



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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Editors Comments

There is a widespread *delusion* in the church today. How do we know this? - when people believe that divine gold is forming in peoples mouths and falling from their bodies; when dentists expose the latter but it makes little difference to the 'believers'; when people refuse to read literature or sit and test their false beliefs; when people say 'you are wrong' but will not show you where; when people refuse to look at documented and irrefutable false prophecies and false revelations (as in P.5,6 July issue); when people see error but point to the truth *mixed* within the error and then use *logical* defences rather than Scripture; when people continue to sell books and videos by false prophets and false teachers even when shown the evidence; when people continue to support ecumenical evangelists who openly refer 'decisions' back to false religions; when people falsely claim healings of AIDS, Down's Syndrome, etc., and claim raisings from the dead, yet have nil documentation; when people see the rotten roots of a movement and still believe the system is somehow holy...yes, *there is a delusion at hand!*

What has become of the many warnings in the Bible concerning false and lying signs and wonders in the end-time? (2Thess.2:9; Matt.24:24). Does God now allow false prophecies to go unrepented of? Does God now allow mixtures - *leaven* in the lump of truth? Would Luther, Wesley, Whitefield, Edwards, Spurgeon, Lloyd-Jones, Tozer and any of the reformers, have called Roman Catholicism 'Christian', let alone send people back to it? Did any of these leaders have healing crusades or claim healings and raising from the dead? Compare the teachings of the above men to the plethora of the new twentieth century teachings and one must wonder what these men would think.

Today there are many who discern and even expose error in a religious system yet will not separate from such. They hang on to the last entrails but never really let go. However, if the roots are rotten, the fruit must eventually come to the light. '*By their fruits you will know them*', (Matt.7:16,20)? '*A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit...*', (Matt.7:18). Separation is not an option but a command.

The remnant who have '*received the love of truth*' (2Thess.2:10) already know this and have separated from the false teaching thereof. Some have found fellowships and safe havens where the saints are edified as part of the body of Christ. Some may think as Elijah - '*I am left alone*', (Rom.11:3), but God surprised Elijah with the revelation that seven thousand had not bowed the knee to Baal and that there was '*a remnant according the election of grace*', (Rom.11:4,5). Praise God for His amazing *grace* and praise Him for His Holy Spirit who guides us '*into all truth*' (Jn.16:13), and makes us *free!* (Jn.8:32).

Terry Arnold

Sydney Seminar on 'Tongues'

What are 'tongues'?; What are known tongues & 'unknown' tongues? Come and hear 'tongues' simply explained. An exegesis of passages in Acts and 1 Corinthians. **Speaker:** Terry Arnold
Date: Aug.14th (Sat.) 1.30pm-4.30pm
Venue: Grace Bible Church, Kingswood, Ph. (02)47363619 or 0411489472

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How Important Is Doctrine?

I recently did a Word study on the word *doctrine*. Many might be surprised at the number of occurrences in the Bible of the Hebrew and Greek words translated as '*doctrine*'.

In the Old Testament there are two Hebrew words '*Leqach*' (3948) and '*Musar*' (4148) used for the word '*doctrine*'. '*Leqach*' means '*something received, learned, instruction, knowledge, doctrine.*' It has the meaning also of persuasiveness in a good or an evil sense. '*Musar*' means '*correction, discipline, instruction, a checking, a restraint; a checking resulting in education.*'

'*Leqach*' is used 9 times and translated 4 times as '*doctrine*', 4 times as '*learning*' and once as '*fair speech*'. '*Musar*' is used 50 times and translated mostly as '*instruction*' but also as '*correction*', '*rebuker*', '*doctrine*', '*chastening*', '*check*', and '*discipline*'. Together, '*leqach*' and '*musar*' are used 59 times in the Old Testament.

In the New Testament there are three Greek words translated '*doctrine*': '*Didaskalia*' (1319) meaning: '*the act of teaching*'; '*didache*' (1322) meaning '*the substance of teaching*'; and '*logos*' (3056) used once and meaning the '*word*'. The most common use is '*didache*' which is always translated as '*doctrine*'. Together these three Greek words are used 51 times in the New Testament.

If this word is used so often in the New Testament, (13 times in the epistles of Timothy alone!), can we really afford to ignore it? Why is it that leaders such as Kenneth Copeland and many others can make statements such as: '*Don't give me doctrine!...Doctrine divides us; it's a waste of time.*'* If doctrine divides it divides because truth divides! Division comes because of the introduction of *false* doctrine!

True unity is based on truth, and that truth is based on the Word, (Jn.17:17-21). Jesus prayed that the Father would sanctify believers through His truth - the Word, *before* He prayed for unity, (Jn.17:17,21). Speaking of His true sheep, Jesus said: '*...they have kept thy Word...for I have given unto them the Word which thou gavest me; and they have received them,... that they may be one as we are...I have given*

them thy Word...sanctify them through thy truth; thy Word is truth...that they also may be sanctified through the truth.. that they all may be one...', (Jn.17:6-21).

Surely what we believe - our doctrine, is the bedrock of our faith. Truth is contained in doctrine. *Truth has boundaries, error has none.* The boundary is the innerrant, infallible and inspired Word of God - the Bible.

Today many leaders believe doctrine is unimportant and are critical of doctrinal teachers. But what do the Scriptures say?:

'They continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine...'(Acts 2:42); ***'Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause division and offences contrary to the doctrine which you have learned, and avoid them...'*** (Rom.16:17,18); ***'A good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the works of faith and of good doctrine.'*** (1Tim.4:6); ***'give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.'*** (1Tim.4:13); ***'Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the Word and doctrine.'*** (1Tim5:17); ***'If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine that is according to Godliness...from such withdraw thyself.'*** (1Tim.6:3-5); ***'All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction...'***, (2Tim.3:16); ***'Holding fast the faithful Word as he has been taught that he may be able to by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers'***, (Tit.1:9); ***'Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.'*** (2Tim.4:2,3); ***'In doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,*** (Tit.2:7); ***'That they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.'*** (Tit.2:10); ***'Be not carried about with diverse and strange doctrines'***, (Heb.13:9).

Sound doctrine will point to Christ and His character. It will point to Holiness and away from sin.

How important is doctrine? Terry Arnold

* Preface by Kenneth Copeland in Gloria Copeland's '*God's Will For You*'.

How Should Christian Women Dress?

'The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a womans garment; for all that do are abomination unto the Lord thy God.' (Dt.22:5) ***'In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array. But (which becometh women professing Godliness) with good works',*** (1Tim.2:9,10). ***'Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel. But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For in this manner in the old time the Holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands...'*** (1Pet.3:3-5)

Cross-dressing is common in today's western society. It is sometimes difficult to tell males from females!

In the New Testament Paul and Peter have a concern of *modesty*. Paul was concerned that women should not attract men in an immodest fashion. Men are visually stimulated. It has been said that '*A woman in a short skirt is either gross or sexy.*' One ministry writes: '*I just get weary of Christians who want to make excuses for their not wanting to be different from the unregenerate world. So many contemporary Christians want to fit in to the modern role of 'doing your own thing.'*'*

There is at least one key word to the interpretation of 1Tim.2:9,10 - '*sobriety*'. The Greek word is '*sophrosune*' meaning '*discretion, self control*'. A loose translation might be: '*voluntary limitations of one's freedom of thought and behaviour*' or '*sober mindedness*'.

The reference to plaited hair, gold, pearls and costly clothing is probably a reference to the fanciful ancient head-dress woman would wear. Some women wore hollow horns on their foreheads adorned with all kinds of precious stones. Sometimes braided hair would also be decked with excessive jewellery. The word '*adorning*' is translated from '*kosmos*' meaning '*arrangement, behaviour, decoration, fashion*'. Peter here is stressing the *difference* between the *outward* adorning and the *inner* hidden person of the heart. Peter does not necessarily say that hairstyles, wearing gold or any other clothing is sinful in itself. He is rather rebuking the extravagance in ornaments and garments that *stress* the *outward* adorning over the *inner* person. If we are to speak against hairstyles and wearing gold, then we would have to speak against wearing clothing. For this is one of the three things mentioned in verse 3.

How should Christian woman dress? - in a '*manner*' that will not emphasise the '*outward adorning*' over '*The hidden person*', and having '*a meek and quiet spirit*', which is precious to God. Terry Arnold * '*A Voice in the Wilderness*', 27/9/

'Holy Person Who Could Stop Traffic'?

'It is not only the Catholics who have lost a wonderful leader with the death last month of the [RC] Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, but all of England - he was a man of God who could, literally, stop traffic through his sheer **Christian quality**.' (Bold mine). So said Dr. John Newton, Moderator of the Free Churches Council in England, on the death of Basil Hume last month. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. George Carey, the head of the Church of England followed suit: 'He was rightly held in high regard for the leadership he gave the Roman Catholic Church and his dedication to the cause of ecumenism...[He was] the most prominent spiritual leader in the country.'

Yet, this man has drastically undermined the Protestant faith throughout the UK, and arguably increased Papal influ-

ence within Anglicanism more than any before him!

For church leaders such as Newton and Carey to call a Roman Catholic Cardinal a Christian and the '*most prominent spiritual leader of the country*', indicates just what inroads Rome has made in the rapid uniting of Christendom in Europe!

When the Protestant Reformation came to England it became the religion of the entire country and a refuge for those fleeing Catholic persecution elsewhere. Then came '*bloody Mary*' and a reversion to Papal authority, and finally Elizabeth who ended the Pope's power on English soil...it was all murderously violent. Christian martyrs died horrifying deaths.

The martyrs of that time are, in effect, being mocked by Protestant leaders today who join Rome in a new spirit of mutual trust and co-operation. **Mike Claydon**

Rome's Public Face

'When you know death is on the doorstep, why doesn't one rage and cry?' asks a reader of Father Denis Madigan in his column in the *Sunday Telegraph*, (18/7/99). The writer tells that she could not be at a friend's funeral because of a necessary medical examination which proved positive for a cancer diagnosis. Instead, she faxed the family with her condolences, saying: 'Sorry I cannot be with you today as I'm having an op. Trust you to beat me to those golden gates. See you soon, or if anything goes wrong, sooner.' She continues, 'Father, I am a lapsed Catholic, mainly because of the bad health I have had for some years. I think I knew I was dying for a long time.'

Why aren't I scared, why don't I rage and cry? I think it is because of the teachings of my church in the early days which kept me safe and able to cope...it makes me feel safe.'

Father Madigan, in answering, brings all the wisdom and comfort that Roman Catholicism can muster to the plight of this poor lost soul, and offers this advice; '*Like you, I look forward to dying as long as it doesn't hurt, I don't like pain. You have, in fact, explained your own side and the answer is obviously in your faith, even though you feel a bit lapsed. Just stay "as sweet as you are."*' And that, dear reader, is just how Rome wishes her adherents to enter eternity. **Mike Claydon**

Quotable

'Numbers of persons think that the Lord Jesus is available for the pardon of passing but they cannot trust Him for their preservation of the future. They trust the years past but not the years to come. Whereas no such subdivision of salvation is ever spoken of in Scripture as a work of Christ. Either He bore all our sins or none. And either He saves us once for all or not at all. His death can never be repeated and He must have made expiation for the future sin of believers or they are lost since no further atonement can be supposed and since future sin is certainly to be committed. Blessed be His name. By Him all that believe are justified from all things. Salvation by grace is eternal salvation. Sinners must commit themselves to the keeping of Christ for all eternity. How else are they saved men? Alas, according to the teaching of some believers, some believers are only saved in part, and for the rest must depend on their future endeavours. Is this the Gospel? I think not. Genuine faith trusts the whole cross for the whole of salvation. Is it any wonder that many converts fall away when in fact they were never taught to exercise faith in Jesus for eternal salvation but only for a temporary conversion. A faulty exhibition of Christ begets a faulty faith...when this pines away...who is to blame for it? According to their faith so it is unto them. The preacher and possessor of a partial faith must unitedly bear the blame of the failure when the poor mutilated trust comes to a break down'. **Charles Spurgeon**

Evangelism

'Evangelism is one dying creature telling another how to obtain a life which will last forever; it is one rescued soul telling another how to be delivered from the greatest danger that ever was.'

'The Bible did prove dangerous in the sixteenth century; most who read it carefully became Protestants!'

(*Sola Scriptura*', P.15)

What Do The 'Anointed Ones' Have To Offer Us?

Jesus warned of '*false Christs and false prophets*' who will show '*great [lying] signs and wonders*' to deceive Christians, (Matt.24:24). The word '*Christ*' in the Greek means '*anointed one*'. The literal translation is '*false anointed ones*'. Today we have people such as Benny Hinn, Copeland, Hagin, and Howard-Browne, who claim to, and are looked upon, as having a special 'anointing'. They also claim to pass this 'anointing' on to other Christians. Although this idea is nowhere to be found in Scripture, millions are being deceived by such teaching which is much closer to the occult than many realise. What do these people really have to offer us when:

- We are '*saved*' to the '*uttermost*' by Christ Himself, (Rom.10:9; Matt.1:21; 18:11; Acts 4:12; 16:30,31; 1Tim.1:15; Heb.7:25)

- We are now '*new creatures*' in Christ, (2Cor.5:17; Gal.6:15).

- We are '*complete*' in Christ, (Col.2:10).

- We have God *indwelling* us, (Rom.8:9-11; 1Cor.3:16; 6:19; Gal.2:20; Eph.4:6; 2Tim.1:14).

- We have been '*sealed*' by God, (2Cor.1:22; Eph.1:13; 4:30).

- We experience the '*fruit of the Spirit*', (Gal.5:22,23).

- We have been '*justified*' and declared (imputed) legally innocent of the guilt we deserved, (Rom. Ch.4).

- We are '*blessed... with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ*', (Eph.1:3).

- We have the right to '*come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need*', (Heb.4:16; 10:19,22).

Why should we attempt to get any 'anointing' from another human when the Bible says we *already 'have received'* the anointing '*of Him*', and that we all have '*the same anointing*', (1Jn.2:27)? Everything we need is *in Christ* and we can appropriate it all through the Holy Spirit and His Word!

Terry Arnold

'It Is Written!'

The great tragedy in the church today is that many top leaders, instead of standing firm upon 'It is written', doubt what God has unequivocally declared. The Pope, 'Christianity Today', Promise Keepers, Billy Graham and many other leaders, Christian universities and seminaries, have all agreed that God may have used evolution to create man. Yet, that theory, as we have shown, contradicts God's Word. Graham is surely the most honoured evangelical alive, yet he also doubts that the flood was world-wide, even though God's Word declares in the clearest language that it was.

Last Christmas, on 'Larry King Live' Billy Graham concerning Heaven, stated: 'If sex is necessary for our happiness and fulfilment, it'll be there.' Again, the Bible was contradicted... 'It is written' is our anchor in the storm of false doctrine, humanistic theories and worldly temptations raging around us. We stand secure and unmovable upon God's unchangeable, infallible and sufficient Word.' Berean Call, 2/99

Benny Hinn & Howard-Browne Roots

It was Benny Hinn who imparted the 'holy laughter' to Howard-Browne in 1991. Hinn said: *'Rodney, God has given you a great anointing for this. Let the holy laughter hit them in Jesus mighty name...its coming [zaps him]...Pick him up. Now release it on the people Rodney!'*

Benny Hinn & Roman Catholicism

In a crusade in Rome in 1996 Hinn was preaching at a Pentecostal conference when he began to praise the Pope and Roman Catholicism. The interpreter refused to continue and then the music group refused to continue. Later the sponsors of the convention signed a document against any future support of Benny Hinn and agreed never to invite Hinn again. The Italian Assemblies of God (AOG) also refused to be involved.

In the Australian 1997 AOG conference Hinn again made several references to the Pope and that he had had a meeting with a cardinal of the Philippines. Hinn agreed that he would encourage Roman Catholics to return and remain in the RC church. Why is it that the Australian AOG continues to support this false prophet and false teacher?

The Righteousness Of Christ

'To that righteousness is the eye of the believer ever to be directed; on that righteousness must he rest; on that righteousness must he live; on that righteousness must he die; in that righteousness must he appear before the judgement seat; in that righteousness must he stand forever in the presence of a righteous God.' (Robert Haldane, 1764-1842)

Rock Music

The fruit of Rock Music is obvious - sex, drugs and rock-'n'-roll. The roots are historically and culturally rotten - they are born in *rebellion*. Recently two more celebrities died early deaths: Rob Pilatus (aged 33) of the group 'Millie Vanilli' and Wendy Williams (age 48) of the '*plasmatics*'. Pilatus died of alcohol and drug overdose and Williams shot herself.

This music can kill! It is not just the words that can kill, it's the *beat*, the *spirit*. How can the church possibly Christianise this and make it spiritually OK? How can the church take something that is not just worldly, but evil, and then call it 'Christian' Rock? It's not just the lyrics of rock music that may be dangerous, its the particular *beat*, (a beat that dominates the melody and the harmony). How can we take something of the world and spiritualise it? Does God tolerate *leaven*?

Terry Arnold

Anglicans, Catholics & Ecumenism

'The Pope was recognised as the overall authority in the Christian world by an Anglican and Roman Catholic commission yesterday which described him as a 'gift to be received by all churches'....yesterday's statement...accepted that if a new United Church was created it would be the Bishop of Rome who would exercise a universal primacy. Dr. Goerge Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury,...said: 'In a world torn apart by violence and division, Christians need urgently to be able to speak with a common voice, confident of the authority of the Gospel of peace.' The 43 page document, 'The Gift of Authority' has been produced by the 18-member Anglican Roman Catholic International commission. After 5 years of debate the commission concluded that the Bishop of Rome had a 'specific ministry concerning the discernment of truth' and accepted that only the Pope had the moral authority to unite the various Christian denominations...The document does not specifically address the issues that divide the two Churches, such as the place of the Virgin Mary...The Rt. Rev. Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton...added: 'The Primacy of the Pope is a gift to be shared'. ('Daily Telegraph', UK, 13/5/99)

Editors Comments: At one time this would have created an uproar, and the Reformation principles, which were defended with the loss of martyrs blood, would have been re-echoed. Today this ecumenism is increasingly a foregone conclusion as leaders in almost every denomination run to Rome. The framework for the prophesied one world church is already here. The Roman Church is not so much dragging in its victims; rather they are running to her fold!

Demonology Gone Mad

(Sunday Telegraph, 20/6/99)

'A mother of five killed her four year old son as she tried to exorcise demons...The women...poured litres of water into the boys mouth and walked on his body...'

It was alleged the woman became 'possessed' at the Assembly of God Church in Bankstown...she screamed 'Don't touch me, no one is stronger than me'...She allegedly said to her son: 'You are covered with the blood of Jesus'...Segato [a helper] held him down as his mother poured six litres of water down his throat while Mika [another helper] held his mouth open...and [the mother] punched and kicked him...the woman later held her son in a scalding hot bath and poured boiling water on his face, eyes and mouth...post mortem revealed the boy drowned.'

(Sunday Telegraph, 22/6/99)'...she claimed ...Jesus would defend her against a charge of murder...'Jesus is my lawyer', before sinking into a trance [in] Burwood local court...The mother believed her son had been possessed by the devil after she lapsed into a trance at a prayer meeting...'

Editors Comments: Such reports are not uncommon. The practice of 'spiritual drunkenness', manifestations and extra-Biblical teaching on demons, now so prevalent in churches such as AOG, are an open door to the spirit world. A lack of control as opposed to the fruit of the spirit - self control, ('temperance' Gal.5:22), is a welcome mat to the occult. Excesses are further encouraged by many such churches also having extra-biblical teaching on 'deliverance'.

For real life true stories of the subject of demons and the power of the Gospel, see the video 'Delivered From The Powers of Darkness - A True Story.' This video dispels many of the myths that are being taught today concerning Christians, demons and deliverance.

Healing

I do believe God heals! But is God today working miracles and healings through people having the gifts of healing and miracles *like in the days of Jesus and the disciples?* Dr. William Noland, after much research, wrote: *'Two years ago I began looking for a healing miracle. When I started my search, I hoped to find some evidence that someone, somewhere, had supernatural powers that he or she would employ to cure those patients we doctors, with all our knowledge and training, must still label as 'incurable'. As I have said before, I have been unable to find any such miracle worker.'* (1)

This ministry has investigated many claims of miracles and healings of organic diseases. In *every instance* they have been inaccurate, grossly exaggerated, or rumours only. Although I believe God heals, we have repeatedly challenged those who claim the 'gift of healing', to use their 'gift' - as it was used in the New Testament. In other words, heal **'all'** (Matt.4:23,24; 8:16; 10:1; 12:15, etc.), and **'every'** sickness (Matt.9:35, etc), and bring **'all sick'** people that they would be healed **'immediately'**, (Matt.20:34). *If we are honest with the New Testament, this is an accurate description of the true gift of healing!* Will they go today to the hospitals just once and heal organic diseases *every time without fail?* Will they not heal a *Down's Syndrome* person? (2) Will they not heal AIDS victims with proof of blood tests?

Of the 42 occasions of New Testament healing, 32 were by Jesus, 9 through the apostles, and 1 through the seventy. In each case healing was *total, permanent and always successful*, and included incurable diseases, (Matt.8:3). Compare this with *any* of today's faith healers and *any* modern 'healing ministry'!

A close colleague of mine writes: *'After many years involvement with Charismatic/Pentecostalism I have never seen one authentic healing of an organic disease! I have been told of hundreds! So where is the evidence of claimed healings of organic diseases? So far they have not been able to furnish their critics with any sound or medical evidence!*

Why is it that miraculous healings, raising from the dead and other such unverifiable happenings always seem to occur in countries like India? I know a Pentecostal pastor friend who goes to India often. He openly admits that the demonic is more at work in that country than any other he has visited. Amazing claims of conversions and raisings from the dead in remote villages are myriad! He says the easiest thing to do in India is to get a 'decision for Christ' because they just add him to the pantheon of Gods in Hinduism! But ask them to be baptised and WHOA! That means ostracism from their family and perhaps death! He says that is the way you sort them out in India! I have listened to countless returned 'missionaries' from visits to India, over the last decade or so. Reports that come out of India must be treated with suspicion!...

...Questions concerning today's healings need to be asked and truthfully answered, but the modern Pentecostal/Charismatic hype does not allow for reasoned thinking - their motto is 'a man with an argument is no match with the man with an experience'. Many a Pentecostal Pastor has said that to me - how can you answer such? Perhaps the answer is: a man with the Word of God is a match for any with an experience.' (3)

Why is not everyone healed today in answer to prayer? The answer given by modern healing ministries - that there is either sin, or a lack of faith - does not agree with Scripture. Job had many similar questions, yet God never answered his queries. However, we do know that God is sovereign and allows sickness and suffering even if He allows Satan to inflict it. *God is always in control in sickness and in health!*

Sometimes God does not heal despite much faith. Dr. Paul Brand, in *Christianity today* (Nov. 1983), told the story of a 15 month old boy who developed flu-like symptoms. The parents, according to advice from their church leaders, depended solely on prayer and faith for his recovery. Over several weeks the boy got worse, losing his hearing and sight. He died with the parents still believing he would be restored to life. The autopsy showed that the cause of death was a form of meningitis that could have been easily treated. *Despite the parents tremendous faith and much prayer effort the boy still was not healed nor raised from the dead.*

The fact is that four out of five sick children in the US who die after their parents put their trust in faith healing could probably have survived with medical treatment. (4) *The healing epidemic, through 'feigned words' (5) is making 'merchandise' of God's people!* (2Pet.2:3).

Sometimes we see good reasons why suffering occurs. Suffering can make us more like Christ (Heb.2:10, Phil.3:10), and suffering may keep us humble (2Cor.12:7-10). God gave the devil *permission* to inflict Job but Satan could only go as far as God allowed. Sometimes we are given no reason why God allows suffering. For example, Mephibosheth was crippled through a fall and *never cured*, (2Sam.4).

God heals or does not heal according to His will rather than to any plan or formula of man, as the Word-Faith teachers teach today. In Numbers 12:13 Moses cried out to God to heal Miriam. God's answer was for her to be shut out from the camp seven days and *not be healed* in that time period.

Commentators refer to Hebrews 2:3,4 as evidence that the miraculous sign gifts were not present in about AD 68 as they were earlier. Here the writer declares that the message of salvation **'was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will'**. The word **'confirmed'** (*'bebaioo'*) means *'to make sure, to fix'*. In this passage the writer uses the *past* tense (aorist indicative) meaning *a specific time in the past*. The English words **'was confirmed'** and **'bearing'** show this past tense. The same tense is used in Luke 13:13: **'immediately she was made straight'**. The aorist with the indicative indicates *a specific point in time past* as opposed to the imperfect tense which, if used, would indicate continuous action. The writer has also lumped together **'signs and wonders'** and **'gifts'** of the spirit to show clearly that all these things were to prove the Messiahship of Jesus Christ. When John the Baptist asked for proof of Jesus being the Messiah, the proof given was the gift of healing and signs and wonders, (Matt.11:2-5).

The phrase **'according to His own will'** might also explain why some people in the New Testament were *not healed*. Epaphroditus was **'sick nigh unto death'**, (Phil.2:27). Trophimus was **'left at Miletum sick'**, (2Tim.4:20). Timothy also took medicine for his sickness, (1Tim.5:23, etc.). However, most believe that James 5:13-16, in accordance with the Lord's own will, is a valid method of healing for today.

Much is made of the Scripture passage in Mark 16:17,18: **'And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover'**. Firstly, Jesus was talking to **'the eleven'** (vs.14) and he spoke **'unto them'** (vs.15). Secondly, the word **'believe'** is in the *past* (aorist) tense and refers to *those who did believe, not those who would believe at that time or in the future*. Thirdly, all of the above **'signs'** in this

Scripture occurred in Acts or Corinthians, except the drinking of deadly poison, (which has a concessional *'if'* clause before it).

Some people use Scriptures such as Matthew 8:16,17, in regard to the atonement, to 'claim' their healing. D.A Carson, observed: *'The cross is the basis for all the benefits which accrue to believers; but this does not mean that all such benefits can be secured at the present time on demand, any more than we have the right and power to demand our resurrected bodies.'* (6) Redemption of our bodies is future, (Rom.8:23; Phil 3:21).

God healed miraculously to certify the apostles and their doctrine. Once the New Testament was closed healings were not required nor needed. The early church Fathers all agreed that healings and miracles had ceased in the field of evangelism. *None of the great revivals featured healing but only the preached Word of 'the faith which was once delivered to the saints'*, (Jude 3)! Even if one rose from the dead, unbelievers would not believe, (Lk.16:31). *Whitefield, Edwards, Spurgeon and Martyn Lloyd Jones never had one healing attributed to them - just collectively millions of sound conversions!*

Many have died because of false healing claims by Benny Hinn, Cerullo and others. The *Signs and Wonders -Exposed III* video documents with photographs these now departed souls! *Many stop taking pills for life threatening situations, believing they are healed by 'Word of Faith' teaching espoused by TV evangelists today, only to die soon after.* (7)

For years this ministry has warned of the false prophecies and false teaching of many of the signs and wonders leaders of today. *Most of these leaders have 'healing ministries'!* These leaders are deceiving millions with stories of healings.

Benny Hinn, Steve Hill and Kilpatrick (Pensacola), Morris Cerullo, and the late John Wimber have all been challenged to produce one authentic and documented case of an organic healing. No case was ever verified as miraculous.

In England a Dr. May, a Christian who does believe that God heals, challenged Morris Cerrullo to produce one case of healing. Dr. May who spoke at a gathering in 1992 to over forty doctors stressed that *'the healings of Jesus were miraculous in as much as they were instantaneous, complete healings of incurable disease...those cases [today] which appear to be instant can be explained and mostly belong to the realm of the psychosomatic...Jesus' healings were immediately effective...He needed no 'work up' and used no techniques of relaxation or states of altered consciousness...'* (8)

With difficulty Dr. May eventually received cases from Cerullo. On examination there was nothing to substantiate the

claims. Cerullo was expelled from India because people saw he was unable to do what he claimed. Dr. May also cited Jennifer Rees Larcombe whose best selling book and video make extravagant claims contradicted by her medical case notes.

Hank Hanegraaff of the *Christian Research Institute* in America once had dinner with Benny Hinn and asked him for his best documentation of healings. *'He sent three, and we had them examined by our researchers and they were all bogus.'* Hanegraaff said Hinn sent x-rays of a cancerous tumour that was supposed to have vanished...*'But upon further investigation we found it had been surgically removed, rather than miraculously healed.'* (9)

A syncretic, gnostic religion, embracing shamanism in the name of Christianity - a world wide church in which Satan will have reign and display many signs and wonders (2Thess.2), is making authentic Christianity look boring and antediluvian!

Never since the days of Christ has any period even remotely compared with the miracles of Christ and the apostles. We have no reason to expect that we can escape from sickness any more than we can expect to escape death! Those who say Jesus conquered sickness for us should explain to us why we still die, since He also conquered death! The fact is we are living in unglorified bodies of flesh in a world that is under the effects of sin and Satan. Any healing allowed by God is only temporary because eventually we die!

May we continue to sound ready to praise God for all and any claimed healings or miracles - but amidst the *'lying signs and wonders'* of the end-times, (eg. Matt.24:24; 2Thess.2:9), we should expect irrefutable evidence. Wherever signs and wonders are mentioned to do with the end times they are false or *'lying'*!

If a healing is genuine then it is from God and not man. But remember that God has allowed Satan a season in the end times of *'lying'* signs and wonders - not true ones. I repeat, for those who will accuse me of denying God, the miraculous, and the Holy Spirit, *I believe God heals!* However, *God is sovereign and according to His will, He will or will not heal.*

Terry Arnold

(1) *'Healing: A Doctor In Search of a Miracle'*, P.272. (2) Downes Syndrome cannot be healed by psychosomatic means. No such condition has ever been miraculously healed. (3) Mike Claydon, Sub-editor *'Diakrisis'*, Australia. (4) *Calvary Contender*, 15/5/98 (5) *'feigned'* ('plastos') - meaning *'artificial, false, hypocritical, deceitful.'* (6) *'The Expositor's Bible Commentary'*, Vol.8, P.267 (7) *'Signs and Wonders - Exposed'* videos (Parts 1,2,3) irrefutably document the devastation caused by Benny Hinn and others. (8) *'Reformation Today'*, March/April, 1993 (9) *Christian News*, 7/6/98

Miraculous Divine Healing? - You Discern!

'One crippled woman arose and walked, instantly healed. Another who had been in bed for four years with palsy was restored to health. This second woman had complete paralysis of her right side. She was restored to perfect health. A child, who was suffering from Brain fever and was given up to die by Physicians, was healed and after a few hours was playing about the floor. A woman had been ill in bed for six months, and her child also, suffering from the same disease. Her mother was there when the baby was healed, and was so amazed that she rushed upstairs and told her daughter that there was a man below who healed the sick as in days of old, by laying on of hands in the name of Jesus. This woman had not a moment of scepticism, and exclaimed: 'Thank God, then I can be healed.' [She]...and her child were healed in the hour, and a few days later she walked two miles from her home...to the east river for baptism, and walked home again, in spite of the snow and rain, 'the sidewalks being deep in mud

and snow'. [Others]...were also baptised that day, all witnesses of the three miracles in Redford Street.'

What would be your response to people who would denounce this healing ministry as some ungodly work of the devil? Surely the 'good fruit' of this man validates the call of God upon his life and should convince even the most hardened cynic? What right would the self-righteous, 'pharisaical critics' have in sounding an alarm and attempting to 'tear down' such a mighty work of the Holy Spirit?

If the 'good fruit' were the criteria by which we judge something to be of God or not, we would soon be in gross deception and cursed by God for accepting this ministry because the above account is a report of one of the early pioneers of the *Mormon Church!** The Mormon church preaches another Gospel, another Jesus, and are under condemnation by Scripture, being accursed! (Gal.1:8:9)

Hughie Seaborn

* *'The Story of the Church'* by Inez Smith Davis, P.230-232.

Baptist Pastor Speaks Out

To: Baptist Union of Qld

From: (A Baptist Union Pastor - name withheld at editors discretion) 30/3/99

Dear sirs, Samuel Rutherford wrote, 'I am not a little grieved that our mother church is running so quickly to the Brothel house, and that we are hiring lovers, and giving gifts to the great Mother of fornications. Alas, that our husband is likely to quit us so shortly!...'

Can I ask, has our husband departed or is departing the Baptist Union of Queensland?...is it the result of the frustration of the unbiblical condition of the union?

...In relation to [a former BU leader - name withheld], has he not led this union into a more 'Charismatic' position? He did reveal to the deacons at...that this was his doctrinal position.

Are we in the mess that we are in because we have departed from Baptist distinctives and we are tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine that comes along? Should we not return to the authority and sufficiency of the Bible? In so doing should we not counsel pastors who have Pentecostal doctrine to renounce their false and deceptive position of extra Biblical revelation, tongues, slayings, prophetic visions and all practice that brings dishonour and disrespect to a holy God? Should pastors who have had training in and are followers of Copeland, Hinn, Wimber, Kliminiok, Prince, Howard-Brown and other 'Charismatic' teachers be counselled to return to sound Baptist Bible distinctives? If they refuse to do so should they not depart from the Union of Baptist Churches?

Should we accept the worldly philosophy of Mike Warren and Bill Hybels? Has not this philosophy filled the church with the world and do not the Scriptures teach separation from the world? Sadly there is no difference from the world than from the church. Recently some converted drunks stated

that the pubs were more respectable than some churches. Is not the church a meeting place for the saints to worship God in Love, Truth and Holiness?

Should we not depart the non-Scriptural position of the 'Promise Keepers'?...A young student shared with me that a lecturer at the Baptist College of Ministries taught her that Jesus Christ could have come as a women. If this is so should we not counsel that lecturer that his teaching is not according to the Word of God?

...Can we control the prosperous vision of these pastors who are running their churches into large debts and unable to meet the loan repayments? The Union calls this vision, but is it not madness? I have just been advised of another large Baptist church that is on the brink of financial disaster.

As a pastor I stand on the authority and sufficiency of the Word of God. I am non ecumenical and non-Charismatic. If I were otherwise I do believe that I would be flirting and even adulterating with the mother of harlots and the abominations of the earth. Is the Baptist Union of Queensland in bed with the mother of harlots and do we need another Reformation?

I am grateful and thankful to the rich fellowship and the unity that I do have with pastors and Christians across the denominations who hold the same questions that I do...God still takes note of those who honour and respect His holy name today. Much of our worship is nothing more than disrespect, spiritism and blasphemy....

If we had have listened to [name withheld] would it have saved us a consultancy fee and led us back to the Bible? If the union continues on its present path will it be judged within the mother of harlots?

Yours for a return of Christ as head of our Baptist Union of Churches,

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, To the many people, who, like you, challenge the validity of the Holy Spirit's power and work among believers today I say: 'Look at the fruit of the Spirit's work and ask these questions?' - Is Christ glorified? - Are Godly lives in evidence? - Is the kingdom of God advanced? - Is there lasting impact of God's Word?

The answer to these questions in my life and in the lives of many in our church is, yes! Please open your mind to the reality of the Spirit in the church. Please remove my name from your list. Thankyou. (Name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors reply: Dear Pastor...Let me be very clear - we do not challenge the 'validity of the Holy Spirit's power and work among believers today'. We accept this fully but does the Holy Spirit lead people into false teaching?

As to your questions: - 'Is Christ glorified?': Christ is not glorified in false teaching, false healings, false works, etc. Look at what the media is doing to the church in the US. They are exposing the frauds with accuracy better than the church! Is Christ glorified? Look at the shipwrecked lives from the extremes and excesses we document - is Christ glorified? Is Christ Glorified in the splits and divisions caused by the 'waves' of the current spirit?

- 'Are Godly lives in Evidence?': Look at the TV evangelists and the rate of fall. Look at the lack of holiness in the church at large. Look at the rate of marriage break-ups and exposed fleshly sins within countless churches that have embraced the latest spiritual fads. Do you need documentation of these?

- 'Is the Kingdom of God advanced?': Is it advanced when there is an 80-90% 'backsliding rate', (were they ever saved?).

- 'Is there lasting impact of God's Word?': My answer is currently, No! I believe we have a 'falling away' as the Bible predicts! (2Thess.2:3)

You may be able to answer positively 'yes' to the above questions. But do you care about the avalanche of shipwrecked lives out there? I was once part of a church...that saw a flood of false prophecies and false teaching sweep in. I saw the wreckage. You may not see the bigger picture but trust me - I get around Australia and see the damage. Most pastors are blind to the mess and don't want to check it out.

I urge you to think about the 'falling away' and the fact that wherever you see signs and wonders mentioned to do with the end-times in the Bible, they are 'lying' or false!

I understand our newsletter is too negative for you. We make no apologies for exposing false teaching and false teachers. I beg you to consider that much of what is happening around you may well be a 'delusion'. I could be involved in many other ministries, but God has challenged me to this.

In all your letter you have not once shown where we are in error in any specific fact or teaching. This only convinces me more that our critics are unable to deny the evidence.

As you requested, we have removed your name...I pray that you will glorify Christ and may He grant you much fruit for your labour. Yours in His service,

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Mr. Arnold...the church in WA is in a very poor state. People seem uninformed about so much and error creeps in in so many ways, especially music - also the Alpha Course, Billy Graham,...Thankyou so much for standing for the truth. Why aren't more doing this? I am especially warned about the Word of Faith and Kenneth Hagin teachings. We have all the Word of Faith TV preachers on TV here - no one else. Many are sucked in. Also have Brian Houston and Philip Pringle on TV. Very Sad! **(WA pastor and head of a mission society)**

Dear Bro. Terry, I really appreciate your ministry which is vitally needed for a church that has more than become 'luke-warm' and is 'falling away' from Christ in an alarming manner. Thankyou for helping to keep so many on the right track. Be encouraged. God bless, **(R.B., Port Elliott, S.A.)**

Dear Terry...We here at...pray that you may continue to expose error and bring out the truth. Christian bookshops and the literature they provide are declining in number and quality. We need up to date and accurate information... **(Church in Picton, NSW)**

Dear Terry,..Words fails me to express my thankfulness to our heavenly Father in calling and preparing you to send forth his light in so many dark places. I have indeed been blessed and strengthened. Many Thanks...**(D.K., Sydney)**

Greetings! Thankyou for the latest 'Diakrisis', as thought provoking and instructional as always; keep it up!...A friend in [Large AOG church in Sydney]...had a total nervous collapse and was admitted to a mental hospital...**(Name withheld)**

Editors comments: This is one of many reports we receive each year of mental illness and manic behaviour. This is common in those who are involved in false teaching or false ministries, particularly to do with the Word-faith teaching and various movements within the signs and wonders movement, (eg. 'Toronto Blessing'). Any one who has worked with mentally ill people (eg schizophrenia) will tell you that many of them are 'religious' and often linked with Charismatic extremes and excesses in some way. The link is not coincidence but rather all too common. We advise all our readers who come in contact with such movements not to allow people to 'lay hands' on them. We have seen the devastating results of trafficking in false spirits.

Praise Points

- Praise God for the encouragement received from many readers lately. Praise God for those who continue in prayer for this ministry. We thank God for many answers and blessings received.

Prayer Points

- Please pray for provision and the voluntary labour necessary to accomodate the rapid expansion of newsletter subscriptions and the ministry in general.

Dear Terry,...You are right about Billy Graham. I saw him on TV when he paid a visit to the Pope. The commentator said that Billy Graham was telling the Pope he would be honoured to call him 'Holy Father' when he becomes head of the 'one world religion'. Call him Holy Father?!!! Sick....

...I heard that a Pentecostal person once said about a little church, 'you have so few people in your church, therefore God is not in your church'. One of the members quickly and wisely said to him, 'Well then God must have not have been with Noah either because there was only 8 people in the ark!'...The Scripture comes to me - 'Where two or three are gathered in thy name..I am there also.'

The hurt we had been feeling through ignoring, snubbing, called all sorts of devious names, back-biting, etc. by ex-church members, (who regularly partook of our hospitality)...we have now been healed...in His time. We know we were being tried and tempted but stuck to the love of the truth - not compromising - refuting the messages of services, when they were not Scriptural, letting pastors know that attending Benny Hinn shows for a high was 1st class accommodation in damnation...thankyou once again for helping to strengthen my faith even more...**(Y.R., Vict)**

Terry's Itinerary Sydney (Aug.)

Aug. 8th. 10.30am Allowera Baptist, Ph. (02)96276210

Aug. 8th. 6.30pm Soul Salvation Assembly, Rooty Hill, 96266502

Aug. 13th. pm (Frid.) Bonnett Bay Group, Ph. 95289011

Aug.14th (Sat) Seminar: 'Tongues' - Grace Bib le Church, Kingswood, 1.30pm-4.30pm (02)47363619

Aug. 15th. 10am Picton Bible Church, Ph. 46810227

Aug. 15th. 7pm Grace Bible Church, Kingswood, Ph. 47363619

Aug. 18th. 7.30pm. Wed. Little Flock, Fairfield, Ph. 96093210

Aug. 20th. 7pm Frid. Guildford Assembly, Ph. 98351513

Aug. 21st 11am Sat. Lethbridge Park Assembly Ph. 98351513

Aug. 21st 7pm Sat Church For Everybody, Marrickville, Ph 95588828

Aug. 22nd 10am & 6pm Oak Flats Centre, Woolongong, (02)42961569

Aug. 24th - 27th. New Tribes Bible College, Rooty Hill Ph.96258118 Seminars (mornings 8.45am - 12.30pm) on **Jehovah Witnesses (Tues); Mormonism (Wed); New Age (Thurs); Signs & Wonders Movement (Frid)**

Aug. 28th 7pm. (Sat) Church For Everybody, Marrickville, 95588828

Aug. 29th. 11.30am. Arabic Gospel Chapel, Kingsgrove, Ph. 97468526

Sept/Oct.

Sept. 5th Howard Baptist, Qld. Ph. (07)41294292

Sept. 26th Gympie Community Church, Qld. Ph.(07)54823535

Oct. 3rd Gympie Community Church, Qld. Ph.(07)54823535

Oct. 8th-10th: New Zealand, Lake Taupo Christian Camp, Mike Lloyd, PO Box 70, Taihape, NZ, (MILL.LANE@xtra.co.nz)

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