



# 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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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

In the Bible, humans are often portrayed as sheep. Sheep are at times silly animals. They need a shepherd to lead and guide them along the narrow way instead of the broad paths. Otherwise, like the blind leading the blind, they will tend to follow one another into a ditch, (Lk.6:39). Our shepherd is the soon coming King, Jesus Christ, and today He speaks to us through His Word - the Bible.

However, many today follow men, ministries, or a church. The Corinthians were guilty of following various ministries, (1Cor.1:12). Some were '*of Paul*', some '*of Apollos*' and others '*of Cephas*'. Today, many believe things because someone said it or someone has written it. Many believe a ministry or person to be in truth or error because someone has said so or written so. *But what do we personally believe?* What do the Scriptures say?

I have many times convinced a cultist of error from plain Scripture only to see them reverse their conviction on going back to their '*elders*'. The fact is that many would rather believe in what man would teach rather than what Scripture says.

Good discernment and apologetics does not easily believe and run with what someone has said about an issue or a person. Anything written by man (eg. commentaries, critiques, *this newsletter*, etc) is fallible and must be tested and sifted through the grid of Scripture. The focus of this newsletter is to teach, inform and equip, but also to challenge and drive people continually back to the Scriptures so that they will *think for themselves with the mind of Christ*. A cultish mindset does not think for oneself but is subtly governed by the group or the leaders views.

May we '*study to show thyself approved...rightly dividing the Word of truth*' (2Tim.2:15), that we might think for ourselves with the mind of Christ. Thus, when someone shows us error we will take notice. Closed mindedness is today a deadly disease. Recent issues of this newsletter have challenged and in some cases rocked peoples very foundations. But it is the knowledge of truth that sets us free, (Jn.8:32)!

What is the purpose of any such knowledge of truth? - that we might '*know...Jesus Christ and Him crucified*'! (1Cor.2:2) It is all very well to know doctrine and many truths, but their purpose is to teach and point us to '*the excellency of the knowledge of Christ*', (Phil.3:8). Do we know *Him personally*? Are our *loves and affections* foremost towards *Him*? Do we *hunger* after '*His righteousness*'? (Matt.6:33)

Our Shepherd is Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit leads and guides us into all truth. His sheep will hear his voice; when He calls they will follow, (Jn.10:27). In all our studies and our '*contending for the faith*', let us not forget the reason for such - that we would worship, exalt, glorify, love and *know the person* who has redeemed us from sin and hell - the Lord Jesus Christ! **Terry Arnold**

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## Church Requests

Subscribers from Bunbury, WA, 6230, and Palm Beach/Elenora, Qld, 4221, have requested help in finding suitable churches or fellowships. If any readers know of sound fellowships in or near these areas please contact this ministry.

## Goldrush!...Audible Voices!...What Next?

There is a 'new thing' in the camps of the signs and wonders movement that is spreading from America to other countries, including Australia. Gold is falling from the skin of believers - 24 carat gold and platinum! Like manna it dissolves away. This new sign and wonder has been given the name 'Glory anointings'. 'Golden clouds' are said to be covering congregations in worship. In Sth Africa, 'the gold dust started to appear on people's hands. Firstly on the hands of the backsliders.'\*

A report from America says: 'One of the ladies went home after the service Sunday night and began to eat some rice her husband had cooked. She complains to him about it tasting funny and asks him what kind of pot did he cook it in...She goes to the bathroom to brush her teeth...looks in the mirror and discovers God has turned one of her teeth totally gold!!...

...As he (Pastor Bob) goes to leave, I look in his car and the floors are covered with this 'gold dust'!...and then tonight!... Of course the crowd has grown by now...At the end of the service, I turned to the Tuesday morning lady...there were two more gold teeth in her mouth!...it is a sign and a wonder!...to show people how much he really loves them!...the unbeliever has been brought to repentance, and the 'unbelieving believer' has also been brought to repentance!...I praise him for showing His glory in our midst!

My prayer at this time is 'rain down more Lord...I expect it more Lord! Bring in the unbelievers...saved or not saved...so that they may believe!!' Thanks for allowing me to share this 'glory report' with you!"\*\*

An Australian ministry, 'Miracle Ministries', has taken up this new sign and wonder. A look at the claims of this ministry will reveal some of the wildest stories we have ever seen. They claim 'recreative miracles' - 'new kidneys, new pelvic bones, new knees', and kidneys being cleaned and made miraculously whole. They call this 'Pelvic and spinal traction ministry'. One testimony reads: 'About nine years ago I was shot 11 times and a bullet lodged about 1 1/2 inches from my spine...Pastor Vaughan...ran his hand down [my] back and he saw the bullet and its position in the spirit...[he] commanded it [the bullet] to de-materialise in Jesus name and all

injured tissues to be recreated and made whole...it was gone!!!...Praise God it [the bullet] has gone...!...Another testimony tells of an embedded piece of steel suddenly 'de-materialising'.

The above same ministry reports of the 'glory revival': 'Sunday morning as Pastor Eddie began to talk about signs and wonders, tiny 'gold-like' flakes began to appear all over the floor in the church!...In November when sister Ruth Carneal...was visiting Australia and sharing the wonderful things of God that are happening in the GLORY REVIVAL in the USA, an audible voice came over the PA system and was heard all over the auditorium: 'This shall be a REVIVAL of SIGNS - Thank me'...God [had] interrupted me; - everybody heard the interruption, it came out of every monitor, and was on the tape. GOD SPOKE and said what He wanted to say...It came with such electrical movement, it just burned in the hearts of everyone that was there, changed the order of the service and changed the people in a moment. I believe that this is one of the signs, that suddenly God will begin to prophesy...we've seen the gold, the silver,...He's going to do something new!!

In a church in Tasmania, the congregation was asked to 'lay hands on their mouths and pray that the Lord would fill the teeth with gold...we actually saw fillings change into gold before our eyes...I have 7 gold fillings, my wife 2.'\*

**Comments: How can people be brought to 'repentance' when they have not heard the Gospel? Whenever the Bible refers to signs and wonders in the end-times, they are lying or false! My prediction is that many claims of 'gold teeth' will be exposed, causing ridicule to the name of Christ. He that hath an ear let him hear!: 'An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign...' (Matt.12:39)... 'Let no man deceive you by any means...' (2Thess.2:3)... 'Even Him whose coming is after the workings of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders... they received not the love of truth...God shall send them a strong delusion that they should believe a lie,' (2Thess.2:9-11). Terry Arnold**

\*'World Wide Revival Report' newsletter\*\* E-mail from Pastor Tim A. Grant, Emmanuel Harvest Church to: news-of-interest@XC.Org

## 'As God Is My Dentist'

**(This revealing article was written by a secular journalist, Jean Sonmor, in the Toronto Sun.)**

'Now its Gold teeth! Remember that small church congregation near the airport that made headlines in 1994 with something called 'The Toronto Blessing'? It was called the Toronto Airport Vineyard Christian Church, and adherents would break out in uncontrollable laughter. They'd fall on the floor 'slain by the spirit'. Sometimes the spirit in them would bark like a dog or bray. Sometimes the blessed one would sob or twitch. But afterwards they'd always say they had been touched, 'blessed' by the Holy Spirit.

By the time we locals woke up to the phenomenon that was housed in that tiny warehouse near the airport, throngs of people from around the world, (80,000 in the first 11 months), were streaming to Toronto to be a part of it. There was talk of a worldwide spiritual revival...Something was definitely happening at that tiny church...

Now five years later some dentists and jewellers are saying the same thing. That's right. Dentists and jewellers. Seems that on March 3 this year a new, more tangible blessing 'broke out'. People would feel a slight sensation in their mouths and find that their ordinary silver amalgam fillings were suddenly much, much brighter. Some had turned from a dark silver colour to bright gold. A few even had a tiny cross

on what seemed like a new gold tooth, says John Bootsma, who is one of the pastors in the much-enlarged church now occupying the former Asian trade centre on Atwell Dr.

This second blessing began during an intercession conference nearly two months ago. By the third night 198 people were claiming some change to their dental work.

...the gold teeth didn't exactly come out of the blue. In fact since the 80's there have been reports of miraculous dental transformation in Argentina. And the senior pastors of the Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship (its new name), John and Carol Arnott had just returned from South Africa where the same thing was happening. So when Arnott said to the congregation: 'Do you want the Lord to do a miracle on your teeth?' They knew what he was talking about.

...Some dentists...have pulled out old charts and explained to their disappointed patients that they have had that gold tooth for a long, long time. But once a week or more the church gets a fax from a dentist agreeing that something 'unusual' has happened.

...The Charismatic explanation...is that these are new, God-given fillings of pure gold or silver....Bootsma claims there are thousands of people around the world who have had this strange sign from God...' **Jean Sonmor, Toronto Sun.**

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## Christian Copyright

This is a subject that has been debated over the past few years. Some say that Christian books, tapes and videos, should be free of copyright law to enable the material to be widely distributed as inexpensively as possible. Others believe that, to ensure adequate financial return and funding for their ministries, the income for their teaching aids needs to be protected by law.

Many organisations make it quite plain that their works are to be freely copied and distributed, especially tracts, newsletters and audio tapes.

But, surely there is a difference between this category of communication, and published books and professionally produced videos?

It involves a great deal of time, research and money, to write and publish a book, and the same applies to filming. Many successful Christian authors 'self publish' because of a lack of interest shown by commercial publishers in Christian material. This entails an initial outlay of finance and a long wait for sales or any return on money. Some professionally prepared videos cost tens of thousands of dollars in capital before a single cent is returned from sales or royalties.

If one person purchases a video or book and then simply makes copies and distributes these freely (or less expensively) into the market place, all income from subsequent sales is diverted elsewhere or rendered non-existent. In a worse case scenario a writer/publisher may only receive royalties on the first few copies of a book or video production! The bulk of sales going to the marketer of the cut price copy. This is not tolerated in the commercial field of publishing, so why should it be expected in the Christian community? Probably the motivation is the desire to see as many people reached for the least amount of money. But common sense would dictate that if this procedure was allowed to flourish,

very few Christian authors and producers could afford to continue to write, film, produce, publish and market their important work. In the end, the Christian media market would be much worse off, and thirsty saints would be deprived of intellectual succour!

A master copy of a video provided to TA ministries may cost hundreds of dollars and this must be recouped by marketing and selling copies from that master with the full protection of copyright law to ensure that at least costs will be covered. Added to this, royalties must be sent to the producer for every copy sold.

We know of ministries who have simply not been able to continue to produce videos because royalties and sales received do not return enough to enable them to produce more videos. Some of this lack could well be attributed to illegal copying which causes loss of sales. A few may have *illegally* benefited from cheap copies but *the end result is less products*.

Similarly, books written by Terry Arnold have necessitated long hours of research and writing, and were initially self published and sent (as complimentary copies), or sold personally to Christian booksellers. This meant that personal funds had to be spent initially without guarantee of return and only the cover of copyright gave any hope of a fair return once sales began. Added to this the market for such Christian books in Australia is so limited as to make real profits difficult. Most Australian Christian authors see little if any profits from books sold on the Australian market.

Ministries offering copies of work at drastically reduced prices, or individuals copying materials, may feel they are doing the Christian community a favour but in fact this activity is helping, in the long run, to shrink the amount of media available. May we consider keeping the law of the land, the reasons for copyright, and the long-term results both to the authors and to the public. **Mike Claydon**

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### Psychology

*'How can over 250 systems that don't recognise God's law, sin, repentance, justification, sanctification and the assurance of salvation, be compatible with God's Word and have anything to offer His church? Psychiatry and its illegitimate offspring, psychology, is an alternate religion and another Gospel, and as such it bids a man to apply vinegar to his wounds and ask him to stand in the freezing cold without any warm clothes, (Pr.25:20).*

*Pagan roots produce pagan fruits. Why would the church want to look outside the Bible for answers from non-Christian sources? Christianity and psychological counselling are actually two rival and irreconcilable religious systems. No psychological system has ever been started by a Christian. The church has done an Esau and sold its birthright for a mess of pottage...Can you filter psychology through the Biblical net? I wish people did, because they'd find 100% of psychology would remain in the net.'* (Harley Hitchcock, former psychologist).

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### WCC

*'The World Council of Churches has no authority to agree or disagree with the Bible!'*

(Dr. Konrad Raiser WCC General Secretary, Dec/98 WCC 50th anniversary)

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### God Makes Mistakes?

The Scriptures are clear that God is sovereign, perfect and in control. Yet Billy Graham replying to a letter says: *'God does make mistakes - that doesn't mean He is directly responsible for everything that happens.'* (Plains Baptist Challenger, 3/99)

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### Terminology

**Impute:** To credit or transfer to the account of another.

**Justification:** God's once for all declaration to the sinner that he is legally not under judgement for his sin because of the substitution of Jesus Christ and his shed blood.

**Propitiation:** The turning away of anger and inflicting it on a substitute, (Jesus Christ).

**Redemption:** God's work of paying the penalty for our sin through the death and blood of Jesus.

**Righteousness:** The position of being right in the sight of God.

**Sanctification:** The setting aside of and the process of making one like unto the image of Christ.

**Sin:** The breaking of Gods laws; missing the mark of Gods perfection, (like an arrow missing the bulls eye of a target).

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### Contemporary Christian Music (CCM)

*CCM artist Steve Camp...is burdened over the present state of CCM and is concerned about many excesses...Billy Graham has used CCM/Rock groups in recent years...From music to marketing, CCM takes its cue from the world...This is such a disgrace.'*

(*'Calvary Contender'*, 1/4/99)

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### Franklin Graham's Ecumenical 'Festivals'

*'Franklin no longer calls them crusades - 'thats a church word'. They are festivals - 'thats a secular word'....This is called being 'seeker sensitive', but might also be called 'pragmatism', 'watering down', 'men pleasing', 'compromise' or 'catering to the world.'* (*'Calvary Contender'*, 15/4/99)

## Church & Church Services

*'I have often been saddened that many pastors use the precious time of Sunday morning (the only time most of the church is present) to 'focus' on speaking to the lost (in 15 minute sermons), instead of edifying the saved who are present so they may become more effective at holiness (and evangelism) themselves...modern churches have lost the point. We are told to go out into the world and make disciples and then bring them into the church to be baptised and grow as Christians. It makes no sense at all to turn the great commission around backwards, ie. 'Invite the world to come into the church, do not offend them or tell them what you believe, entertain them, and let them make disciples of the Christian church members.' What most people are calling a 'come as you are' approach is in reality a 'stay as you are and make our mature Christians just like you' approach...I am not trying to judge anyone rashly. I am just letting people know where our church has been. We are coming out of the 'seeker friendly' movement and have found it to be of the devil in both experience and Bible doctrine...'* (Kingdom Alert update 20/3/99)

## Video Review

### 'Delivered From The Power of Darkness - A True Story'



The Tallabo people live on a remote island in Indonesia. For generations they had trusted in shamans and healers who were empowered by spirit guides. Demon possession was common. Then the message of the Bible was introduced!

This video tells of the struggle and victory of the people over demonic forces. The story has much to teach us about spiritual warfare and answers many questions such as: Can Christians be demon possessed? Do territorial demons hinder the work of the Gospel? Can spirits possess houses causing us problems?

This video teaches where the rubber meets the road - in real life situations that testify to the truth of Scripture. A valuable teaching tool. We highly recommend this real life video to show in church or as an outreach. Available from TA Ministries. Cost: \$24.90 + postage. **\*\*Showing at Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. 27th June 6.30pm.\*\***

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## God's Method

*'The Spirit wrote the Scripture > We learn the Scripture > The Spirit brings to our mind what we learn > > We apply what He brings to mind.'* ('The Pursuit of Holiness' by Jerry Bridges)

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## 'Revivals'...Money & Lies

The Pensacola 'revival' (USA) revenue in 1996 was between \$4.3 million and \$5.4 million in one year. Hill's reported ministry revenue was \$1,187,519 in 1996 and His salary, according to his tax return for that year, was reported as \$82,374. Hill's ministry has spent \$887,931 on a 40 acre tract with houses and other buildings. Hill lives in one of the houses.

Mass mail-outs and urgent messages asking for money are common to this 'revival'. Hill's messages are commonly: *'Will you pray and stand with us by providing a gift of \$20, \$40, \$60, \$80 or even \$100?'* These 'revival' leaders spend as much as 20 minutes each Friday night asking people to make a donation. At one of the meetings Hill spoke of the 'mission orphanage' that he supports. However, when a secular news Journal contacted the orphanage, a spokesman said she had not heard from Hill in ten years.

In one of the mail-outs Hill pleaded for money because he said the cost of saving souls was mounting and in exchange for a donation he would send a free cassette of one of his sermons.

In short, these men appear to be **'making merchandise'** (2Pet.2:3) of God's people. The facts are that revival leaders are generating fortunes through merchandise, books, tapes, stickers, etc. Kilpatrick has in fact moved into a luxurious lifestyle away from Pensacola, in Alabama. Both Hill and Kilpatrick, to conceal financial information, have put \$10 and other 'good and valuable consideration' on their deeds as the price they paid for their new properties. Both have, for the first time, been forced to pay unpaid sales tax since June 1995. To appease the tax department for sales tax Kilpatrick paid \$18,377.17 and Hill paid \$20,623.31.

Hill is renowned for exaggerations and untruths. In a newsletter April 1998, Hill spoke of a revival in a prison. However, the chaplain at the prison emphatically denied the whole account and knew nothing of the claimed events. Added to this Hill also claimed miraculous healings night after night: *'We are seeing miraculous healings, cancerous tumours disappear and drug addicts immediately delivered.'* Yet there has not been one documented case of a miraculous healing. Every case that was presented to investigators disproved any miracle. Interestingly, Kilpatrick suffered a serious injury from a fall and was not healed. The medical records showed

that his injuries progressed at normal speed. This only adds to the lies we have been documenting in past newsletters concerning Hill.

Hill's book *'Stone Cold Heart'* is full of outrageous exaggerations and sheer lies, of which some he has been forced to admit. He was never a *'heroin addict'*. He was never *'arrested 13 times'*. The records show 3 arrests in his hometown only. He claims to have brought drugs from a former police chief and broken into pharmacies and been arrested once for that crime. The records show no evidence of these claims. He says he wandered the country after high school for three years using and selling drugs. Yet, his employment records show he worked a full time job in Huntsville. He says he was expelled from high school. He later admitted this was not true. He also admitted that he made up names in his book.

An increasing concern too is that Psychiatric units in the Pensacola area are increasing in attendees. Mental health care units are reporting an increase in psychiatric patients. The majority of new patients are out of town people attending the 'revival'.

Brownsville leaders say drugs are decreasing, yet the treatment centres report no decreases but rather that admissions have increased substantially and some have doubled.

Several critics have also become concerned about the sexual references Hill has made in his addresses, such as: *'With His genitals hanging out for all to see'...* *'With His sexual organs on display'*. Hill often also speaks of Jesus being tempted by women and sex.

Even Pentecostal theologians are concerned too about the impartation practices being conducted in services - the imparting of the Holy Spirit and the 'anointing', from one person to another. This is more occult than it is Biblical. Yet the leaders attempt to liken such bizarre behaviour to the great revivalist, Wesley, and his revival meetings. The fact is that history shows clearly that Wesley considered such as demonic!

It appears modern 'revivals' do make money. Along with it run the exaggerated and untruthful claims that fuel the funds and make merchandise of God's people. **Terry Arnold**

Source: <http://www.pensacolanewsjournal.com/brownsville/>

## ***Sola Fide - the Forgotten Doctrine***

The doctrine of *Sola Fide* (faith alone) which teaches that God *imputes* (credits, accounts,) His righteousness to our account is the very edge of the wedge that divides Biblical Christendom from all other religions and cults!

The doctrine of imputation is like a sister to justification. You cannot have one without the other. Imputation means to transfer from one account to the other. An illustration of this could be the idea of transferring a credit amount to a debit amount, or attaching a credit statement over the top of a debit invoice. Spiritually, this is not an inner matter but a *legal, forensic, and external* thing declared in the courts of Heaven. This divine act makes us legally righteous in the sight of God. This is done by grace through *faith* and *without works*, (Eph.2:8,9), - in other words, *faith alone*, ('*Sola Fide*').

Today's ecumenical movement to Rome either ignores this doctrine or waters it down. Historic Evangelicism says that grace is not infused but is *imputed* by Christ alone and without works. However, Rome says that God's righteousness is not imputed but rather instilled or *infused into* us through the *sacraments* and *works* of the Roman Catholic religion. This begins at infant baptism where grace is first infused into the baby so as to delete original sin. This grace then has to be renewed regularly. The Vatican says: '*Justification is conferred in baptism...it conforms us to the righteousness of God...*' Roman Catholic 'justification' actually follows 'sanctification' and followers must be constantly gaining a personal righteousness through the sacraments and other works. The Roman Catholic sacramental system arguably becomes a surrogate Christ, since only by these means (the sacraments) does an '*unrighteous man becomes righteous*' (1) Note how the tense here is in the *ongoing future*.

However, the Biblical stance on Justification refers to a *past* thing, (eg. Rom.5:1,9; 8:1). The so called infusion of grace through the Roman Catholic sacramental system in practice becomes a *works* programme attempting to obtain righteousness with God. Yet Romans 4:5 says: '***But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted [imputed] for righteousness***'. This verse says at least four things in regard to salvation: 1. That the justified *does not work* 2. The justified trusts in *another* 3. The Lord justifies the *sinner* 4. The justified one does not have faith in his own faith but sees his faith as only '*counted*' (imputed, not infused) to him for righteousness.

The word '*counted*' here is the Greek word '*logizimai*' and this same word is mentioned no less than *eleven* times in this one chapter of Romans! Here the Greek word is translated as several different English words: '*counted*' (vs.3,5); '*reckoned*' (vs.4,9,10); and '*imputed*' (vs.6,8,11,22,23,24). Other passages in the New Testament also translate '*logizomai*' as '*reasoned*', (Mk.11:31); '*numbered*', (Mk.15:28); '*thinkest*', (Rom.2:3); '*conclude*', (Rom.3:28); '*accounted*', (Rom.8:36); '*esteemeth*', (Rom.14:14); '*thought*', (1Cor. 13:11); '*suppose*', (2Cor.11:5); and '*charge*', (2Tim.4:16).

This imputation of righteousness is an *outside* thing which legally justifies us, and must not be confused with sanctification, an *inside* work done by the Spirit of Christ within. The reformers called the righteousness of justification an '*alien*' ('*alienum*') righteousness - a righteousness residing with another and given by another, on our behalf, (Is.45:24,25; Acts 13:39; 1Cor.6:11; Eph.1:7). This *substitutionary* righteousness exists *in Christ* and resides in Heaven. Our righteousness is '*the lord our righteousness*', (Jer.23:6).

The Reformation which brought the Bible back to the people and the people back to the Bible, forced a counter-

reformation from Rome. Rome stated: '*If anyone says that the guilt is remitted to every penitent sinner after the grace of justification has been received, and that the debt of eternal punishment is so blotted out that there remains no debt of temporal punishment to be discharged either in this world or in the next in Purgatory...let him be anathema [cursed] (2)...If anyone says that by the said sacraments...grace is not conferred through the work worked but that faith alone...is sufficient for obtaining the grace, let him be anathema [cursed]. (3)...If anyone says that men are justified either by the imputation of the righteousness of Christ alone...let him be anathema [cursed]. (4)*

Yet what do the Scriptures say?: '***Abraham believed God and it was counted ['logizomai'] unto him for righteousness...his faith is counted ['logizomai'] for righteousness...God imputes ['logizomai'] righteousness without works...faith was reckoned ['logizomai'] to Abraham for righteousness...it was imputed ['logizomai'] to him for righteousness...it was imputed ['logizomai'] to him...it shall be imputed ['logizomai'] if we believe on him..., (Rom. Ch.4:) '...not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is of the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith, (Phil.3:9)***. The latter phrase is literally translated '*a righteousness from God*', ('*dikaiosisune Theou*').

In short, Biblically *there is no justification without imputation!*

What part does faith play in this sovereign act of God? Faith alone is the *instrument* of justification. '***For by grace are ye saved through faith ['dia pistei'] and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast***', (Eph.2:8,9). The use of the preposition '*dia*' ('*through*') with the word '*pistei*' ('*faith*') shows clearly that even faith in itself is not any grounds for *merit* for salvation. If it were, the words used would be '*dia ten pistin*' or '*on the ground of*'; '*on account of*'. Whenever faith is connected to salvation it is presented only as a *means* of justification. Faith can be likened to an empty vessel. *Faith has no merit in itself* and is a '*gift*' from God. Therefore, ultimately justification is on the grounds of *Christ* and *His* righteousness *alone*.

What part does works play in salvation? Initially, *none*. *We are saved apart from the merit of works, but not apart from the presence of works after salvation*, (Eph.2:10; James 2:14-18). Faith alone saves but that true faith will have works. Faith is linked with works like a train engine is linked to the carriages by its couplings. Without the couplings the engine will not move a single carriage. *The only way we can ever perhaps say we are saved by works is by the once and for all perfect work of Jesus Christ!*

Such a salvation is in fact '***not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy***', (Rom.9:16). God must first draw the sinner before man can be saved: '***No man can come to me except the Father which has sent me draw him...***', (Jn 6:44). A sinner by nature will not seek God (Rom.3:11,12), unless first drawn! Then he or she must receive the truth of Jesus Christ to be saved, (Matt.23:37; Rom.9:16; Jn.1:12,13). At salvation, the sovereign grace which imputes the righteousness of Christ through faith alone justifies and separates the sinner from the penalty of the law and sin.

Today justification is being confused with sanctification. We must *distinguish* between the two yet *not separate* them. Christ *without* is the ground for *justification* and the Spirit of Christ *within* is the fruit of sanctification. Only one,

(justification), is the *cause* of right standing with God; the other, (sanctification), is the *effect* of right standing with God.

Sanctification is no doubt a result of justification but in itself and by itself it does not make a sinner righteous before God. In practical terms any form of 'holiness' or good works that does not stem from the imputed righteousness that comes from the saving grace of God is nothing more than human effort and 'filthy rags' to God.

On the other hand, justification without sanctification is impossible. Justification *declares* the sinner righteous, sanctification produces the fruit of that transacted declaration. One is legal and complete, the other is progressive and incomplete until the day we meet Jesus. One gives us the title for Heaven, the other prepares and trains us for Heaven. One gives us the right of salvation, the other begins at salvation and then progressively works it out. One is objective, the other is subjective. But God does not give justification without also giving the free gift of the Holy Spirit to sanctify us, conforming us into the image of Christ in holiness.

Therefore there should be no such thing as a fruitless Christian - this would defy Jesus words himself that 'a good tree will produce good fruit', and also James' words that 'faith without works is dead'. Justification without holiness (sanctification) is as a (false) faith without works - dead and not genuine.

Those that are justified through the imputed righteousness of Christ manifest in varying degrees, the fruits of the faith. They will have the fruit of repentance, (Lk.3:8); the fruit of holiness (Rom.6:22); the fruit of righteousness, (James 3:18; Heb.12:11; 2Cor.9:10; Phil.1:11); the fruit of the Spirit, (Gal.5:22); and the fruit of works, (Col.1:10). They should be *obedient* to Christ and *follow* Him and His Word, (Lk.14:26-33). They should deny themselves, take up their cross, and count everything else as *dung* by comparison, (Phil.3:8). This is the standard Christians look to, yet arguably is lacking in the fruit of modern Western evangelism!

The doctrine of justification by faith through the imputed righteousness of Christ, like any truth, can fall into extremes. On one side there is 'antinomianism'; on the other 'legalism'. Both are well used by Satan to divert the church from the truth.

The twentieth century has seen a cancerous 'easy believism' where multitudes have made 'professions', 'confessions' and 'decisions' of faith, arguably causing many to assume they are saved despite there being questionable or no evidence of sanctification (holiness). The progress of this cancer ends up in 'antinomianism' ('against the law') - a term denoting the thinking that Christians can remain carnal, continue in sin, keep the baggage of the world, and generally lack holiness, and yet call themselves and be called 'Christian'. ***'What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we who are dead to sin live any longer therein?'*** (Rom.6:1,2)...***'for sin shall not have dominion over you; for ye are not under the law but under grace. What then, shall we sin because we are not under the law, but under grace? God Forbid.'*** (Rom.6:14,15)...***'is Christ therefore the minister of sin. God forbid'***, (Gal.2:17).

The other extreme is 'legalism'. This was the error of the Galatian legalists who added to the salvation Gospel various laws. Paul condemned it as ***'another gospel'***, (Gal.1:6-9). This adding of something to the true Gospel can take many forms, whether it be adding Old Testament laws, as the Galatians had done, or adding mans rules, rituals and regulations - even to what you eat and drink, (see Col.2:16), and even wear. Roman Catholicism is fundamentally similar to the Galatian heresy whereby laws, works and sacraments are

added to the Gospel. This form of legalism may even use terminology such as salvation 'by grace alone'; 'by grace through faith'; and even the 'imputed righteousness of Christ'. But the understanding of these terms is often different to the historical, orthodox and Biblical teaching down through the ages. Often these terms are used to hide the many *added* sacraments, rules and rituals that become *'leaven'* to the truth.

Sometimes the dividing line between error and truth is only a wisp away. Truth has boundaries, error has none. If the boundaries are not clearly defined and unbroken, error creeps in and the 'leaven' spreads like a cancer. *Sola Fide* steers a course between two evils - antinomianism on one side, and a legalistic works righteousness on the other. The former cares not to test the faith to see if it is genuine, (2Cor.13:5; 2Pet.1:10); the latter *adds* something to the faith that justifies.

The doctrine of *Sola Fide* has brought true revivals down through the centuries. The first Great Awakening in America under Jonathan Edwards came when he preached on *Sola Fide!* Today there are groups both Roman Catholic and Evangelical who are showing great interest in experiences and 'revival' phenomena, supposedly of the Holy Spirit. Charismatic/Pentecostal type 'revivals' now share familiar impartation theology to Rome. Evangelicals are now majoring on the Pentecostal type infusion of power and experiential 'anointings'. This activity is uniting the two groups and Evangelicals are now looking favourably upon Rome.

Today we are closer than ever to Rome, not just in the current ecumenical movement but in doctrine and in experience! In short, today's 'revivals' increasingly centre around mystical experiences and phenomena. Few realise how close this is to a false Catholic and mystical type sanctification. Yet, hundreds of ecstatic religious experiences will not make anyone right with God! Only the imputed righteousness of Christ alone does this.

The emphasis has indeed swung from Christ to a counterfeit spirit. This is helping to build the apostate ecumenical church of the end-times. Multitudes are worshipping the spirit. This is not the desire of the Holy Spirit but rather it must *grieve* Him. *The Holy Spirit never attracts attention to Himself and only ever points to and glorifies Christ's finished work*, (Jn.16:13,14). No work of the Holy Spirit in itself gives us righteousness with God but only the *finished* work of Christ. The gift that God gives those who receive Him is the Holy Spirit to work out our salvation within us. The fruit of the Spirit is not the ground for righteousness before God but rather the result of it. The only righteousness we have is not in us but in Christ and through His blood.

It is crucial at this time that the church teach again such Biblical truths as Justification by faith alone through the imputed righteousness of Christ. Why has God blessed this teaching in the past with massive revivals and awakenings? Perhaps it is because it simply glorifies God instead of man!; perhaps it highlights the sovereignty of God; perhaps it gives man a higher view of salvation and therefore a passion for holiness!

We are commanded to be ***'perfect'*** (Matt.5:48), which is humanly *impossible* - except *positionally* in Christ! This is logically why justification and the imputed righteousness must be all the work of God and not of man. It is a forensic and legal declaration made in the courts of Heaven.

Dear readers, if we have trusted Jesus as Lord and Saviour then we run to, and trust in His righteousness alone. We place our faith in His finished work alone. The object of our faith is *Him* - the Lord Jesus Christ! Our hope is based in His blood and His *imputed righteousness!* **Terry Arnold**

(1) *'Grace and Gifts'*, Trent, Sess.6, Ch.7 (2) Trent Sess.6, canon 30 (3) Trent Sess.7, canon 8. (4) Trent Sess.6 canon 11.

## Your Comments and Questions

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

**The following letter is answered point by point according to the numbers bracketed ( ).**

*Dear sir, I am not sure you act as a 'brother in Christ'. Are you a Baptist? My Grandparents were Methodists...My Father...got converted...baptised in water, received Acts 2:4 - as did my Methodist mother. They were more spiritual than my Methodist, Baptist & Brethren relatives...My parents went to Van Eyke's meetings. He was a man of God. When he fell into adultery...he was finished. He was never AOG. It did not exist. (1)*

*...Your 'Pentecostal/Tongues Roots'[May/99] is an astonishing, biased, one sided, ignorant and unscriptural (and untrue) account. (2) Re. the negative things - yes I know some of these things happened (3) All true Pentecostals will exclude such preachers - as they did in the early church. Obviously you do not know church history. (4)*

*Have you seen the internet - the corruption of a top Baptist exposed, the heretical leanings of Billy Graham, Bill Bright's refusal to state earnings. Did you know Graham went to Moscow...with the communists (about 1980) and bows lately to the Pope? Are we to condemn the Gospel teaching and water baptism because of that? (5)...You are grossly ignorant of the New Testament and early church history. The roots of Pentecostalism are the Gospel, water baptism and Acts 2:4. In Acts 2, just please use common sense; 120 spoke, 15 languages were distinguished. Do you mean to tell me that God used 15 languages (only) from 120 to address perhaps 8,000? (6) What about the languages not mentioned? You overlook the facts of Acts, Corinthians, and history, and true Bible scholars. (7) I have wondered how Ironside (Baptist also with many wrong doctrines) and Torrey (whose writings I admire) could be so blind to Acts 2:4. It is the carnal nature that refuses to believe. (8) I have renounced Toronto, Pensacola, Kenyon, Hagin, Copeland and certainly the charlatan Avanzini. I am a Bible believer (for 60 years) baptised in the Spirit. I have seen miracles in Jesus name like thousands speaking in tongues, sometimes English. You do not know what you are missing out on. (9)*

*Parham, Dowie, Seymour have hardly been heard of by most Pentecostals. (10) In Australia today there is no Pentecostalism. You are on the wrong track. (11) They, I believe are under the judgement of God - and so are you dear sir, if you do not REPENT of speaking against Pentecost, as in the Bible. (12) I know the Baptist argument. They do not hold water. Where do you think the devil attacks most? R.C's who are in such error?, 'Jesus only' who are so wrong?; Baptists who are so dead, following works and wrong Scriptures? (I honour baptists for what they do have, even if they refuse more), or will he attack those who win the most souls, as have Pentecostals?...the millions...now know Jesus Christ - most of them through Pentecostal workers. (13) Yes, there is much wrong teaching. I find it everywhere including as a bad example yourself - and the Baptist ... Terrible things were said of Anabaptists...are we to reject water baptism?...The Baptist, Ironside, was also a propagator of wrong eschatology. Terry, you need to repent, be humble and really read your Bible. From one who met you. (14) (No name or address given)*

**Editors Comments: Where do I start? Firstly I inform readers, we do not normally read, let alone answer, mail that is anonymous. (We have recently received anonymous threats. I believe we should have the courage to put our name to our writing). However, this letter is a good example of emotive extra-biblical thinking. (1) I am not a Baptist;**

**just a Bible believing disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ who loves truth! Arguably Van Eyk was not a 'leader of Assembly of God'. We accept this correction. However, he had very close affiliations with Assembly of God (AOG) and was instrumental in its development. The book 'A River is flowing - a history of the AOG in Australia' states this quite clearly. This book endorsed by the AOG devotes many pages to Eyk.**

**(2) The writer has nowhere shown where the article in question is 'ignorant and unscriptural'!**

**(3) Not 'some' of these things happened, but all of them happened! The accounts we have documented are historical facts accepted by Pentecostal historians.**

**(4) What in church history have we got wrong? Readers can read this documentation in several works, one being 'Fields White Unto Harvest' by Goff.**

**(5) What has Billy Graham and the Baptists etc, got to do with our article on 'Pentecostal/Tongues'? Why would we condemn the 'Gospel teaching and water baptism and Acts 2:4', when all are Scriptural? What is the subject here - I thought it was the roots and history of Pentecostal/Tongues?**

**(6) Yes, let us have 'common sense' and stick to what the Scriptures really say - at least 15 language groups are listed but the list would obviously include more *known* 'dialects'. However, even if it was only 15 - why is this a problem for thousands of people to hear these in their own language, especially when it is a miracle of God?**

**(7) 'What about the languages not mentioned'? The Bible does not list any! Do we go 'beyond the Word' here to establish *unknown* tongues? Even if there were other languages, they would still be listed as *known* languages! 'Acts, Corinthians, history and true Bible scholars' all agree - originally tongues were *known* languages! The three historic cases of tongues (Acts 2,10,19) are all *known* languages. 1Corinthians separates two distinctions of tongues, ('*tongues*' (known) & '*an unknown tongue*'). Paul uplifts prophesy and '*tongues*' (known languages) in *contrast* to the '*unknown tongue*', (eg. 1Cor.14:18,19). Bible scholars are unanimous that historic '*tongues*' (eg. Acts 2,10,19) are *known* languages!**

**(8) Is it a '*carnal nature*', (were Ironside & Torrey '*carnal*?), to believe that Acts 2, 10 & 19 and the Greek word for '*tongues*' refers to *known* languages?**

**(9) Am I '*missing out*'? I've experienced 'it!' (speaking in '*unknown tongues*'), so I know what I'm missing out on! Eph.1:3 tells me when I was saved I got '*all spiritual blessings*'! Ephesians 5:18 tells me I can be filled with the Spirit continuously for life! What could I be '*missing out*' on?**

**(10) Most Pentecostals do not know their historical roots. That is precisely why we wrote the article!**

**(11) If there is '*no Pentecostalism*' in Australia then why continually refer to '*Pentecostals*' and '*Pentecostalism*'?**

**(12) The article is about the roots of the Pentecostal *unknown* tongues. God forbid that we should '*speak against Pentecost*'. Without Pentecost we would not have the Holy Spirit!**

**(13) '*Baptist argument*'?...'*Most of them through Pentecostal workers*'? What happened before the beginnings of the Pentecostal movement and in the great revivals, etc?**

**(14) What have the '*Baptists*' and '*Ironside*' got to do with anything? What exactly do I '*repent*' of?...Yes, I do need more humility and to read my Bible more. Come Lord Jesus! Terry Arnold**

## Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry,

I look forward so much to the encouragement in your newsletter, having been on the front line of battle for years in exposing the deception and false teaching everywhere. I can identify with all who have suffered for Jesus sake. Praise the Lord for His constant unfailing love and comfort. The disciples suffered greatly and so will we for preaching the Gospel of truth...Please pray for [name withheld] who has opened herself up to Toronto, etc. She is suicidal and cannot be left alone and is full of fear...God bless you for upholding the truth no matter what. **(Name withheld at editors discretion)**

Dear Terry,...Thankyou for what you are doing. After having my eyes opened, my heart goes out to those who do not know the truth and my prayers are that they too shall be set free. **(D.S., Sydney)**

Dear Terry, I am really thankful to God for your work. Keep up the good fight. Fear God and you will not fear the people...With brotherly love, **(M.B., Sydney)**

Dear Terry, You have been a huge source of encouragement and increasing conviction about the Gospel, keep up the good work! **(A.W., Sydney)**

Dear Terry,...I think that your ministry is one of the best in terms of maturity of your faith in the Lord and also in the way that you remain steadfast in doctrine in a time of a vast array of fashions 'faith'. Keep up the good work! God bless you, your family and your part in the true ministry...**(P.D., Sydney)**

Dear Terry, Thankyou for 'Diakrisis' which I wait for every month throughout the year. **(J.B., Sydney)**

Dear Mr Arnold,

Thankyou for your newsletters. They are extremely encouraging. I am constantly deeply moved by your honesty and sincerity and willingness to acknowledge our need to consult the Scriptures rather than be swayed by how others have interpreted the Bible...It's not what the Bible teaches that divides men and women, it's what the Bible doesn't teach! God bless you for having such an inquiring and challenging mind. You are really blessed to question the staus quo...Keep up the good work and God bless, **(Y.R., Vict)**

### Praise Points

- Praise God for many encouraging testimonies received.

### Prayer Points

- The editor's workload is being stretched to the limit. Please pray earnestly for God-given regular finance to supply a part time administrator/secretary. If anyone can help please contact this ministry! (Some are already using our ministry bank account details (below) to make regular transfers. This helps enormously in budgeting.)

Dear Terry,...with a steady creeping stealth error and compromise of truth gathers momentum, at length to break out in a 'revival' or 'refreshing'...meanwhile in a much less manifest, less impressive way, simpler hearts which know the shepherd's voice, even in the midst of all the din, begin to recognise one another and gather together. Pastors and teachers that are not just hirelings begin to be made manifest to encourage and strengthen the scattered flock.

So we see your ministry and others like you...We have been out of the local AOG Assembly here for about twelve months now. Prior to that we spent the best part of two years gradually being displaced (I was part of the leadership) because we were not seen to be 'whole heartedly embracing the [pastors] 'vision'. Despite a number of talks with the senior pastor and the leadership during which I attempted to show the heart of the true Gospel and the questioning things pervading the church, all from the Scriptures, I was not received, nor was I shown my 'error' or 'misunderstanding' by men who ought to have been able to, but couldn't and therefore didn't even try. Justification for our being dealt with the way we were was presented, not from the Scriptures, but from the AOG by-laws!...We thank the Lord for your devotion to Him and your earnest contending for the common faith, with peace and love in Jesus, **(P.&J.B., NSW)**

Dear Terry,...please subscribe us to 'Diakrisis'. I have found these newsletters to be for the most part well informed and Scriptural. The task of pointing out error to fellow believers is not easy...Yours in Christ, **(C.F., Vict)**

'Firstly both personally and on behalf of all the folk at...I would like to thank you both for your love, fellowship and ministry to us over these past weeks. Its been greatly appreciated and a blessing to all of us...In His love,

**(A Church in Qld.)**

Dear Terry & staff...I am thankful for your ministry. In many respects it is another means through which the Lord enables the body of Christ to remain in fellowship with one another, through teaching, encouragement, support and warning...In His favour (undeserved as it is!) **(M.Z., Syd)**

### \*\*\*Website & E-mail - New Addresses\*\*\*

Website: <http://www.satcom.net.au/taministries>  
E-mail: [tam@satcom.net.au](mailto:tam@satcom.net.au)

### Terry's Itinerary

**May 30th.** 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. (07)54823535

**May 30th.** 6.30pm & **June 6th.** 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. **\*\*2 part series: 'Baptism and filling with the Spirit & the 'anointing''\*\*** Ph. (07)41289375

**June 20th.** 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. (07)54823535

**June 27th.** 10am Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. Ph. 0411489472

**June 27th.** 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. **\*Video\*:** **'Delivered From The Power of Darkness - A True Story'** (see P.4)

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