know better, and they are believed to be the truth. But they are not.

Worse, in a 1998 rally held in Ottawa, Canada, Billy spoke to over 27,000 people. Roman Catholics were the largest group represented (60 churches). That is the highest ever Roman Catholic participation in any Graham crusade. Apparently 9,000 people trusted Christ as Saviour during the meetings.

That's great news, isn't it? Roman Catholics hearing the true Gospel from the lips of Billy Graham? Oh! if only that were true! Roman Catholic counsellors are at the ready to nurture true believers at the end of each session and to direct them to an appropriate local Roman Catholic Church. We can safely conclude that they will not be sent to the '*separated brethren*'! (Christians outside the Roman Church). And why should they? The very man they just heard preaching to them plainly asserts: '*Pope John Paul II is one of the greatest moral and spiritual leaders of this century*'. In a book just released containing a 1993 interview of Billy by David Frost, the evangelist says: '*...that's why it's so important for us to have prayer groups and prayer meetings and join hands together, whether we're Protestants, Catholics or Jews, and pray, because we're praying to the same God*'.

If that is Christian commitment, Dr. McQuillan has lost me! **Mike Claydon**

'A Changed Life'

Repentance:

A change of mind; a new mind about God.

Conversion:

A change of life; a new life for God.

Regeneration:

A change of nature; a new heart for God.

Justification:

A change of state; a new standing with God.

Adoption:

A change of family; a new relationship to God.

Sanctification:

A change of service; a separation unto God.

Glorification:

A change of place; a new situation with God.

(D.L. Moody)

What Freemasonry Teaches...

...God is an amalgamation of all gods, the '*great architect of the universe*', to be worshipped by all men and religions be they Buddhists, Muslims or Hindus. God's true name is Jah-Bul-On (Jah=Yahweh, Bul=Baal, On= Osiris) and is revealed in higher degrees.

True Church Compared To Apostate Church

It is my belief that in this apostate hour, there will be definite characteristics showing the difference between the true church and the false

The true church will not use hype, emotionalism or gimmicks to woo people to Christ. They will therefore perhaps get fewer '*decisions*' but more real *fruit*. The true church will emphasise holiness rather than happiness. The true church will see unity based only on *truth* and without compromise on the essentials. They will not forsake truth for love. They will therefore not run with the ecumenical trend, nor be swept into the signs and wonders movement. Most of all, they will have a passion for truth and will '*receive...the love of the truth*', (2Thess.2:9-11).

In contrast, the apostate church will think like the *world* and use worldly methods to grow. The false 'anointing'* will replace the Holy Spirit. Unity will be emphasised at the expense of truth, and the heart at the expense of the mind. Many will be closed minded to the truth and will eventually replace the truth with a *mixture* of lies and truth, yet the roots will be rotten and the fruit will be soulish.

The true believers will be few in number and tried and tested. Their eyes will be fixed on the Lord Jesus and their ears attentive to the Word of God, as they look up and await their redemption and their soon coming King! **Terry Arnold**

* '*False Christs*' - The word 'Christ' means '*anointed one*'.

Sanctification Quotes

'Scripture speaks of both a holiness which we have in Christ before God, and a holiness which we are to strive after. These two aspects of holiness compliment one another..' (***The Pursuit of Holiness***, by Jerry Bridges, P.38)

'...Do you suppose that when slaves were freed by President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation, they immediately began to think as free men? Undoubtedly they still tended to act as slaves because they had developed habit patterns of slavery...in fact we will spend the rest of our lives putting off old habits and putting on habits of holiness'...in fact Holiness...consists of that internal change or renovation of our souls whereby our minds, affections and wills are brought into harmony with God.' (***The Doctrine of Sanctification*** by Swengel, P.59,25)

Controversy & Discernment

'There is no learned man but will confess that he hath much profited by reading controversies - his senses awakened, his judgement sharpened, and the truth which he holds more firmly established. All controversy being permitted, falsehood will appear more false, and truth the more true.'

(John Milton)

Evolution or Creation?

Single cells ...>... invertebrates

Missing!

'...extensive searches by palaeontologists have failed to reveal the pre-Cambrian strata rich in fossils...which Darwin believed must somewhere exist.' (***Evolutionist***, R. Leakey)

The Filling With The Spirit

The Baptism with the Spirit is mentioned as placing a person in Christ and into the Body, (1Cor.12:13; Gal.3:27,28). When this occurs, the Bible says: *'...the spirit of God dwells in you. Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of him'*, (Rom.8:9). We either have the Holy Spirit or we do not! As Christians, nowhere in Scripture are we commanded to be Baptised with the Spirit, but in Ephesians 5:18 we are commanded to *'be filled with the Spirit'*.

In this Scripture there is a stark contrast shown between being out of control and *'drunk with wine'*, and in control and *'filled with the Spirit'*. Christians are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit given to us is *self control*, (KJV, Gal. 5:22: *'temperance'*).

The tense of the verb *'be filled'* (*'pleroo'*) in Ephesians 5:18 is the present imperative - a *continuous* ongoing control. It is also used as *'sorrow has filled your heart'* in Jn.16:60 - meaning to take possession of. The equivalent noun *'pleres'* is used in Lk.4:1; Acts 6:3,5,7:55; 9:17; 11:24 meaning a *controlling* of. Most commentators believe the verb 'filled' specifically refers to a controlling by the Holy Spirit. To fill means *'control'*. If we say someone is filled with joy or anger it means that emotion controls and dominates them. Similarly the phrases *'full of the Holy Spirit'* and *'filled with the Holy Spirit'* use the verb *'plimplemi'* as used in Luke 1:15,41,67; Acts 2:4; 4:8,31; 13:9. It is also used in *'filled with fear'*, (Lk.5:26). The use of this verb has the meaning of a possession of mind and heart.

In Ephesians 5:18 The phrase *'be filled with the Spirit'* does not refer to an outside filling but a controlling by the Holy Spirit already from *within*. A loose translation of this passage would be, *'Do not be controlled with wine, but instead be controlled by the Holy Spirit'*.

It is not us having more of the Holy Spirit but rather the Holy Spirit having more of us! Today's neo-Pentecostal theology reverses this to be a force from *without* coming onto or into a person. This is much closer to the occult than many realise!

Many Christians are today confused as to the work of the Holy Spirit in the believers life. Signs and wonders leaders teach an impartation theology whereby the Holy Spirit comes *'upon'* a believer. They confuse the Old Testament with the New Testament.

In the Old Testament the Spirit came *'upon'* Gods servants and often left them. Some people had the Holy Spirit come upon them and leave several times as in the case of Samuel and Sampson. However in the New Testament the Holy Spirit was to come and *indwell* all believers. In John 7:39 we read *'...for the Holy Spirit was not yet given...'* and then in John 14:17: *'He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you'*. In the latter verse we have the difference between the Old and the New Testament working of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 2, 8, 11, 19 we see the Holy Spirit comes upon believers for the first time but then thereafter *indwells* them. The reader might ask why the duplication in chapters 8,11 and 19 after Acts 2. The duplication of the Acts 2 experience in

Acts 8,11,19 was to prove that the Samaritans, Romans and Greeks were also included in this new plan of God. Thereafter the Holy Spirit does not come *'upon'* believers but rather *indwells*. No epistle ever mentions again the need for us to be baptised in the Spirit or to repeat the Pentecost experience.

Some may quote Acts 19:2: *'Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit.'* Some people use this Scripture for a second experience and the Holy Spirit coming *'upon'* them again. However, the original Greek translation is: *'Did you receive the Spirit when you believed?'* This occurrence was a special case where the Jews had come into salvation only under the old law and needed to receive the Holy Spirit to be saved under the new covenant. They simply did not have the Holy Spirit as yet.

It is unscriptural to expect a repeat of Pentecost in that the Holy Spirit must come *upon* believers who *already are indwelt by the Holy Spirit!* We either have the Holy Spirit or we do not, (Rom.8:9). Some commentators have suggested that to ask for the Spirit to fall upon us again is at the best against the nature and work of the Holy Spirit and at the worst grieves and denies the indwelling Holy Spirit's work. Do we expect another Calvary, (as in the Roman Catholic *'same and continuing sacrifice'*)? The book of Acts portrays the promised coming of the Holy Spirit once and for all after Jesus left. It marks the birth of the Church.

Some say we receive *'one baptism and many fillings'*. Strictly speaking we should perhaps say, *'one baptism and his constant control'*. How can we ensure being filled (controlled) by the Spirit? We must repent of sin in our lives and call it for what it is - sin. *'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness'*, (1Jn.1:9). We must yield to the will of the Spirit as we empty ourselves of selfish things and self will. We should reckon ourselves dead to sin, (Rom.6:11). In Ephesians 5:18 the Passive voice is used in the Greek - meaning this filling is not something we are to do but rather something we are to allow to be done in us! Filling is something we are to receive.

Sanctification occurs as we are separated *to* God and *from* the world and sin. Wrong behaviour patterns will be dealt with as we surrender to the working of the Holy Spirit within. In Colossians 3 Paul lists attitudes and behaviour patterns that we ought to be rid of. However, true sanctification is not just outward changes in behaviour but rather a working by the Holy Spirit within conforming us to the image of Christ.

The Holy Spirit no longer comes upon us but now dwells in us as believers. We are the *'temple of the Holy Spirit'*. He controls us (fills us from within) as we look to Christ and His Word. We dare not *'grieve the Holy Spirit'* but rather surrender to His working in us. The Holy Spirit fills us continuously and *prepares us* for that momentous event when we will see the Lord Jesus Christ face to face in all His glory!

Terry Arnold

Regeneration

At regeneration we are given God's life, His righteousness, and His nature in us, and we are made a part of His family. Regeneration is not a process but an instantaneous act of God. We have no part in regeneration - it is an act of God in response to faith through His grace. Regeneration follows faith and both are from God. It is an external act of God as is justification. It is not experiential and has nothing to do with feelings or any experience. Such is the grace of God. Terry Arnold

The flesh

'Mortification from a self strength, carried on by ways of self invention, unto the end of a self righteousness, is the soul and substance of all false religion.' (*'Temptation and Sin'*, by John Owen, P.7)

Quotable

'...it is not the 'blowing wind' of Pentecost from which our faith stems, but from the 'dripping blood' of Calvary.'
(*'Signs & Wonders Movement - Exposed'* by Mark Haville, P.11)

'Good Time Religion'?

The *Sunday Mail*, 5/7/98 featured an article entitled '*Hal-lelujah! Good Time Religion On The Rise*'. This article depicted the way the secular journalists see today's church:

'The infectious base line brings the room to its feet. Hands clap. Feet start shifting. Back up singers wearing loud shirts sway in unison. The shifting feet start toe tapping...The beaming frontman starts performing actions to the words...the base line gets faster, the singing louder...No longer content with toe-tapping, the frontman starts jumping on the spot and gestures to the crowd to mimic him. They follow. The five piece band brings the song to a close with a crash of cymbals and drums...[with] cheering from the audience...electric guitars and drum kits...Pentecostal churches are on the rise...attracting young people to the church...

...Fifty four percent of Pentecostal church attenders are aged between 15 and 40. This compares to 24% for the Anglican Church and 20% for the Uniting Church...Stephan Kennedy [Liberty Assembly Of God, Brisbane] says: 'I don't care if you're Uniting Church, Anglican, Catholic, Baptist. If you know the name of Jesus and you believe in the Word of God then you are my brother'...And if any one wants to speak out against that, I'd be happy to give them their teeth for lunch'...

Redhead [an Anglican minister] says the Pentecostal churches are a more popular choice with young people because their absolutist views provide the 'instant gratification' that generation X craves. 'They want it all and they want it now'... 'Its like the fast food of religious experiences'...a guest Evangelical [at Liberty AOG] tells the congregation what God is saying. 'Put your dollars behind the Gospel...if you want to win the world for Christ you'd better get a budget'...The pressure builds as the audience is told if they do not give a generous donation they will be 'freeloading'...Finally the evangelist asks the congregation to hold the money up in the air so that God can bless it.

...Toronto Blessing...phenomenon...the most disturbing being some animal sounds - barking like a dog, clucking like a chicken, roaring like a lion, and so on...The Toronto Blessing has had positive outcomes for his [Kennedy's AOG] church. 'We added 200 people to our church...our budget was up \$100,000 and we paid \$100,000 off our total mortgage, Kennedy says'.

Editors Comments: It is interesting to see how the secular world correctly sees the church. *'The Children of this world are in this generation wiser than the children of light'*, (Lk.16:8).

Revival Or Deception?

What are the signs of the end-times? Is it revival or deception? How often do we hear today that there is revival here or there and that there is the big one to come? How often do we hear of signs and wonders? What does the Bible say?

The Bible clearly refers to all signs and wonders in the end times to be *LYING* signs and wonders, (Matt.24:24; 2Thess.2:9; 2Pet.2; Rev.). The Bible also clearly points to deception, not revival, in the end, (Matt.24: 4,5,11,23,24; 2Thess.2:3; etc). Don't be deluded! **Terry Arnold**

Behind The 'March For Jesus'

One of the founders of the *March for Jesus*, Gerald Coates, denies the inerrancy or sufficiency of Scripture. He says, '*it is no more the primary purpose of the church to teach the Scriptures than it is for British Rail to promote timetables*'. All four founders (Gerald Coates, Roger Forster, Lynn Green and Graham Kendrick) view the 'Toronto Blessing' and the 'Pensacola outpouring' as moves of God and new moves of the Holy Spirit. Coates and Forster endorse such heretics as Clark Pinnock who denies the omnipotence and omniscience of God and believes that evil could prevail in the end. Coates believes that an infilling of the Holy Spirit can come before conversion. He is a false prophet: He prophesied a major revival at Westminster Chapel and that there would be an earthquake at Lake Taupo in NZ in 1991. Both failed. With the former, numbers declined and the latter did not come to pass.

Forster teaches a form of *Latter Rain* teaching which produced false teaching and failed prophecies decades ago and from which the Assembly of God in USA formerly separated. Lynn Green promotes ecumenism involving major false religions.

The *March For Jesus* is not a march with other Christians but a mixture of other faiths, including Roman Catholicism.

Toronto or New Age - Whats the Difference?

'...various physical and emotional manifestations. Manifestations included uncontrollable laughing, roaring, barking, hissing, crying, shaking, etc. Some...became mute or unconscious. Many felt themselves being infused with feelings of great joy and peace and love. At other times the 'fire'...was so overwhelming they would find themselves involuntary hyperventilating to cool themselves down...'

The above quote was taken from a New Age book and cited in '*Spiritual Counterfeits Project*', Autumn, 1994, Vol. 19.2

Quotable

'Either the rash of end-time prophets and our signs and wonders friends are right, or the Scriptures are - both cannot be.' ('Signs & Wonders - Exposed', P.109)

To Judge or Not To Judge?

How should a Christian keep the Sabbath, Christmas, Easter, etc? What should a Christian eat or drink?

I have heard many Christians judge and even attack other Christians as to what day they keep as the Sabbath, how they keep it, and what their beliefs are on such things as Christmas, Easter and in food and drink. I have noted in recent years that there is much variation among Christians and their beliefs as to how one should keep Christmas, Easter and whether Christians should keep them at all.

I personally have beliefs and convictions about the Sabbath, Christmas, Easter, and food and drink. Not all my beliefs are shared by my friends and family. I believe in freely sharing those views in love when asked by open minded persons.

However, I am continually reminded and prompted by the Scripture: ***'One man esteemeth one day above another; another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he does not regard it'***, (Rom. 14:5,6). We also need to be aware that many may not have knowledge concerning these days and customs.

Whatever our own convictions are on these things we should follow as the Lord leads. However, in doing this it is wise not to judge others in these things: ***'Let no man therefore judge you in meat or in drink or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days'***, (Col 2:16). **Terry Arnold**

Pragmatism

Today, when speaking of some controversial practice in evangelism, or a phenomena, or a sign and wonder, the cry is: *'Isn't it worth it all if even just one gets saved and comes to the Lord?...What about those that get saved?'*

My first response is: are they really being saved and what about the ones that 'backslide'? When my children and I were once involved in *Youth Alive*, I had the same pragmatic thoughts, until I questioned the worldly presentation, the lifestyle of the leaders, the carnality, the fleshly display of music, the 'Christian rock' bands, the ecstatic worship that appealed to the flesh, and especially the hyped up 'decisions'. For example, rock music is a proven poison of which there is no antidote except to renounce it, repent, and separate. Why Christianise it or mix it with the presentation of the Gospel? Years later I looked closely at some of those who had made 'decisions' for Christ and found almost all had 'backslidden' and gone back into the world.

Similarly with many of the crusades today, unbelievers are told that if they invite Jesus into their hearts, accept Him as personal Saviour, believe the facts of the Gospel or walk the aisle and say a 'sinners prayer' that they will be saved.

Should we praise God for those few sovereignly saved through such easy believism, yet not ask why the majority fell away? If I fed poison to 1,000 people and some survived would that make the poison worth it?

Western evangelism has an 80% 'backsliding' rate. Many look at the 20% as proof of success in their use of modern methods. Western evangelism is fast becoming a 'love joy peace' Gospel that fails to preach sin and the law and its consequences. To this are added attractions to make the Gospel more palatable to the unsaved. These include the emphasis on making a 'decision', aisle-walking, gimmicks, pitches, emotional manipulation (often through music), and even intimidation. The result is a mixed, impure and diluted message. Who knows how many people are deluded into believing they are saved when they are not?

Results do not prove truth. If a person gets saved while in a false religion, do we endorse the false religion? Such pragmatism would seem ridiculous enough. Yet today when it comes to western evangelism and its fruit such pragmatism is common. I care about the 80% of who many might think are on their way to heaven yet might hear those terrible words of Jesus: *'I never knew you; depart from me ye that work iniquity'*, (Matt.7:21-23). Terry Arnold

The Personage of Satan

Today many cult groups do not believe in the personage of Satan: *'...the devil...He was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it,* (Jn.8:44)...*Now is the judgement of the world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out,* (Jn.12:31)...*the prince of this world is judged,* (Jn.16:11)...*Wherein in times past you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air ...,* (Eph.2:2)...*that wicked one touches him not...the god of this world has blinded their minds ...,* (2Cor.4:4)...*That old serpent called the devil and satan...the accuser of the brethren,* (Rev.12:9,10,11)...*Satan comes and takes away the word...(Lk.10:31)...Lest Satan should get an advantage over us,* (2Cor.2:11)...*Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light,* (2Cor. 11:14)...*was given me a messenger of Satan to buffet me,* (2Cor.12:7)...*We would have come but Satan hindered us...,* (1Thess, 2:18)...*where satan's seat is, where satan dwells',* (Rev 2:13).

Book Review

'Just As I Am' by Billy Graham

Review by Roger Fry, (Internet: <http://www.evangelical-times.org/ETArticles/sept%2097/sep97a01.htm>)

'God loves us. He yearns to forgive us and bring us back to Himself. He wants to fill our lives with meaning and purpose right now...Moreover God has done everything possible to reconcile us to Himself...In God's plan by His death on the cross, Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins...Now God freely offers us the gift of forgiveness and eternal life...God has done everything possible to provide salvation. But we must reach out in faith and accept it...' (PP.727-728).

This is Billy Graham's Gospel - Jesus has done His bit, now you do yours. This 'Gospel' has run swiftly in the earth. It has been well received, not only by many who call themselves Evangelicals, but also by liberals, Roman Catholics, Orthodox and many others..As Rose Kennedy...said to Graham, 'You know I often listen to you. Even though we are Catholics, I have never heard you say anything we don't agree with in the Bible.' (P.401)...

There can be no doubt that God, in sovereign mercy, has been pleased to truly save many sinners through Billy Graham's ministry. We know that God can use whatever instrument he pleases to perform His sovereign will. However, in the wake of Graham's ministry there is much spiritual wreckage. There are undoubtedly many thousands around the world who feel that they are 'born again' and on the road to eternal glory because they made their 'decision' at a Billy Graham rally. We find them everywhere armed with their 'testimony' and waving their decision cards, yet their life is evidence that there has been no true work of grace. Many no longer attend any church and live in sin and corruption, but they still believe they are 'saved' because they made their decision. This is the Devil's tool and he knows how to use it. Why then would he oppose such evangelistic methods as those used by Billy Graham?

...Billy Graham...has never separated from those who have embraced sacramentalism as a way of salvation. He has prayed with Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox, shared platforms with their Bishops, exchanged pleasantries with the Pope. His one policy has been 'to let the Catholic Bishops see that my gospel was not to get people to leave their church, rather I wanted them to commit their lives to Christ.' (P.163)...

What we learn from this autobiography is that preaching the message which the world wants to hear can bring fame and honour beyond imagination to those gifted enough to do it well, but preaching the Gospel faithfully is profoundly theological and profoundly unpopular. The tragedy is that this autobiography only teaches us the latter by negative example.'

Lovers of Truth?

We are outraged when investigative journalism uncovers hidden truth or when the truth is subverted. We approve of investigation that uncovers political corruption or fraud. We see this often in the media. But what about within the church? Instead we say 'Don't judge!'

Longsuffering

'He allowed His own creatures to pluck His hair and spit in His face. Such patience should be yours as servants of God. We are to be willing to be made nothing of, and even to be counted as the offscouring of all things. It is pitiful for the Christian to refuse to suffer, and to become a fighting man, crying, 'We must stand up for our rights'. Did you ever see Jesus in that posture?...'

(Spurgeon's sermon: 'The Shame and Spitting' from 'Twelve Sermons on the Passion and Death of Christ'. P.137)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear TA: Re: 'Impartation theology.' [see *Diakrisis* July] *Your thesis seems to be as follows - the Holy Spirit now takes up residence within us! No argument with that.*

[Qs.1] *Apparently it follows in your mind that - therefore the Holy Spirit does not, will not or cannot 'come upon' people today. I mean as well as indwelt - both at the same time! Any Scripture?*

[Qs.2] *Perhaps you are suggesting that the Holy Spirit cannot get past the 'powers of the air' (2nd paragraph July vol. 1 No.29), Yours in Christ Jesus, (P.S., Sydney)*

Editors reply: Dear ...[Qs.1] What does Scripture say? It says nothing! The Scriptures after Acts 2 are silent about the Holy Spirit coming upon any believers. Once a person is indwelt with the Holy Spirit the Holy Spirit never comes 'upon' them again! Why would He? He already indwells them! Any 'filling' (eg. Eph.5:18) - is from *within* and a controlling of the person by the Holy Spirit. This was the orthodox Biblical teaching for 1,900 years until some in the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements began to practise a form of impartation theology which early Pentecostals actually stood against. It could well be close to blasphemy to dole out the person of the Holy Spirit from outside into a person.

I am saying what the Scripture says. To say that the Holy Spirit comes upon believers from outside to inside is contradictory to the work of the Holy Spirit; is not in Scripture; and is therefore extra-Biblical. We are told not to go '*beyond the Word of the Lord*', (Nu.22:18). If we do, we may well open ourselves up to alien spirits who many believe can be received from outside. Many in the Toronto and Pensacola '*revivals*' have found this out after many years of anguish and shipwreck.

[Qs.2] *There is no suggestion that 'the Holy Spirit cannot get past the 'powers of the air''. This is not in question and has nothing to do with the article on impartation in July, Vol.1, No.29.*

In short there simply is no Scripture showing the Holy Spirit coming 'upon' believers after Acts 2. Many today believe that the practise of imparting the Holy Spirit and the 'anointing' is at best titillating the flesh, and at worst trafficking in demons.

...I urge you to continue to test the spirits. I am encouraged that you are challenging me - it means you are testing things and studying. We will not be judged by what I write but by the Word of God, (Jn.12:48). Thanking you. Yours in His Truth,

The Finances of the Mormon Church

'Its current assets total a minimum of \$30 billion. If it were a corporation, its estimated \$5.9 billion in annual gross income would place it midway through the FORTUNE 500, a little below Union Carbide and the Paine Webber group but bigger than Nike and the Gap...The top beef ranch in the world is not the king ranch in Texas. It is the Deseret Cattle & Citrus ranch outside Orlando,...its value as real estate alone is estimated at \$858 million. It is owned entirely by the Mormons. The largest producer of nuts in America, Agreserves, inc...is Mormon owned. So are the Bonneville International Corp., the country's fourteenth largest radio chain, and the Beneficial Life insurance Co., with assets of \$1.6 billion...There is no major church in the US as active as the Latter Day Saints in economic life, nor per capita, as successful at it....[The Mormons] impose a compulsory 10% income tax on their members. Tithes are collected locally...There is a lot to deposit. Last year \$5.2 billion in tithes flowed into Salt lake City...The Latter Day Saints employ vast amounts of money in investments that Time estimates to be at least \$6 billion strong...most of this money...is invested directly in church owned [affairs] for profit concerns...The church owns 16 radio stations and one TV station...' (**Time Aug, 1997**)

Further To 'BCF' Article

In the last issue of *Diakrisis* we wrote of the '*Brisbane Christian Fellowship*' and their dangerous teachings. We have been advised further that this group has unorthodox teachings on justification and perfectionism.

We have received further advice that the following fellowships also have links with the above church:

Cooloola Christian Fellowship

Sunshine Christian Fellowship

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.

Another Death Prophecy By Crouch

Paul Crouch is well known for his false prophecies and death threats. Yet millions follow and endorse his ministry. The following prophecy was made on 11/7/97 on TBN broadcast.

'...This is the word of the Lord that came to her [Crouch's internet secretary staff]...this is awesome!...TBN is about to explode...Kings and princes will plead for your help because of the power and the magnitude of this tool of Christian television I've placed within all of your hands. You must be ready and prayed up so that you will know how to respond to each request from these many Heads of State...we proclaim defeat to the enemies of God...Take authority over the principalities and powers that dare to threaten this ministry...saith the Lord...I am commanding you to prophesy death to the threats, challenges',...God we proclaim death to anything or anyone that will lift a hand against this network and this ministry...we proclaim death to anything that would stand in the way of God's great voice of proclamation to the whole world. In the name of Jesus,...No license will be revoked. No station will be shut down. This is the Word of the Lord...'I am giving into your hand more licenses and more stations even more powerful than those that were threatened by the enemy. The devil has shot himself in the foot...seize your victory...I am giving you the nations for your inheritance...signed, Jesus Christ, Captain of Hosts.'

For the full prophecy see internet site: <http://www.geocities.com/~contenders/deaththreat.htm>

Testimonies of 'Toronto Blessing'

On the internet there are interesting testimonies concerning the effects of the 'Toronto Blessing' on families. One that particularly interested us was of a family in the UK who were greatly affected by this 'blessing' and nearly shipwrecked. Their names have been deleted to protect them. This six page testimony can be obtained from the internet site: <http://www.geocities.com/~contenders/emma.htm> Those with no internet facilities can obtain a copy from our NSW office. Please cover postage costs, and enclose a self addressed envelope.

Your Comments and Questions

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

A Note From the Editor:

We in this ministry occasionally receive some 'hate mail' from people claiming to be Christian. Sometimes these are anonymous. These anonymous letters will not be attended to nor published.

Dear Terry,...keep up the great work in 'Diakrisis'. It is a pleasure to read a newsletter that is well balanced, (Rev.D.T., Vict)

To Terry: Stunning tapes and book ['Word-Faith' tapes & 'Signs and Wonders Exposed' book] - thanks! (A.W., Sydney)

Dear Terry, Thankyou for being a brave, courageous and uncompromising voice in this very dark world. Thankyou for saying outright what many of us are thinking inwardly. You strike a chord of truth in us and it is such a relief to know not everyone is floating with the fire. May God bless you and keep you in His truth and light. (E.W., Sydney)

To TA Ministries: In regard to the offer of Penfriends (Diakrisis 9/98) I would like to have contact with Christians of like mind. I am a recent subscriber to the newsletter. I am almost 83 years of age. I am not able to continue with the doctrine of ecumenism clearly espoused by the church of which I have been a member from 1969. I have interviewed the pastor and clearly explained my attitude to him. I regret that I no longer fellowship with my friends in the church but with a clear conscience before God. I will continue to pray for them that their minds will be opened to clear truth. I thank God that he has given you the knowledge and courage to step out and expose false doctrines. I thankfully accept your offer to put me in touch with fellow Christians...Love in Jesus name, (T.D., Qld)

Dear Bro. Terry. I thank the Lord for your ministry which I believe is empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Lord wants us to stand up in these last days against apostasy even if it means we are going to lose some of the best friends in our Christian life.

May the Lord bless you and continue to accomplish His will in your life until the blessed hour of his return. We will be praying for you, Your brother in Christ, (T.M., Sydney)

Praise Points

- Praise God for the encouraging response to the Sydney trip. Many people who were sidetracked by or questioning the signs & wonders movement and Charismatic excesses were ministered to. Pray for those who have already separated from false teaching and false teachers.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the funds to purchase a video recorder to copy tapes.
- This ministry is still growing rapidly. Please pray for strength, wisdom, and help with the increasing workload.

Dear Terry,...Would you perhaps prayerfully consider having a work here in Australia that involved men...for the purpose of providing good Bible teaching...on such topics as: discernment of contemporary counterfeit movements, teachings, and the Biblical response to such; the current realignment among Evangelicals; the signs of our times. What would the reformers do if faced with what we're up against today?...Christians are turning to discernment ministries, tapes and other publications, because the church fails to feed with this type of food...Where do we go from here?...I believe that if enough were able to see and have a common vision for such a place, a work of tremendous good could be done in days that are growing darker...I wonder how many others...might be thinking of what faithful Christians could be doing together as an answer to the apostasy and other things. Might it be an idea to ask people to write into 'Diakrisis' with their ideas?...Keep up the good work - have been encouraged by the testimonies in the latest 'Diakrisis'!...Love in Christ, (C.D., Vict)

Dear Mr Arnold I was recently given a copy of your newsletter 'Diakrisis' and I was impressed with the content of it...pray you will continue to bless others with your ministry...Yours in Christ Jesus, (M.S., Sth .Aust.)

Dear Terry, Thankyou so much for your visit to Sydney, [May] and the work you obviously put into it. It was great to sit under your ministry...My wife...said she felt 'refreshed'...Thankyou again for your work...and for His truth...Yours in love, (R.S., Sydney)

Dear Terry...to express my appreciation of your newsletter. Its good to see that there is still some discernment in the church. It may not be popular with some, but so often the truth never is. However, God's truth is truth regardless of how we feel about it. God's truth stands on its own and our views and emotions are irrelevant to it. Keep up the good work!...May God bless you and give you His wisdom..(Pastor, in Victoria)

Dear Terry,...Thankyou very much for your newsletter. It is so good to know that we are not alone in what God is showing us. All the false teachers, doctrines, prophets, etc. invading the churches and Christians following them. We have stood up...and said to Christians...what God is showing us but none of them believe us. A common comment is 'be careful, these men are anointed of God; speaking against their teaching is speaking against God's anointed and the wrath of God will come against you'...Your newsletter...is very comforting. Thankyou again. (A&W.K., Tweed Heads)

Terry's Itinerary

Nov. 8th. 10am & 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. Ph.0741289375

Nov.15th. 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. Ph. (07)54823535

Dec.6th & 13th 9.30am Gympie Community Church (2 part series on *Justification by Faith*) Ph. (07)54823535

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