

## 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

As I move amongst churches and Christians within Australia I see an increasing 'polarisation'. On one side are many churches who are rapidly embracing the new and latest 'waves of the spirit', the latest phenomena, the latest prelude to the big world 'revival', or the next ecumenical endeavour. The Church growth movement, the signs and wonders movement and the ecumenical movement, are paving the road to a 21st Century church that is feeding the masses with entertainment, worldly music, 'miracles', psychology and anything else added to the 'Gospel' that might increase numbers. My experience is that most of these churches are in fact growing *by transfer from other churches*. People are on the move like never before, shopping amongst a smorgasbord of churches, seeking what churches have to offer them or what will titillate their 'Felt Needs'.

On the other side are a *remnant* of churches teaching sound doctrine by *Scripture alone*, or heading *back* to the Word of God from false movements. A common characteristic of sound churches is an emphasis on sound exegetical preaching, discipleship, teaching, and a boldness in declaring where the church stands on doctrinal issues of the day. Many churches that have failed to expose clearly their stance have suffered major division and turmoil. Churches that fail to clearly preach the Gospel and convict hearers of the sin nature are filling buildings with *tares* amongst the wheat.

It is my opinion that if ever Australia came under real persecution many churches would empty! This brings me to a consensus of what many Christians, (who have received the love of truth), are now saying to me. They ask: is what is being portrayed as 'Christianity' today really Christian? Where are the real Christians? How many 'Christians' are really Christians? One pastor recently commented: *'there seems to be many professors but not many possessors'*. This should not surprise us, as the Bible predicts this! There will be tares amongst the wheat. There will be many who will think they should go to heaven but will be barred from it, (Matt.7:21-23). *'Few'* will go down the narrow road to eternal life and many will go the *'broad'* way to destruction, (Matt.7:13,14).

Increasingly, when talking to Christians I have not met before, I am cautious about mentioning doctrine because *many* are steeped in signs and wonders and extra-Biblical teaching. When you question them from Scripture the conversation seems to degenerate and you realise you are *not one of them*.

Many Christian friends and leaders who were once seemingly sound have now doctrinally apostasised from their former positions. What do we think of this? Is this not God's purpose to reveal those who were never amongst us, (1Jn.2:19; Gal.2:4)? Were they ever true believers? *'...in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils'*, (1Tim.4:1). How close are we to the Lords return?

Many are saying: *'there is nothing to keep us here any more. I don't belong in this world!'* Paul too wrote that in our bodies we groan and would rather be with the Lord, yet we labour, teach and disciple while we wait, (2Cor.5:2-8).

May we remain faithfully in the Word - eating it like food, (Jer.15:16; Ps.119:103), receiving the love of truth, preaching it when it is easy or when it is hard! May we remain in love with the Lord Jesus Christ. **Terry Arnold**

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## Fellowship, Separation & Sectarianism

The Bible commands us to separate from certain things. The problem with much of the Christian church today is that we are striving for an ecumenical unity at all costs - including truth! Yet there can be no unity without the truth of God's Word, (Jn.17:11-17). On the other hand, some separate from the wrong things and for the wrong reasons. Worse than this, some of us take separation to its extreme and separate entirely from the church itself - *sectarianism*!

Separation basically means we are not to be involved with, or not to spiritually fellowship with, someone or something that the Bible warns us of. What does the Bible warn us to separate from?

We are commanded to separate from *false teachers* who cause offence to the true and original *doctrine* handed down from Christ and the apostles, (2Thess.3:6; Rom.16:17 Cp. Phil.3:17,18,19, see also 1Tim.6:3-5). We are commanded not to be unequally yoked with *unbelievers* (2Cor.6:14-17), who are involved in *unrighteous* and *unclean things*. The Greek word for 'unclean' here is '*akathartos*' and is used 24 out of 30 times to mean 'unclean spirits or demons' and sometimes of homosexuality, (Eph.5:6). We are also commanded to separate from *fornicators*, the *covetous*, *idolaters*, *drunkards*, and *extortioners* who claim to be Christians, (1Cor.5:9-14).

We are *not* commanded to separate from Christians unless they be involved with the sins or corrupt doctrine we have outlined above. Separation is not the Biblical answer to every disagreement between brethren! Neither must we cause our Christian brothers and sisters to stumble nor to offend them with a sectarian attitude, (Rom.14:10-13,21).

Essentially we must separate from: 1. *False doctrine* 2. *False teachers*, and 3. *Unclean and unrighteous people or things to do with those who profess Christianity*.

1. The Bible states that we must separate from doctrine that is *not after the tradition which ye received of us* (the apostles), (2Thess.3:6) ..or ...*the Words of our Lord Jesus Christ*, (1Tim.6:3) ...*and the words of the epistles*, (2Thess.3:14). In summary, our doctrine must be the body of truth *once delivered unto the saints*, (Jude 3).

However, we should separate on *serious* doctrinal issues rather than interpretations on minor issues. The apostle John says in 2John 9:11: *Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ...receive him not...for he that biddeth him God's speed is partaker of his evil deeds*. What is this '*doctrine of Christ*'? Previously in verse 7 John tells us that it is: '*Jesus Christ is come in the flesh*'. This is a reference to the incarnation, deity and resurrection of Christ - no minor issues!

Serious doctrinal issues are surely those *essentials* affecting the *salvation* of souls. These essentials should include the doctrine of God - His nature, His person (the Trinity), His immutability and His attributes; The doctrine of man - his nature, condition (the fall); and the doctrine of salvation, (its means through Christ, the cross, repentance and faith). More specifically the above areas could include:

- Belief in the *death*, *burial* and *bodily resurrection* of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The *deity* of Christ - that God became flesh, (1Jn.4:2,3; 1Tim.3:16; Col.1:14-19; Heb.1:1-4).

- The *finished* sacrifice of the cross of Calvary, (Heb.9:25,26; 10:10-18; 1Pet.3:18; Jn.19:30, etc.)

- That we are saved by grace through faith in Christ *alone*, wholly *apart* from works, (Eph.2:8,9; Tit.3:5; Acts16:30,31; Rom.4:5; 2Tim.1:9; Acts 20:21).

- That Christ bore our sins on the cross, (not in hell as the Word-Faith teachers teach), and that His blood sets us free, (1Jn.1:7-9; Heb.9:22; Col.1:14).

- That with acceptance of the grace (unmerited favour) of God we will in obedience, *repent* of our old sinful ways and *follow* Jesus as Lord and Saviour, (Rom.10:9; Acts 2:38-47; 1Cor.12:12-27; Matt.18:15-17).

- To follow Christ is to follow the Bible as the *inerrant* and *infallible* Word of God, (2Tim.3:16,17; 2Pet.1:19-21; Pr.30:5,6), and to *test* all *doctrine* and teaching by it and it alone, (2Tim.3:16; Gal.1:8; Pr.30:5,6).

2. The second area of separation concerns *false teachers*. We are commanded to *mark* them. This means to 'consider carefully and take heed'. False teachers are those who *cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned...* (Rom.16:17), and are *the enemies of the cross of Christ*, (Phil.3:18.). They will teach *otherwise* to the Word of God, ie. *another gospel*, (Gal.1:8,9). Today more than ever this is evident in extra Biblical revelations and teachings.

3. The third area of separation concerns believers (1Cor.5:9-14), and unbelievers (2Cor.6:14-17), who are involved in unclean or unrighteous things. These are listed in the Scriptures above and include anything to do with unclean spirits or demons, as well as homosexuality, fornication and idolatry. However, let us not forget that we are to still to take the Gospel to the lost and minister *to* them, (not *with* them). What would some churches say of Jesus who 'associated' with and ministered *to* the prostitutes and the tax collectors?

In summary we cannot fellowship *with* false doctrine (including false religions), false teachers (and false prophets), or uncleanliness and unrighteousness. To apply separation further than this is at best by preference and at worst to *go beyond the Word of the Lord...*(Nu.22:18).

It is sad to see Christians with sectarian and pharisaical attitudes to other faithful Christians in various church groups or 'denominations'. Our fellowship is '*in the Gospel*', (Phil.1:5). There is still a remnant of *local New Testament autonomous* churches in various 'denominations' who are faithful to the Gospel and are often earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints, (Jude 3). This is despite the fact that many others in the same groups have admittedly apostasised from their original doctrinal purity in the Gospel. However, very often these faithful autonomous churches *see themselves* just as 'independent' as those who would call themselves independent and separate from them! We are not saying here that 'denominations' are the norm, for it is likely that much of 'denominationalism' surely stinks in the nostril of God. There will also be many churches who, under pressure, will need to separate from their group as their 'denomination' moves down the path of apostasy into heresy.

However, Jesus rebuked the sectarian attitude of the disciples, (who *forbade* other works of the Spirit), when he said: *Forbid him not...for he that is not against us is on our part. For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward*. Jesus then went on to warn of the seriousness of causing unnecessary *offence* against other believers, (Mk.9:39-42).

May we find the balance in Biblical separation. In the essentials let there be *no compromise*! Doctrinal emphasis on the essentials is the wall that stems the tide of apostasy. In the non-essentials let there be *liberty*. In all things let there be *love*. Let us practice Biblical and only *Biblical* separation.  
**Terry Arnold**

## The New Age Movement & Alternate Therapies

Today there is a plethora of alternate therapies available. Some may well be helpful practically (eg. Naturopathy), but many are also convenient avenues for New Age ideas.

The Oxford Dictionary defines the New Age Movement (NAM) as 'A set of beliefs intended to replace traditional western culture with alternative approaches to religion, medicine, the environment, music, etc.' It is a collection of Movements of Eastern influenced metaphysical thought systems. Pantheism, ('Pan' - 'all' + 'Theos' - God: 'all is God'), is a common ingredient of the NAM. The NAM is fundamentally a mixture of religion, humanism and psychology. *It is basically a westernised form of Hinduism!*

The objective of the NAM is a *new world order*, a one world government and religion of peace and prosperity through political, social, economic and religious means. The reasoning is logical - to prevent a holocaust or resources running out. However, this method is exactly one used by God to usher in the antichrist, to bring a one world government and religion to pass, and ultimately *judgement!* In 1982 New Age devotees expected the Messiah, 'Maitreya the christ', to return, (see Matt.24:4,5,23,24). Many Christians today fail to see the Christianised counterpart of the NAM - *the Ecumenical Movement.*

The god of the NAM is *impersonal. Man is central.* 'Salvation' is being in tune with 'divine consciousness' and the *self.* Hence we have 'self esteem', 'self worth', 'self realisation', 'self development' - ie. *self worship.* The NAM is full of *Self!*

The NAM has no statements of faith because there are *no absolutes. Truth is relative.* Punishment is not eternal. Jesus is not the *only* way to God, (see Jn.14:6). Sin is a bad term. *The NAM does not reject Christianity - it absorbs it!*

Although the modern roots of the NAM are found in the Theosophical Society from the nineteenth century, the tap root of the NAM is found in the lie of the garden of Eden, (Gen.3:4,5) - 'You shall not surely die...you shall be as gods.' In the 1920's Alice Bailey fuelled the NAM with public teachings on occultism, mysticism, reincarnation and the divinity of man. Many organisations such as Silva mind control, Greenpeace, EST and the Liberal Catholic Church, now act as catalysts for the movement. The cult group led by Jim Jones, who was responsible for the death of 998 people, was listed in the New Age directories. He believed in reincarnation.

With the above in mind, what should Christians think of 'alternate therapies'? Why the connection with the NAM?

*Acupuncture* is based on the Chinese Taoist religion which stems from Confucianism, ('Tao' literally means 'the way!'). It teaches life from 'Chi' and the 'yin/yang' principle. Yin/yang are two *cosmic forces* interacting. The *yin* is said to be male and the *yang* is female and these interacted causing the creation of heaven, earth and man. Acupuncture teaches that

*Chi* as *Cosmic energy* flows through the body in 12 channels called 'meridians', (6 positive, 6 negative), and blockages or a lack of balance can cause sickness. The blockages are removed by puncturing the skin with needles at nerve centres.

Many Christians fail to realise that the roots of this practice go back to Chinese divination and fortune-telling. Any psychosomatic healings are arguably because of faith in the practitioner.

*Iridology* is based on the twelve Zodiac signs in the eye. Many of the gurus of Iris diagnosis, such as Bernard Jensen, a self confessed Rosicrucian (1), openly teach New Age ideas, evolution and pantheism.

Writing of Iridology, the *Medical Journal of Australia* has stated: 'The simple pathological fact that the retinal structures are directly affected by certain disease processes is overlooked...Iridology charts show the left side of the body effected in the left eye and the right side in the right eye. This contradicts virtually all other neuro-anatomical arrangements.' (2) If one suffers a stroke in the right side of the brain, it affects or paralysis the left side of the body! Eye specialists never use iridology. A study done on 763 patients who went to Iridologists for diagnosis saw only 18 (3%) successfully diagnosed, a result no better than random guessing! And what about blind people and Iridology?

Some use the Scripture '**The light of the body is the eye...**' for Iridology, but this Scripture in context in fact is speaking of not serving *two masters* (Matt.6:22), and *being a witness to the unsaved!* (Lk.11:34)

*Yoga*, ('Yo' man + 'Ga' God), aims to bring union between man and God. It is fundamentally rooted in Hinduism and is the manipulation of the body which 'releases' the spiritual body, (ie. Kundalini spirit from spine to brain).

*Homeopathy* was fathered by Samuel Hahnemann who was a Freemason and who practised mesmerism, (hypnosis). A distinguished ophthalmologist, Dr. Douglas Calcott, who practised Homeopathy for twenty years, renounced it as of the occult. Homeopathy claims that a few drops of concentrates shaken in a fluid has curative powers and releases energies and activates a vital force. The problem is that it can be shown physically, chemically and mathematically that there is nothing in the final dose but water.

Dr. Andrew Ferguson writes: '*I find myself recognising more and more how the Devil's lies have influenced our culture, our churches, and our medical practices, orthodox as well as alternate...I am unashamed to stand...in declaring that the devil is active in much of alternate medicine.*' (3) **Terry Arnold**

(1) A secret society similar to Freemasonry, teaching occult and metaphysical ideas. (2) 'Look Into My Eyes' by J. Stark, 12/12/81, P.676 (3) Forward in Roy Livesey's book 'More Understanding Alternate Medicine: Holistic Health in the New Age', 1988, P.116.

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### "Earthquake Prophets" Claim Miracle Gold Fillings And Raise Over \$100,000'

'Controversial UK preacher, Gerald Coates, renowned for his failed 'prophetic' prediction in Nov. 1989 that a devastating earthquake centred in the Lake Taupo area would strike New Zealand's North Island within two years, is now claiming the miraculous appearances of gold teeth and fillings amongst his followers. Coates prophecy was propagated by former NZ church leader Ps. Ian Bilby, [later involved in serious sexual immorality].

...At one meeting in Wellington people donated over \$100,000 in cash and pledges, the clothes they were wearing, as well as jewellery, including wedding rings, towards a 'revival fund'. This collection followed a spate of dental 'healings'. Some of these 'healed' testified and had their

cavities containing gleaming gold teeth projected live onto a large video screen for all delegates to admire.

A Wellington Christian business man, Mr Lawrie Cornish, has publicly offered a \$100 reward to anyone who has received a gold tooth at any of the conference meetings. The reward will be given on condition that the healing can be verified by their own dentist based on dental records, and also verified by an independent dentist...However, despite extensive enquiries and the help of a number of other Christian investigators, Mr Cornish has been unable to find anyone who claims to have received the gold fillings or teeth, who is willing to submit their dental records for independent verification. (Adapted from a media release, 15/7/99, Moriel Ministries, NZ)

## 'From Psychology To Christ'

'When I ask these psychologists what new truth they learned in their studies for that degree, that was not an old truth present in Scripture, they look puzzled and have no answer.

It is impossible to continue as a counselling psychologist if you have truly gone from darkness to light. Christian psychologists seem to believe they have gone from light in their Christian home to even greater light in their psychology studies. However, going from light to greater light is not the teaching of Scripture. It is definitely the teaching of New Age, of Gnosticism; it is Satan's old deception.' (A former psychologist, *Psychoheresy Awareness*, Jan/Feb/99, P.3)

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## Sydney Woman's Baptist Accreditation

'On June 5th, the Rev. Cheryl Clendinning, the acting senior pastor of the Mortdale Baptist Church in Sydney Southern suburbs, was accredited by the Baptist Union of NSW for her training, gift, character and calling to her denomination', on the recommendation of the NSW Baptist Committee for Ministry...six other women will be accredited later this year.'

(Aust. Beacon 7/99; St George leader; and New Life, 24/6/99)

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## Holiness

'If we sin, it is because we choose to sin, not because we lack the ability to say no to temptation...I once discussed a particular sin problem with a person who said, 'I've been praying that God would motivate me to stop'. Motivate him to stop? What this person was saying in effect was that God had not done enough. It is so easy to ask God to do something more because that postpones facing up to our own responsibility.' 'The Pursuit of Holiness' by Jerry Bridges, P.84, 86

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## Pope Says Muslims Worship Same God

On a 1985 visit to Morocco, Pope John Paul II, using Abraham as a model, told Moslem Pilgrims headed for Mecca: 'We believe in the same God, the only God, the living God...' (CN, 25/1; CC, 15/7/88)

**Editors comment: This is the ecumenical view - that all roads lead to the same God. However, the Islamic god is not the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ but 'Allah'. Islam denies the deity of Christ and the Godhead, as well as the crucifixion, resurrection, etc. The Bible says there is only one way to God through Jesus Christ, (Jn.14:6). One must believe Jesus is God to be saved, (Jn.8:24 cp. Ex.3:13,14).**

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## Benny Hinn PNG Crusade

'The recently completed crusade in Papua New Guinea by the Benny Hinn Ministries was a tremendous success. The Prime Minister Bill Skate, a Christian, personally invited Benny Hinn to come and speak to the nation...The crusade choir was made up of Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, Evangelicals, and Pentecostals.' (Challenge Weekly, 25/5/99)

**Editors Comments: How can this be deemed a 'success' when this man is a false prophet and false teacher? (see Aug/99) God is merciful and may grant souls despite the error but what is the command for Christians - is it not to separate from false prophets and false teachers? We are to separate from and not to encourage those who are not sound in the faith, (2Tim.3:5; 2Jn.10-11), and not to endorse those who deny the faith, (Gal.1:6-9). For years we have been warning of this man who has been responsible for many deaths both physical and spiritual. (Not once have we ever been challenged on our facts!) Yet in silence many still go to the slaughter!**

## March For Jesus

'March For Jesus' organisers in the US invited Mormons to take part...on the 22nd March...The involvement of Mormons was also sanctioned by US National MFJ co-ordinator Tom Pelkton...'

**Editors Comments: For years we have warned of the March For Jesus and that it increasingly includes false religions. Since when are the Mormons 'Christian'? Which Jesus do the Mormons have? What message does this send to the Christians and to the world? Mormons teach: Christ was conceived through sex between God and Mary and is the spirit brother of Satan; Christ did not remit all sins on the cross; the Mormon Church is the only true church on earth; Mormons can achieve the status of god; the book of Mormon and other books are also the inspired Word of God...**

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## Psychology

'No psychological theory has ever been invented by a Christian (Freud, Rogers, Maslow, and Jung were anti Christian). Psychology is the western worlds' disguise for spirituality. Psychology is the best the world has to offer...'

Harley Hitchcock, former psychologist

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## Billy Graham's Heaven

'Agnostic Larry King interviewed Billy Graham for an hour on Christmas day. He asked, 'What will paradise be like?' Graham replied: 'Everything you ever wanted for happiness will be there. People say that the Bible teaches there's no sex in Heaven. If sex is necessary for our happiness and fulfilment, it'll be there...If certain other things that we think are pleasurable - it'll be there.' ('Foundation')

**Editors Comments: Reader see Matthew 22:30**

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## Disney's 'Lion King'

'Walt Disney Pictures 'The Lion King' sold 20 million copies in it's first week of release for retail on video, and is becoming the best seen video ever, (27/3 Christian News). Millions of children who watch it will be at great risk. Though it is artistically amazing, its New Ageism, neo-Paganism, Hinduism, Pantheism, environmentalism, astrology, and occult imagery is devastating! Adding insult to injury, is a subtle but definite promotion of homosexuality. A homosexual produced part of the sound track. And two 'outcasts' (Timon and Pumbaa) represent Homosexuals and the 'intolerant discrimination' they experience in our society. The person who played one of these admitted: 'These are the first homosexual Disney characters ever to come on the screen.' Disney is indeed dangerous...' (Calvary Contender, 15/4/95)

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## Jesus The Only Way?

'Cardinal Arinze ...possible successor to Pope John Paul II has denied that Jesus is the only way to heaven...answering an interviewer who asked whether Jesus was wrong when He said He was the way the truth and the life, Arinze responded: 'If a person were to push what you said a little further and say that if you're not a Christian you're not going to heaven, we'd regard that person as a fundamentalist...and theologically wrong. I met in Pakistan a Muslim. He had a wonderful concept of the Koran. We were like two twins that had known one another from birth. And I was in admiration of this man's wisdom. I think that man will go to heaven...' The interviewer then repeated the question, 'So you can still get to Heaven without accepting Jesus?' Arinze answered, 'yes'. (Dallas Morning Herald News, 20/3/99)

**\*\*New\*\***

### **'Tongues' (Seminar Tapes)**

Recently a seminar was conducted in Sydney by Terry Arnold on the subject of 'tongues'. Where are 'tongues'? What is the difference between *known* tongues and *unknown* tongues? For an exegesis of the passages on tongues and a tried and proven method of teaching this subject, we recommend the 3hr. seminar tapes in either video or audio: Video \$15.90 or audio tapes: \$8 total. Seminar handout sheets are included.

### **The Sovereignty of God**

*'I have known men bite their lip and grind their teeth in rage when I have been preaching the sovereignty of God...The fact that conversion and salvation are of God, is a humbling truth. It is because of its humbling character that men do not like it. To be told that God must save me if I am saved, and that I am in His hand, as clay is in the hands of the potter, 'I do not like it', saith one. Well I thought you would not; Whoever dreamed you would.'* **Charles Spurgeon**

### **The Historic Slide From Sola Fide**

Martin Luther, the champion of justification by faith alone through the imputed (legally credited) righteousness of Christ (*Sola Fide*), said of this doctrine: *'Whoever departs from the article of justification does not know God and is an idolater...for when this article has been taken away, nothing remains but error, hypocrisy, godlessness, and idolatry, although it may seem to be the height of truth, worship of God and holiness...'* (1)

The slide away from this doctrine began like all apostasies - almost immediately. A disciple of Luther, Osiander, began to teach that the believer is justified by the indwelling of Christ and his essential righteousness. Others after him furthered this by seeking a state of absolute sinlessness. The reformers realised this was Roman Catholic perfectionism in different clothing.

The eighteenth century saw John Wesley emphasise sanctification although still believing in justification and the imputed righteousness of Christ. Wesley had been influenced by Pietism and sought a perfectionism through sanctification. He believed that no soul would retain the blessing of justification and developed a doctrine of 'entire sanctification', known later as the 'second blessing'. Wesley believed this second blessing would purge the soul of inbred sin, enabling the soul to feel perfect love. He called this a 'higher salvation' and *'immensely greater than that wrought when he was justified.'* (2) However, if one failed to persevere in good works then justification could be lost.

It is interesting to note that at the end of Wesley's life he confessed he had not attained his 'second blessing' although not all of Wesley's followers accepted this statement.

In the nineteenth century Charles Finney wrote *'Finney's Systematic Theology'*, still one of the most popular theology manuals in the Pentecostal churches today. He was critical of Luther and Calvin's teaching on Justification by faith alone through the imputed righteousness of Christ. Again, Finney's emphasis was on sanctification and God's work within by experience. His teaching led people to emotional experiences and seeking after a kind of holiness that was thought would be pleasing to God. Some American revivals fell into excesses because of fanaticism and extreme holiness teaching.

In the mid 1980's the movement described above eventually was called the *Holiness Movement*. The movement spread to England and found expression in the Keswick Conventions. The emphasis was on a victorious spirit-filled life. Again, the teaching of justification was arguably de-emphasised to the lifting of sanctification/holiness. Many such as Simpson, Torrey and Murray taught other experiences after salvation to obtain holiness.

In the 1890's the Methodist church took a stand against the Holiness Movement and many breaks thus occurred leading to holiness denominations being established.

At the turn of the century some holiness groups began to speak of the *'baptism with fire'*. It was considered yet another experience after 'entire sanctification'. In many such groups,

people receiving the so called 'fire' would shout, go into trances, and speak in unknown tongues. It is from this background that the Pentecostal movement surfaced at the beginning of the 20th Century. This movement attempted to reproduce events as in Acts 2 and can clearly be traced to Charles Parham and the Topeka events in 1901, from which the new teaching of the 'Baptism in the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues' was established. Parham expected the 'tongues' to be known languages as in Acts 2 but later (at Azusa St. 'revival') admitted they were counterfeit unknown utterances. The 'Azusa St. revival' spawned such churches as the Assembly of God.

The above new teaching caused a split between the Holiness Movements and the Pentecostal movement. The Nazarine church in particular took a strong stand and deleted the term 'Pentecostal' from its churches.

Toward the middle of the 20th Century various sectors of the Pentecostal movement began to embrace the ecumenical movement towards Rome. In the 1960's the Pentecostal movement had begun to reach into the mainstream churches and the Charismatic movement (neo-Pentecostal) movement was born. Unknown tongues was the uniting factor. It was an experience that transcended denominational barriers.

In 1967 this neo-Pentecostal/Charismatic movement made inroads to Catholicism when the tongues experience was passed on to many Roman Catholics. Since then Roman Catholics document the exact same experience as the Pentecostals yet many continue to hold to false doctrines of Mary, idolatry, the mass, etc. The experience was in fact not out of harmony with much of Roman Catholic mysticism, as these had already had such experiences centuries before. One Catholic scholar said: *'Catholics who have accepted Pentecostal spirituality have found it to be fully in harmony with their traditional faith and life. They experience it...some people have been brought back to a frequent use of the sacrament of penance [confession to a priest] through the experience of the baptism of the Spirit. Others have discovered a place for devotion to Mary in their lives, where as they had been indifferent or even antipathetic toward her. One of the most striking effects of the Holy Spirit's action has been to stir up devotion to the real Presence in the Eucharist.'* (3)

There is now a spiritual and even physical gathering of the religions of the world. The influence of the New Age and false revivals, (Toronto, Pensacola, etc) are making way for this. A pseudo Protestantism is marching back to Rome and undeniably the Pentecostal/Charismatic movements have fuelled the move.

If ever there was a time to teach the doctrine of justification/imputation, it is now. The doctrine of imputation was the sore point of the reformation. The danger, as learnt from the above history, is the emphasis of sanctification/holiness - the work of the *Holy Spirit*, over the doctrine of *Sola Fide* and the finished *work of Christ*. **Terry Arnold**

(1) *'What Luther says'*, Vol.II P.702-704 (2) *Plain account*, 7 (3) Benedictine monk, Edward O'Connor of Notre Dame University *'Pentecost in the Catholic Church'*, P.14,15

## 'Christianity Today' and Psychology

(Adapted from the *Berean Call*, 7/99)

'Christianity Today (CT) [best selling US Christian magazine] was founded in 1956 by Billy Graham (he remains board chairman), to 'restore intellectual respectability' to Christianity through 'a new generation of highly trained scholars'. Billy is pleased that CT 'has helped change the profile of the American church'...in spite of the increasing worldliness of that 'profile'. While offering some good articles, CT has fostered decreasing confidence in God's Word and increasing reliance upon scholarly humanistic theories and methods...

In 1959...36%...[involved] Biblical doctrine...three decades later...doctrinal content was...8%...In these three decades CT has moved...to a therapeutical constructed faith the central concern of which was psychological survival...the articles are single minded in their devotion to the wisdom that psychology and business management offer and apparently as equally single minded in their scepticism concerning what Scripture and theology offer for addressing the practical crisis of pastoral life.

CT even devoted the entire back cover of one issue to promoting a Graham endorsed 300 page occult/science of mind manual: John Templeton's 'Discovering the Laws of Life'. CT supports theistic evolution and Roman Catholicism, calling Pope John Paul II 'The successor of St Peter [whom] God has called...to forge a united church...[and whose] priority to the Christian message...endears him to the hearts of evangelicals'. [CT] has defended heretical teachers, refused to be corrected itself, and misrepresented its critics,...

...Moses, Spurgeon, et al lived long before Christian psychology was invented and triumphed gloriously without it! Comparing the lives of past Christians with 'Christianity Today' shows that Christians lives have not improved with psychology, but rather have deteriorated badly....

The issue is not whether Christians experience emotional difficulties, but what God's remedy is. He created and redeemed us, and the Bible is His instruction manual for living. Believers throughout the ages have found God's Word and His remedies sufficient in every situation. Why turn to pitiful and destructive theories invented by humanists who can't help themselves? Psychologists and psychiatrists have the highest percentage of any profession under the care of psychiatrists, committing suicide, divorcing, and on prescription drugs. Consulting them is like asking directions of someone who is himself hopelessly lost.

If 'Christian psychology' has anything of value to offer, then that means the church lacked it for 1,900 years, and the Holy Spirit, through ignorance or oversight, left out of God's Word part of what we need to live fruitful lives for Christ. The Bible, however, claims that it has 'given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness', (2Pet.1:3-11); and that 'love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance' are 'the fruit of the Spirit'; (Gal.5:22,23), not of therapy.

...I've tried that and it 'doesn't work' is a common com-

plaint. Is God then a liar? To the anxious, troubled, fearful and depressed, Paul joyfully declares that God 'always causes us to triumph in Christ', (2Cor.2:14). Only an uncrucified self prevents that victory. Paul testifies, 'I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me...' (Gal.2:20). Surely Christ who is 'our life' (Col.3:4), needs no psychological counselling! Let him live his life through you!

One of Christ's names is 'counsellor' (Is.9:6). Could His counsel ever fail? Christian psychology rests upon the specious claim that the Bible and the indwelling Christ are not sufficient...Christian psychology claims that the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, sufficient in the past, are insufficient today. The CT author insists that churches and pastors relying solely upon God and His Word lack the expertise to deal with emotional problems; the help of professional trained in psychology is required. Logic again deserts him:...'if my car needs the transmission replaced, do I expect the church to do it? Or if I break my leg, do I consult my pastor about it? For some reason, when it comes to emotional needs, we think the church should be able to meet them all. It can't and it isn't supposed to...People who need help are prevented from seeking it and often made to feel shame for having the problem. Thankfully more and more people in the Christian community are beginning to realise that some people need this extra help...Church leaders should get to know Christian therapists in their communities so they can knowledgeably refer people with persistent emotional problems.'

It is an insult to God to suggest that 'people need this extra help' which He failed to mention in His Word - an oversight which therefore must have deprived millions of believers of necessary help in past ages! There were no 'Christian therapists' to whom leaders could refer their flocks in the early church. Why today? It is equally illogical to compare replacing a car's transmission or setting a broken leg with attending to one's spiritual and emotional needs. The Bible makes no claim to deal with the former, but it does claim to deal fully with the latter.

...Other professions deal with the physical world. Psychology claims to heal the psyche or soul, and thereby intrudes into the realm which the Bible claims is it's sole province...the non-physical soul and spirit can only function properly in a right relationship with God, who is a 'spirit', (JN.4:24).

...But doesn't Christian psychology use the Bible? Again it is an insult to God to integrate the theories of godless humanists with the Bible - as though the wisdom of this world, which Paul said 'is foolishness with God' (1Cor.3:19), is a worthy partner for God's wisdom....

Psychology textbooks contain no listing for 'Christian psychology'. It doesn't exist. Why? There is no Christian founder of a school of psychology which is distinctly Christian.

...Let us steadfastly oppose anything which claims to supplement or improve upon God's Word and thereby denies it's sufficiency in all things that pertain to life and godliness'.

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### The Modern Church?

'[Today's] church indulges our desire to 'feel good' instead of responding to our need to be spiritually challenged and fed through solid exposition of the Scriptures. The electronic church in particular panders to our appetite for entertainment rather than authentic discipleship and maturity.'

'The Humiliation of the Word' by J.M. Hanks

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### The US President's Church

The Clintons attend a Methodist Church. This church pastored by Rev. J.Philip Wogaman is one of the 87 Methodist churches out of 37,000 that signed up for a 'reconciliation' program that accepts Homosexuality. Wogaman's sermons are often political and his theology is liberal. He denies many traditional teachings such as the virgin birth. (Source: *Indianapolis Star*, 22/4/95)

## Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry/staff...One question I have for you is the use of tongues for personal edification, (1Cor.14:2,4). I may have missed something in your informative article on a brief early history of tongues in the AOG. Despite much wrongly seeking of questionable tongues for some, there is still the genuine gift, which in 1Cor.14:2,4 is for personal edification, speaking to God with no understanding 'he utters mysteries with his spirit'. I realise this is for private use. Would you like to comment further? Keep up the good work...(P.M., Sydney)

**Editors Comments:** The real Biblical gift of tongues is *known languages* as shown in the 3 only historic cases in the New Testament - Acts 2,10,19. These cases of tongues were *known languages*. Unknown tongues or ecstatic utterances, (as were used by pagan Corinthians at nearby Delphi to their goddess), is not the genuine gift as Paul illustrates and contrasts with prophecy and real tongues.

No personal '*prayer language*' is ever taught in Scripture! No gift is ever for '*personal edification*'. This would deny the very purpose of gifts - to edify the body of Christ. We are '*not to please ourselves. Let everyone of us please his neighbour for his good to edification*', (Rom.15:1,2).

In 1Corinthians 14 verse 2 the unknown tongue is '*not unto men, but unto God; for no man understands him;*

*howbeit in the spirit he speaks mysteries*'. The word '*unknown*' is in italics and added to the text to show this is not the same as '*tongues*' (*known languages*). It has no purpose for man because no one understands it and therefore '*in the spirit* [small 's' - human spirit, *not the Holy Spirit*] *he speaks 'mysteries*'. God does not need words as he knows our thoughts. The whole of 1Cor. 14 is talking about *in the church* and not about anything to be used at home.

You cannot read verse 2 without reading verse 3. Verse three is the contrast and balance to verse 2. Prophecy (proclaiming, forth-telling the Word of God) is desired because like any true gift - it is for '*edification*' of the church.

Again in verse 4 we have the contrast. You cannot read half of verse 4 without reading the second half. The unknown tongue, (which was not the true '*tongues*' - *known languages*), may edify self but it does not edify the church. There are many things that may edify self. Eating chocolate, having a massage and emotionalism may all edify oneself. But such things do not edify the church. Paul nowhere commends this '*unknown tongue*' but shows its comparison to something better. Why would Paul commend the unknown tongues when he dissuades it in the church in other references? *No gift is ever for edifying self.*

## The Christian Democrat Party & The Uniting Church

Recently we were taken to task by a reader for publishing a letter critical of the CDP and the Rev. Fred Nile. The reader wrote, '*The CDP is a political organisation that is...bringing a Christian influence to NSW parliament...thank God that the Rev. Fred Nile is there. If more Christians voted CDP I am sure that we would all be living a better life.*'

As to Rev. Nile's continued membership of the Uniting Church and it's stance on homosexuality and other issues, he writes: '*There are many Godly Christians in the Uniting Church. The Rev. Fred Nile is one of them. What would his resignation from the Uniting Church do? Would a better approach not be that we all join the Uniting Church? We could then use the Uniting Church's democratic processes to sideline its non Christian leaders and ensure its Christian voice is heard.*'

We do not set out to vilify a Christian leader, a ministry or the CDP, or judge motives or agendas. However, we do ask that these people and their organisations sound a clear note of truth in their public writings. If they do not, we reserve the right to publicly question, and perhaps refute what they are saying. The 'Godliness' of the participants is not in question. However, if those professing to represent 'Christians' in the governing of this nation speak confusingly, we must bring it to light.

In a monthly publication titled '*Family World News*', (Editor in Chief, Rev. Fred Nile, Vol.6 No.3 March/99, a published vehicle of the Christian Democrat Party), spiritual confusion reigns. Under the banner '*Family news - in Brief*' (P.6) is the following: '*For the 'Holy Year' 2000 Protestants and Roman Catholics will jointly distribute Biblical texts in a modern translation to tourists*'. Page 7 in an item '*Unmasking the Media*': '*Martin/Molloy unbridled vilification of the Benny Hinn Ministries, declaring Benny Hinn the day's prize nutbag...I'm sure Benny Hinn would imagine his reputation was worth more than these slim pickings, but still, the vilification of a Christian ministry went to air completely unchallenged...just as well Benny Hinn is big enough to look after himself.*' Page 9 under a bold heading '*Will the Real Fred Nile Please Stand Up?*': a list of his 'projects' over the years

are documented including the organisation of Australian tours for Malcolm Muggeridge in 1976, and Mother Teresa in 1981.

Lest you think we are being picky, in volume No.6 of June/99 of the same publication, an attempt is made to downplay the extent of the Roman murder of untold millions of true Christians down the running centuries: '*Soviet persecution of Christians was the worst in human history...The persecution of Christians during the communist regime was the worst in the entire history of mankind. The Kremlin proceeded more systematically and more radically than even the Roman emperors.*' Whatever happened to the Papal Inquisition? Would it be 'politically' incorrect to bring this to light? It leaves us wondering just what is 'Christian' in the estimation of the leader of the CDP and the Editor in Chief of this journal?

As to Rev. Fred Nile's continuation as an ordained minister of the Uniting Church, and the notion that he is best fighting the apostasy from within, a read of the Uniting Church magazine and various newspaper articles should convince otherwise.

Recently in the Sunday Telegraph (18/7/99), two pages are devoted to the views of the Uniting Church minister, Rev Pamela Anderson. The headline is '*How Pamela Uses Sex To Sell Religion*' and says of Rev. Anderson: '*Instead of talking about sinning, she's talking about sex, sensuality and snogging...she's leading Sydney's Generation X to the Bible to solve their relationship., sex and marriage problems.*' Rev. Pamela says: '*The church is dying...The reality is that a lot of churches are boring...I have always found if I talk about love, romance and sex, my numbers skyrocketed...I'm not stupid.' 'My breasts are real, I have had no cosmetic surgery.'*

Our question is this: will the editor in chief of *Family World News* feature this information in his '*unmasking the media*' column, instead of the '*vilification*' of known heretics?

The apostasy within the Uniting Church is growing. Therefore, fighting it from within is pointless and *unbiblical*.

It is not our intention to discredit the CDP or the work it does. However, perhaps if enough CDP members began to question the ecumenism within their party's philosophy a *reformation* might occur, and the party could begin to present a more true Christianity to the NSW electorate. **Mike Claydon**

## Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry and staff, thank you for all the help from your 'Diakrasis' newsletter. I have been out of the Worldwide Church of God [WCG] for about 3 years. What a blessing... [My pastor] he speaks the plain truth of the words of Christ, not the so called 'Plain Truth' of the WCG. Changes have been made over the years but they are still keeping most of the Holy days of the Old Testament. But you don't have to if you don't want to despite old Armstrong doctrine. [Our church] is blessed in having 5 former members from it [WCG]. Keep up the good work. Never give in. The real Christ is with you. That's what counts above all. (K.C., Sydney)

Dear Terry, Some mornings I am up early enough to watch the last ten minutes of Benny Hinn on TV before going to work. This morning was exceptional. The stage was covered with empty wheel chairs - but where the people are that supposedly came out of them is a mystery that is never explained. At one point Benny grabs a back brace and starts waving it in the air shouting, 'whose is this? Stand up wherever you are!' But after a few minutes it is obvious that it is a stage prop...so he hurriedly drops it, and rushes back to centre stage! You have to watch carefully for these little slips, but they are there and they are hilarious! (Name withheld at editors discretion)

Dear Terry, Once again, bless you for your prompt reply. I am really enjoying the book ['Speaking In Tongues & Public Worship' by Zodhiates], something I have wanted to be confirmed for years - I am more confident to speak out bravely now... (Y.R., Vict.)

Dear Terry, I read in your March edition where PM, R.M. & J.P. castigated you for referring to the person of the Holy Spirit as the 'Holy Ghost' and they hoped there would be more consistency in your references to the Holy Spirit.

As you would know there was absolutely nothing unscriptural whatsoever in your referring to the Holy Spirit interchangeably as the Holy Ghost.

There are instances where Peter calls Him the Holy Ghost and where the writer in Hebrews says the Holy Ghost spoke. These Scripture references are... [numerous references]... God bless you in your ministry to the saints and the unsaved.' (L.M. Brunswick Heads, NSW)

### Praise Points

- Praise God for a most fruitful Sydney trip. Thank the Lord for those set free and for the opportunities to proclaim the truth of the Word of God.

### Prayer Points

- Many decisions are being prayed through, concerning the future of the administrative side of the ministry. Pray for guidance and provision to adapt to the rapid growth.

### Psychology

Dear Terry, Thanks for the continued effort in keeping us informed of the things going on in Christendom. The comments in the June issue on psychology are certainly correct. I was once attracted (or distracted) to this area in my walk...by placing the word 'Christian' in front of psychology, the enemy has had one of his greatest successes in seducing today's church. It has created a huge playground for those who are: 1. Not prepared to accept God's terms for justification. 2. Not prepared or too fearful to crucify 'the old man'.

It is an area unchained by the restrictions of God's commands and promises, where we can analyse, re-define, and re-name things to justify our sinful nature. Scripture tells us we can encourage, edify, and gently rebuke our brothers, and to examine ourselves. Nowhere does it tell us to delve into the mind and imagination of our 'old man', an area I feel is solely reserved for the workings of the Holy Spirit. God also tells us that through repentance, our life is forever hid in Christ; He sees the past no more. **'Though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow'**, (Is.1:18). Yet the father of all lies has convinced multitudes that they can clean up their sinful nature somehow making themselves more acceptable to God...I have heard many courses and leaders expounding these new theories of man, mixed cunningly with Scripture, all with promises of finding and releasing the real self inside.

Neil Anderson and his sure fired ways of release; Gary Smalley and his many personalities explaining our behaviour; the 'cursings to blessings' fiasco, bringing up your curses and turning them into blessings; the PK's and their finding the hairy man within, seven steps to this, and twelve steps to that; our pulpits and our churches are full of it.

The roots of this tree are rotten, ie. Freud, Jung, and the water bearers such as Sandford and Dobson, have ensured that it keeps growing, but it will not produce good fruit. It is reported Christian Psychology is the fastest growing and biggest money making machine in America today. We only need look at what is filling the bookshelves of Christian bookstores. Man has rebelled against Gods Holy Word and seducingly designed this package of 'non accountability' to entice people away from the truth...Christ is all sufficient to the Christian...Christian psychology is a false and easy Gospel, full of false hope, easy expectations and false salvation, nothing more than a glossy band-aid upon problems that can only be dealt with by Him alone..Yours in Christ, (R.R., Qld.)

### Terry's Itinerary

**Sept. 5th** 9.45am Howard Baptist, Qld. Ph. (07)41294292  
**Sept. 26th** 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. (07)54823535  
**Sept. 26th** 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. (07)41289375  
**Oct. 3rd** 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. (07)54823535  
**October 8th-10th: New Zealand**, (Tentative) Lake Taupo Christian Camp, PO Box 70, Taihape, NZ, MILL.LANE@xtra.co.nz

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