



Australia

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

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The members of the advisory panel may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed in this newsletter.

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### Editors Comment

In 1Corinthians 15:3,4 Paul details the Gospel as such: '*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.*'

This description is often seen by preachers and evangelists today as three points: *death/burial/resurrection*. However, two other vital points are often excluded or minimised to the detriment of the understanding of the unbeliever. These two points, *substitution* and *sin*, are seen in the words '*for our sins*'.

Firstly, this phrase '*for our sins*' is crucial to the Gospel. The word '*for*' is the Greek word '*huper*' and is also translated '*above, on behalf of, in stead...*' The meaning and context show clearly that Jesus was a *substitute* for us. Our sins were credited (imputed) to His account *for our* justification, (Rom.4). The neglect of this doctrine of *substitution* lessens the hearers dependency on Jesus as having done it all. This arguably leads to professing Christians striving to please God through works rather than faith. The true doctrine of substitution understands that although we are saved by faith alone, *we are ultimately saved by a substitutionary work - the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross!*

Secondly, the modern presentation of the Gospel has increasingly minimised the *total depravity* of man and the *consequences* of sin. Most 'tracts' today give nil or scant references to sin. Instead of beginning with the reason *why* one needs to be saved such tracts rather begin with the *benefits* of salvation. Thus *the cure is given without an explanation of the disease*. The results of such modern evangelism show an epidemic (85%+) of people who have made professions for Jesus and have unchanged lives and are not in fellowship.

Each of the five points of 1Corinthians 15 (*death/burial/resurrection/substitution/sin*) are integral parts of the arch of salvation. If one is deleted the arch collapses and *understanding* in the hearer is minimised or lost. If sin is not presented *before* the good news, the rest of the four points lose meaning. The *death* of Jesus was a substitute for the death we deserve *because of our sin*; His death fulfilled the Old Testament type of the sacrificed spotless lamb. His *burial* 'in the heart of the earth' was as the sign of Jonah in the belly of the whale and was *proof* of death. The *resurrection* then conquered the sting of death and Hell. Jesus was the great *substitute* for mankind. But none of this makes sense unless *sin* is the cause and driving force of it all. The sinless one died, was buried and resurrected, as a substitute for us vile depraved sinners!

We cannot appreciate the good news - the *death, burial and resurrection* on our behalf, until we *know* the bad news of our sin nature. *The order must not be reversed*. Modern methods of evangelism increasingly reverse the order or leave out the *strength* of the bad news of our sin. The result is that tares and false professions abound. The further result of this is to weaken the strength of the church as salt and light to an increasingly dark world.

It is a symptom of this age that we don't want to be 'negative' and so set out the poisonous nature of sin and show sin to be '*exceeding sinful*', (Rom.7:13). Yet God will not give salvation to anyone who does not know they are a sinner. The Gospel, and only *in its entirety*, is '*the power of God unto salvation*', (Rom.1:16). **Terry Arnold**

## Separation & 'Landmarkism'

I sometimes encounter churches who have separated themselves from all other fellowships that do not share the same views on relatively minor matters or do not have the same views on separation as them. Some Independent churches are particularly sectarian in their attitude to other churches, especially to those that might be a part of any 'denomination'. Many Christians in these churches will not fellowship with Christians from other denominations.

These churches invariably take an old 'landmarkism' attitude developed in the late 19th Century within the Baptist movement and today called 'Baptist Briders' by some.

There were three major movements among Baptists that fragmented themselves: The 'Restoration Movement' or the 'Cambellites' in the early 1800's began to see baptism as essential to salvation; the 'Primitive Baptists' were regarded by many as the 'spirit without the Word' and holding a hyper Calvinist position; and the 'Association Baptists' or the 'Landmark movement', of which this article is concerned with.

The Landmark movement was initiated by J.R.Graves (1820-1893) who was originally within the Southern Baptist Convention. Graves began to teach that the authority in the Great Commission (Matt.28:18-20) was in the local Baptist church rather than in the Word or from the Spirit. Graves' teachings became a heated issue amongst Southern Baptists in the mid 19th Century resulting in a formal division in 1905.

This teaching stated that Christ delegated authority to local Baptist churches only. (Only these churches were thought to have the authority to baptise converts. No other baptism was thought to be valid). Added to this came 'closed communion' (communion for members only) and separation from other Christians and churches which did not hold to such views.

The 'Cotton Grove Resolutions' in 1851 were historically the formal birth of 'landmarkism'. This was new teaching that created a new movement. Graves expounded seven 'marks' which included exclusive views on the church as a local congregation; church membership; baptism; and the Lord's supper. Preachers from other non Landmark churches were not accepted in the pulpit.

Bunyan, Gill, Booth, Spurgeon and many other great leaders did not agree with, or practise, Landmarkism. Landmarkism went so far as to state that the Baptist churches had a link of authoritative succession with the apostles - similar to Roman Catholic teaching on Papal authority. The evidence for this is of course non existent and not one Confession of Faith down through the centuries taught it. The largest proportion of English speaking Baptists actually descended from the Calvinistic English 'Particular Baptists'. The American Baptists also came from this group. Interestingly, these early Baptists referred to the 'pedo-baptists' (baby baptisers) as their 'brethren'.

Some Landmarkers taught, and 'Baptist Briders' still teach, that non-Baptists would be left behind at the 'rapture' of the saints and would not be seated with the saints at the 'Marriage Supper of the Lamb'.

Today there are many Independent churches that teach and practise such old 'Landmarkism'. Although many may deny it, nevertheless their *attitude* shows they think and practise it in various forms. This is evident in their attitude to even sound churches within denominations other than their own. (Such churches should perhaps look at their hymnals and see how many of their hymns were written by Landmarkers. If they tore out every hymn that didn't meet that criterion, would they have anything to sing next Sunday? And what about the Anglican Bible (KJV) they preach out of? And what of the

books on their shelves? etc, etc.)

The great Baptist leader, Spurgeon, broke all the rules of such Landmarkism. He was not ordained by landmark standards; he shared pulpits with other persuasions; he received people baptised by other churches; he repudiated the teaching that only authorised people could baptise; he practised a limited form of open communion; and he did not entertain separation from Christians with sound doctrine from other denominations. So too is the Holy Spirit not bound by such rules.

Still many Independent churches today say they are different to all other churches. Yet their Statements of Faith include such professions as can also be found in many autonomous churches in other denominations. One tract/brochure I read titled '*What Is An Independent Baptist Church?*' gave a list of '*Independent Baptist distinctives*' including: *Self governing; sound doctrine* (a list of fundamentals is stated such as *virgin birth, deity; repentance, faith alone; anti-modernism/evolution, etc*); *Bible centred; missionary minded; believers baptism by full immersion; soul winning; literal interpretation of Scripture; literal creation, etc.* (Most of these churches also strongly hold to using only the King James version of the Bible). These above professions are no doubt admirable but these standards are also entirely evident in many other independent *non-Baptist* churches, including some autonomous churches in various 'denominations'.

It is sad to see Christians with sectarian and pharisaical attitudes to other sound Christians in various church groups or 'denominations'. Our fellowship is in sound doctrine and '*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 in the same groups have admittedly apostasised from their original doctrinal purity in the Gospel and are a part of the false ecumenical movement. However, very often the 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 arguably much of 'denominationalism' surely stinks in the nostrils of God. There are also many churches which, if their autonomy or doctrine is threatened, will need to separate if their 'denomination' moves down the path of apostasy into heresy.

But what does the Bible say on 'separation'? The Bible says to separate from: 1. *False doctrine* (2Thess.3:6; Rom.16:17 Cp. Phil.3:17,18,19; 1Tim.6:3-5). 2. *False teachers*, (Rom.16:17; Phil.3:18.). 3. *Unclean and unrighteous people or things, even with those who profess Christianity.* (1Cor.5:9-14; 2Cor.6:14-17). Let us not forget that we are still to take the Gospel to the lost and minister *to* (not *with*) them. What would some churches say of Jesus who 'associated' with and ministered *to* the prostitutes and the tax collectors?

We are *not* commanded to separate from Christians unless they are involved with the sins or corrupt doctrines we have outlined above. Neither is separation the Biblical answer to every disagreement between brethren! Neither must we cause our Christian brothers and sisters to stumble, or to offend them with a sectarian attitude, (Rom.14:10-13,21). Jesus warned of the seriousness of causing unnecessary *offence* against other believers, (Mk.9:39-42).

*Unity* must be based on the truth of sound doctrine. *Separation* must be within the guidelines of Scripture alone. **Terry Arnold** (Reference: '*Old Landmarkism & the Baptists*' by Bob Ross, Pilgrim Publications)

## Exposing Error – Is It Worthwhile? - by Harry A. Ironside.

*'Objection is often raised - even by some in the faith - regarding the exposure of error as being entirely negative and of no real edification. Of late the cry has been against all negative teaching. But the brethren who assume this attitude forget that a large part of the New Testament, both of the teaching of our blessed Lord Himself and the writings of the Apostles, is made up of this very character of ministry - namely, showing the satanic origin, and therefore the unsettling results, of the propagation of erroneous systems which Peter, in his second epistle, so definitely refers to as 'damnable heresies'.*

*Our Lord prophesied, 'Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.' Within our own day how many false prophets have risen: and oh, how many are deceived! Paul predicted, 'I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter among you, not sparing the flock. Also, of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch.'*

*My own observation is that these 'grievous wolves' alone and in packs, are not sparing even the most favoured flocks. Under-shepherds in these 'perilous times' will do well to note the apostle's warning, 'Take heed to yourselves and all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers'. It is as important in these days as in Paul's - in fact, it is increasingly important - to expose the many types of false teaching that, on every hand, abound more and more.*

*We are called upon to 'contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints,' while we hold the truth of love. The faith means the whole body of revealed truth, and to contend for ALL of God's truth necessitates some negative teaching. The choice is not left for us. Jude said he preferred a different, a pleasanter theme - 'Beloved, my whole concern was to write to you an appeal to defend the faith which has once for all been committed to the saints; for certain persons have slipped in by stealth (their doom has been predicted long ago), impious creatures who pervert the grace of our God.' (Jude 3 & 4)*

*Paul likewise admonishes us to 'take no part in unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.' (Ephesians 5:11) This does not imply harsh treatment of those entrapped*

*by error - quite the opposite. If it be objected that exposure of error necessitates unkind reflection upon others who do not see as we do, our answer is, it has always been the duty of every loyal servant of Christ to warn against any teaching that would make Him less precious, or cast reflection upon His finished redemptive work and the all-sufficiency of His present service as our great High Priest and Advocate.*

*Every system of teaching can be judged by what it sets forth as to these fundamental truths of the faith. 'What think ye of Christ', is still the true test of every creed. The Christ of the Bible is certainly not the christ of any false ism...*

*Let us who have been redeemed at the cost of His precious blood, be 'good soldiers of Jesus Christ'. As the battle against the forces of evil waxes ever more hot, we have need for God-given valour. There is constant temptation to compromise. 'Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach'.*

*It is always right to stand firmly for what God has revealed concerning His blessed Son's person and work. The 'father of lies' deals in half-truths, and specialises in most subtle fallacies concerning the Lord Jesus our sole and sufficient Saviour.*

*Error is like leaven, of which we read, 'a little leaven leaveneth the whole loaf.' Truth mixed with error is equivalent to all error, except that it is more innocent looking, and therefore more dangerous. God hates such a mixture. Any error, or any truth-and-error mixture, calls for definite exposure and repudiation. To condone such is to be unfaithful to God and His Word, and treacherous to imperilled souls, for whom Christ died.*

*Exposing error is most unpopular work. But from every true standpoint, it is worth while work. To our Saviour, it means that He receives from us, His blood bought ones, the loyalty that is His due. To ourselves, if we consider 'the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt', it insures future reward, a thousandfold.*

*And to souls 'caught in the snare of the fowler' - how many of them God only knows - it may mean light and life, abundant and everlasting.*

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## Galileo and the Church

Galileo Galilei died in 1642 and was famous for scientific achievements in astronomy, mathematics and physics. Galileo once said: *'God is known by nature in his works, and by doctrine in His revealed Word.'* His brilliance made him enemies with the 'natural philosophers' and supporters of Aristotle. Galileo humiliated them with public demonstrations of their errors. For example, he proved, contrary to Aristotle, that bodies of different weights fall at the same velocity.

In 1609 Galileo heard of a new device, later called the telescope. He quickly put one together and displayed it to an impressed Venetian Senate. He then made some astounding discoveries that contradicted accepted beliefs. He saw that the moon was not smooth, that Jupiter had moons and Venus had phases and orbited the sun. In 1610 he published the findings which made him world-famous. He visited Rome where the papal court vied to do him honour. However, academic enemies induced Dominican friars to cast a poor view of his support of the Copernican discovery - that the earth revolved around the sun. This view flew in the face of 1,500 years of academics and current laws of physics. Rome came to view that Copernicus's views would be more devastating to the church than those of Luther or Calvin.

However, Galileo contended that Scripture would agree with observed fact. An Inquisition ordered by the Pope ruled against him in 1616 and condemned the Copernican system and forbade Galileo from teaching it as fact.

Galileo was later publicly flogged and sent to a dungeon because he continued to believe the earth moved around the sun. On the 22nd of June, 1633, Galileo was obliged to fall on his knees to escape death ordered by the Pope. He signed the following retraction: *'I abjure, curse, and detest, the error and heresy of the motion of the earth...'* The decree of the infallible Pope, Urban VIII, against the motion of the earth read: *'In the name and by the authority of Jesus Christ, the plenitude of which resides in His Vicar, the Pope...the propositions that the earth is not the centre of the world, and that it moves with a diurnal motion is absurd, philosophically false, and erroneous in faith,'\**

The false notion that the sun and all the heavenly bodies revolved around the earth remained official Catholic dogma until 1992, when the Vatican at last admitted officially that Galileo was right. **Terry Arnold**

Resources: \* *'Fifty Years in the Church of Rome'* by Charles Chiniquy, P.51; *'Christians Everyone Should Know'* by Mark Galli & Ted Olsen

## WYAM & Benny Hinn

'In Benny Hinn's Honolulu, HI crusade at the Blaisdel Arena on 1/10 - 1/11/02, Joy Dawson of YWAM appeared on stage with Benny. Prior and subsequent to this appearance she was also featured on his TV programs. On stage Joy Dawson was highly complimentary of Benny Hinn and his ministries...

Loren Cunningham was also on Benny Hinn's 'This Is Your Day' TV program five days in a row (a record for one individual) from 2/4 to 2/8/02...where he endorsed Hinn's ministry.

Plans were made, during the Honolulu crusade, by Joy Dawson and Benny Hinn for a youth crusade in April 2002...a main leader, a founder of YWAM, has now endorsed Benny Hinn.

Later that evening Hinn invited youth to come forward...he began to call down 'fire' from heaven. He put his hands on their heads, waved his hands...many fell down. The majority of the youth who came forward were from Third Wave and Word-Faith churches such as Word of Life, seeking the 'slain in the spirit' experience. The scene was one of utter mayhem as youth were knocked down and some laid on stage writhing and shaking. 'Holy laughter' was also in evidence there, and Hinn drew attention to that fact...

...can any church be enthusiastic about YWAM or Benny Hinn getting a hold of their kids? It's time for all churches to re-examine their ties to YWAM, not only based on Joy Dawson's endorsement of Hinn, but on other factors. YWAM's endorsement and advocacy of new unbiblical evangelism methods, where they send people back to pray in their Mosques and Hindu temples after they make a profession of belief in Christ, is anti-Gospel. They are also the main organization...spreading materials, books, and neo-pagan teachings about 'spiritual mapping' and 'binding of territorial spirits'.

We can and should pray for the Lord to open people's ears and eyes to the truth of the Gospel message and the written Word of God as well as send missionaries to that end. This is being done with far more real quality results than the 'spir-

itual warfare' methods of YWAM...

...When 'Christians' start marching around cities, making little icons (voodoo dolls?) of churches and pastors to 'visualize' them better (I have those materials as taught in the recent ACSI training conference at Red Hill Assemblies by YWAM Preschool Resource Team teacher Jan Moody), driving stakes in the ground,...holding hands and praying in the four directions of the compass...those are clearly occult pagan techniques. Just like the Israelites who went in disobedience to the high places to worship 'the Husband' (first the Lord then Baal), many churches today are offering up worship and prayers that only benefit the deceptions of the enemy instead of the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many pastors and church leaders, particularly in the Third World, are now accepting the advice of youth in YWAM who have been misled and mistaught by their YWAM leaders. I see it happening all over the Pacific islands...YWAM misled youth have been handing out heretical books, taking people to Brownsville-type meetings and thereby causing people to leave their churches for Third Wave churches, starting 'spiritual warfare' prayer meetings in churches using their unbiblical techniques, and showing patently false and misleading videos like 'Transformations', and this all in churches and with pastors under whom they agreed to be in accountability...Pastors and church leaders need to stop listening to YWAM youth and get the facts.

The YWAM/Hinn connection is so serious that...missions and churches re-examine their relationship to YWAM on this basis and the other issues raised on our site. We believe that any discerning church should not send their kids to YWAM while they continue to promote false spiritual warfare teachings, false doctrines, false prophesies, and false practice. There are other youth organizations without ties to false prophets like Benny Hinn.

('Joy Dawson Of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Joins Forces With Benny Hinn' by Sandy Simpson, Jan.28th/02)

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### Holiness

'Paul said, 'Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of your sinful nature,' (Gal.5:16). To live by the Spirit is to live both in obedience to and dependance on the Holy Spirit. There is a balance then between our wills (expressed by obedience) and our faith (expressed by our dependance)...We have to learn that we are dependant upon the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to attain any degree of holiness. Then as we look to Him, we will see Him working in us - revealing our sin, creating a desire for holiness, and giving us the strength to respond to Him in obedience.'

(The Pursuit of Holiness, by Jerry Bridges, P.79,80)

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### Quotable

'Some people say we belong to such-and-such a church, but we don't approve of its teachings or its practice. What! You belong to it, yet you do not approve of its principles? Out of your mouth you are condemned. If I unite with a church whose creed I do not believe, I am guilty of my own share in all the error that is there. It is no use for me to say, 'I am trying to undo the mischief.' I have no business to be there'.

Charles Spurgeon

A person is never so empty as when he is full of self

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### Answers in Genesis

'No one would doubt the good and effective work which the 'Answers in Genesis' team does in Australia. But one must raise a note of concern when they continue to give credence to the Seventh Day Adventist movement. Such is a sect which was founded by Mrs Ellen G. White, author of 'The Great Controversy'... (Aust. Beacon, Feb/2002)

**Editors Comment: This questionable comment has been raised at times to us. We continue to support the excellent work of Answers in Genesis (AIG) which is much needed in this day of evolutionary views and unbelief. However, we also are concerned by reports of the apparent association/acceptance of the SDA movement by some in AIG. One AIG State Director was critical and disbelieving of our article in July/Aug 2001 and defended the SDA movement as Christian. (See our later article citing SDA's own sources - Nov/Dec/2001). It must be stated that not all in AIG hold to the same view of the SDA movement.**

Sadly, the lack of discernment to do with what SDA really teaches is increasing.

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### Did You know?

Psalm 119 in the original Hebrew has the first eight verses all beginning with the first letter of the alphabet. Psalm 119 contains 22 stanzas of eight verses each, with all verses in a stanza beginning with the same successive letter in the Hebrew alphabet.

## A Twentieth Century Delusion!

In 1901 a Charles Parham exhorted a group of Bible college students at Topeka, USA, to experience the same events as described in Acts 2. After some days, one lady, Agnus Ozeman\*, spoke in what was thought to be a *known* language. However, it was in fact an ecstatic *unknown* tongue - a counterfeit of Acts 2:6-11. This was later proved by linguists and *accepted by Parham*. This counterfeit experience spread to some of the other students including a black man, William Seymour.

In 1906, Seymour, after being banned from a Nazarine holiness church for preaching 'heresy', began meetings at 312 Azusa St, Los Angeles. The work grew quickly but Seymour requested Parham come to assess possible extremes and excesses. Parham avoided this invitation for some time but did eventually travel to Azusa St. to find: *'hypnotic influences, familiar spirit influences, spiritualistic influences, mesmeric influences and all kinds of spells and spasms, falling in trances, etc. All of these things are foreign to and unknown [to the Apostolic Faith [Pentecostal] movement] outside of Los Angeles, except in the places visited by the workers sent out from this city.'* (1) Parham later denounced the movement as a case of *'awful fits and spasms'* and of *'holy rollers and hypnotists'*. (2) This account was backed up by the newspaper *Los Angeles Times*, (April 18th., 1906, P.1): *'Meetings are held [at] Azusa St...and the devotees of the weird doctrines practice the most fanatical rites, preach the wildest theories, and work themselves into a state of wild excitement in their peculiar zeal...And the night is made hideous in the neighbourhood by the howlings of the worshippers who spend hours swaying forth and back in a nerve-racking attitude of prayer and supplication. They claim to have the gift of tongues and to be able to comprehend the babble.'* Another source stated: *'Our missionaries have been stationed at Los Angeles during the whole history of the tongues movement, and have watched it closely from the very first outbreak in Seymour's meetings; and truly, conditions have been such that it would be impossible to publish the things that have occurred there. The familiarity between sexes in the public meetings has been shocking, to say the least. Hell has reaped an awful harvest and infidelity has become more strongly rooted on the Pacific Coast than ever before.'* (3)

The Azusa St mission was closed in 1911.

Parham was later involved in heresies and scandals including being charged with the act of homosexuality. However, he consistently denied the unknown tongue experiences were from God and stated they were counterfeit. Despite this, the experience which gained a foothold at Azusa St. had already spread to many parts of the country and a new doctrine of a *subsequent* 'baptism with the Spirit' with the evidence of unknown tongues became rooted in the new Pentecostal movement that was formed from it. This new teaching was never a part of the historic faith once delivered to the saints, nor the church fathers, nor thereafter for 1900 years.

Today this teaching has gained much ground in mainline churches as Scriptures are wrenched from their moorings to fit an experiential phenomena.

I once read an advert in the *New Life* newspaper which read: *'What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?'* An address was given to receive information. The pamphlet I received was typical of the clever but false teaching often associated with 'The baptism with the spirit'. The pamphlet expounded the idea that the *'promise of the father'* (Lk.24:49; Acts 1:4,5, etc) was the 'Baptism with the Spirit' as a *subsequent* experience. However, the book of Acts shows clearly that the

'promise' was the *Holy Spirit Himself* coming systematically and chronologically to the *Jews* in Acts 2, the *Samaritans* in Acts 8, the *Gentiles* in Acts 10 and to the *'uttermost parts'* in Acts 19. What many fail to realise is that *none of these groups of people had ever received the indwelling Holy Spirit prior to these events!* All were *first time* experiences in receiving the *promise* of the *indwelling* Holy Spirit. This was the 'Baptism with the spirit' - the Holy Spirit who could not come until after Jesus ascension and glorification, (Jn.16:7).

The pamphlet went on to teach: *'The Baptism is the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon us'*. The 'us' is supposedly modern day Christians. However, the people in Acts 2,8,10 and 19 had *not previously been indwelt*.

How can the Holy Spirit today come a second time when we already are indwelt by Him as the temple of the Holy Spirit? To expect a second work of the Holy Spirit from *outside* is actually more occultic than Christian. We are not here denying a 'filling' with the Spirit, but that filling is done *from within* by the *already indwelling* Holy Spirit, (Eph.5:18). The whole teaching of the Baptism with the spirit as a *subsequent* experience ignores the historical and unique giving of the 'promise' - the indwelling Holy Spirit. This 'promise' was the coming of the Holy Spirit for the first time in history to indwell those who would believe. Each group in Acts 2,8,10,19 *heard the Gospel*. In Acts 2 they *'repented'*. In Acts 8 they *'believed'*. In Acts 19 they *'received'*.

The pamphlet then went on to add error to error by connecting *unknown* tongues as evidence of this so called *subsequent* experience. However the tongues in Acts 2,10 and 19 (no tongues are mentioned in Acts 8) were *known earthly human languages*, (see Acts 2:8-11). To escape this fact the pamphlet says there are *known* tongues of men and *unknown* tongues of angels, quoting 1Corinthians 13:1. However, in every Bible instance Angels always spoke *known* languages that were *understood* by the hearers!

The tragedy of this false teaching is that sincere Christians are seeking something the Scriptures *never* offer. This seeking denies the already existent indwelling Holy Spirit and His work of sealing and filling in their lives. It opens the door to occultic activity.

There is also today much confusion in teaching that equates the 'filling' (Eph.5:18) with the 'baptism with the spirit', which occurs at salvation (1Cor.12:13). The filling is a *continuous* control by the Holy Spirit - who is *already within* us. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit. We are never commanded to be baptised with the Spirit! It is not a matter of seeking more of the Holy Spirit but rather the Holy Spirit having more of us! How it must grieve the Holy Spirit when we seek something to come *upon* us when he already *indwells* us!

The turn of the Twentieth Century saw a massive *delusion* with *new* teaching on the Holy Spirit. May we rest in the *'promise'* that is given to us *'by faith'* when we *'believed'*, (Gal.3:14,22). **Terry Arnold**

(TA Ministries PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, 4655)

(See article 'The Baptism & Filling with the Spirit' (Aug/Sept. 2000); our paper '*Pentecostal/Tongues Roots - The Amazing Facts*'; or the book '*Tongues & The Baptism With the Spirit*' by the author).

\*Agnus Ozeman was a 30 year old unmarried '*holiness enthusiast*' from Nebraska. She had already had this ecstatic experience prior and had a reputation of wandering around the country seeking the mystical and sensational.

(1) '*The life of Charles Parham*' by Sarah Parham, P.168.

(2) '*The Holiness Pentecostal Movement in the United States*' by Vinson Synan, P.112 (3) '*Demons and Tongues*' P. 82.

## **Benny Hinn - Lest We Forget**

(This is a *small proportion* of the false prophecies of Benny Hinn in the last decade)

# (Florida, Jan/90) *The Lord says this year [1990] in Orlando, Florida, in the USA you will see new ministries that are going to rise...when they speak you will recognise the anointing. Yes, they will even go into the high schools of America and bring back God into the classrooms. The lord says it will not be easy but this is a new breed of fighters and they will even affect the...people in Washington DC...*

#...*The Lord says that two of His great giants will die in the mid-90's. They have held the torch of revival for the last 40 years these two. One of them has been to this church and the other has not. One of them will die quite suddenly while asleep, and the other will die with sickness, and as both of these giants die, which will be in the mid -90's, I will shake this world with a last revival...the new move of God will begin, which I have promised...You are going to see what your eyes have never seen, you are going to hear what your ears have never heard...you will see many raised from the dead in that day. There will be many visitations of angels...*

#...*The Lord also tells me to tell you that in the mid-90's about 1994 or 1995, but no later than that, God will destroy the homosexual community of America...he will destroy it with fire...*

#...*God tells me to tell you that a totally new disease will appear on the scene unknown to mankind and it will kill many. The spirit of God tells me to tell you that there is a demon spirit - his name is 'apollyon'...and he will come from...South America into America and will plague many...*

#...*The economy of the United States is going to fall...Japan will turn away from America, and America will stand alone economically, and will be rejected by the nations...I will bring America to her knees and I will visit her one more time...The allies that she depends upon will turn their backs...*

#...*Canada will be visited with a mighty revival that will start in the west coast of British Columbia...It will sweep across even Alaska...It will break loose in the next three years...*

#...*The spirit of God tells me that an earthquake will hit the east coast...not one place will be safe from earthquakes in the nineties...people, I feel the spirit all over me - enveloping me...*

#...*The spirit tells me that Fidel Castro will die in the nineties...'I will visit Cuba', the Lord says. [Benny 'sees' something in the spirit] Holy Spirit, do you mean that he will die physically? The Holy Spirit just said that it will be worse than any death you can imagine - what kind of death? I see Castro bent over behind bars...A world dictator is coming on the scene, the world scene! I see a short man, he's a short man...who is the perfect incarnation of Satan...Never in all my life have I ever had anything happen to me like whats happening to me right now...'*

# (Jan 6th/91) *'...I see an angel...he's quite a mighty being. I see a flaming sword in his hand...he must be the size of the tallest building I've ever seen...I'm not sure I can stand [long pause] He's wearing a garment like the Roman soldiers...the sword is over America and the Lord is telling me that the judgement that he began in the house of the Lord is over but the judgement is about to begin in America...The Holy Ghost just said, 'Woe be to the wicked.'...I just see a women holding up the angel's hand. God says she's holding him back from judging...The Lord just said to me 'Those that have murdered babies will be struck by a plague that's only in America...*

#...*The Holy Ghost just said this to me: 'My people don't realise the prosperity coming...I see thousands of thousands of drug addicts coming to the Lord in this move of the spirit...I see multiplied thousands being set free from AIDS...I see the people of God being slain by the power of Jesus Christ...Miracles are about to break loose with Kenneth Copeland...I see Larry Lea shaking England. I see Maurice Cerullo having Holy Ghost revivals all over America...I see P.&J.Crouch...I see him with a TV station in China, Peking...There's a revival coming to South Africa...The Lord also told me that every believer that's kept quiet will be punished for his quietness...lift your hands up, there's something happening in the spirit, its happening right now...in this building...I see a young child sitting with no legs. I see legs growing out before my eyes...*

#...*I see disaster in Egypt...I prophesy in the spirit, Ethiopia will be blessed. The Communist regime in Ethiopia will not last...I see revival coming to Ethiopia...I see revival coming to Sudan...in every country in Africa...I see the collapse of the Hasimite Kingdom of Jordan...The Jordan Government is going to become more anti-west...I see a mighty revival in Lebanon...in Turkey...in Syria...check me out if you want to. I'm speaking by the spirit...I see God is literally bringing the greatest revival in Europe before our eyes today...in Russia [the gospel] the doors will shut again...I see famine is coming to Russia. I see starvation coming. I see China open its doors to the Gospel...in Japan...I see a marvellous harvest of souls...An evangelist called Lopaz Coralo...he's going to shake Argentina...The Lord has just brought me back to Orlando...I see great unity coming to this city. I see a tremendous peace in Orlando...I saw the choir three times bigger in size. ...[Benny needed to be held up under the deluge of 'power']...*

'*The confusing World of Benny Hinn*' documents many of Hinn's false prophecies and heresies. Hinn even changes his testimony thus: 'I got saved in Israel in 1968' (PTL Family Devotional, Dec./81); 'It was in Canada that I was born again right after 68' (1983 message in St. Louis); 'I got saved in high school in February 1972...during my senior year' (Good Morning Holy Spirit, 1990); 'I never said I was a senior...' (Christianity Today, 10/5/92).

At a south African crusade a man collapsed. Hinn said the Lord told him the man would be okay, but the same man died in the ambulance. In 1993 in Basel, Switzerland, Hinn prophesied over a man with cancer that he had many years to live. He died two days later. This same scenario has been repeated all over the world resulting in many *deaths*, including that of young children who stop taking medication, (see '*Signs and Wonders - Exposed*' video part 3).

An elderly Hinn follower was 'slain in the spirit', and while she was lying on the floor a huge man, also 'slain', landed on top of her, breaking her leg. Yet Hinn continues to pace about on stage, breathing out heavily, '*If I don't release this power I'll explode!*' '*Fire!*' he roars, to knock people down. When one falls he demands, '*Pick him up!*' - then knocks him down again and again. Is this the Holy Spirit?

...Yet Hinn curses those who dare to question him.

Earlier this year 3,000 church leaders such as Jack Hayford, Rex Humbard and Jerry Falwell honoured this false prophet for 25 years of ministry.

...How many more false prophecies and victims will it take? **Terry Arnold**

## How 'Protestant' Are You?

In surveys to date the following questionnaire, has shown that a large proportion of Protestants are more Roman Catholic than Protestant in their concepts of *Justification*. Please think each question out carefully before answering. The correct answers represent Biblical truths from the faith once delivered to the apostles and then out of the Great Reformation. The answers are at the end of page 8 and we encourage readers on completion of the test to study carefully the article below '*Justification - A Truth Under Siege*', and to review various articles on Justification/Sanctification, (eg. '*Diakrisis*', July/Aug 2001).

In each of the following ten questions, mark either (A) or (B) as correct.

1. (A) God gives a man right standing with Himself by mercifully accounting him innocent and virtuous (B) God gives a man right standing with Himself by actually making him into an innocent and virtuous person.
2. (A) God gives a man right standing with Himself by placing God's goodness and virtue to his credit (B) God gives a man right standing with Himself by putting Christ's goodness and virtue into his heart.
3. (A) God accepts the believer because of the moral excellence found in Jesus Christ (B) God makes the believer acceptable by infusing Christ's moral excellence into His life.
4. (A) If a Christian becomes 'born again' (regenerate, transformed in character), he will *achieve* right standing with God. (B) If the sinner accepts right standing with God by faith, he will then experience transformation in character.
5. (A) We receive right standing with God by faith alone. (B) We receive right standing with God by faith which has become active by love
6. (A) We achieve right standing with God by having Christ live out his life of obedience in us. (B) We achieve right standing with God by accepting the fact that he obeyed the law perfectly for us.
7. (A) We achieve right standing with God by following Christ's example by the help of His enabling grace. (B) We follow Christ's example because His life has given us right standing with God
8. (A) God first pronounces that we are righteous in His sight, then gives us his Spirit to work out that righteousness. (B) God sends His Spirit to make us righteous, and then he will pronounce that we are righteous.
9. (A) Christ's intercession at God's right hand gives us favour in the sight of God. (B) It is the indwelling Christ that gives us favour in God's sight.
10. (A) Only by faith in the doing and dying of Christ can we fully satisfy the claims of the ten commandments. (B) By the power of the Holy Spirit living in us, we can fully satisfy the claims of the ten commandments.

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## Justification - a Truth Under Siege?

At the time the great Reformation commenced the lamp of the truth of *Justification* was barely alight. Today I believe that flame is again barely flickering.

As the Bible became more accessible to the common people, various Reformers began to attempt to restore Biblical truths to the masses. The Reformers were unanimous in their emphasis of, and in the teaching on, justification by faith alone, through Christ alone, and not of works, (Eph.2:8,9).

The word 'justification' comes from the Greek word '*dikaion*' which means: *to regard as innocent, to render just, in a judicial sense as a legal and forensic thing*. The word is mostly used in connection with judgement or in a legal sense: '**For I know nothing by myself yet am I not justified; but He that judges me is the Lord**', (1Cor.4:3,4). Many other verses could be used to show the *legal and judicial* sense of the word. The Reformers therefore taught that justification was a *legal and forensic declaration* in Heaven which means a person is now right with God. The word *forensic* is used in connection with a court of law. Today we have *forensic scientists* and *forensic psychologists* who are specialists in legal matters and give evidence in a court of law.

This *declaration* of justification in the sight of God is described in the Bible as an '*imputed*' thing, (KJV Rom.4:11,22,23,24; James 2:23. Other versions may translate the word as '*credited*', '*declared*', '*reckoned*', '*accounted*'). In Romans chapter 4 Paul progressively and clearly teaches justification by *imputation*. In this chapter the words translated '*accounted*' '*reckoned*' and '*imputed*' all come from the *same* Greek word, '*logizomai*', which is used no less than *eleven times* in this one chapter! They are *legal and judicial* words, (see also 1Cor.4:3,4; Matt.12:37; Rom.3:4).

At the Reformation, the Reformers insisted on going back to the Bible in their understanding of *Justification*. Yet the

Roman Catholic Council of Trent placed an '*anathema*' (curse) on any who taught that justification comes '*through the imputation of Christ's righteousness alone*'. This was despite several Scriptures such as Romans 4:11 which state righteousness is '*imputed*' (accounted; declared) **unto them**'. The Roman Catholic religion was well aware that a doctrine of imputed righteousness would dispel the need for continuing justifying graces being mediated through priests in the many Roman Catholic sacraments and rituals.

The word '*imputed*' is an *outside* event. It is here that Catholicism is diametrically opposed to Scriptural and Reformation theology. Catholic doctrine focuses heavily on justification as being an *infusion* and a *process* occurring *inside* a person. Roman Catholic doctrine in fact confuses and at times marries *Justification* with *Sanctification*. It is here too that many Christians today lack the teaching to discern the difference. As John Bunyan said: '*...If you do not put a difference between Justification wrought by the man Christ without, and Sanctification wrought by the spirit of Christ within...you are not able to divide the word aright; but contrariwise, you corrupt the Word of God, and cast stumbling blocks before the people, and will certainly one day most deeply smart for your folly, except you repent.*' ('*The Riches of Bunyan*', P.140).

Even men like Wesley and other holiness preachers who placed much emphasis on Sanctification, were united with the Reformers in the teaching of Justification. Justification is an *outside, legal, objective and forensic* work of *Christ for us*, (Rom.4&5). The Greek tenses and 'moods' show clearly a once only act, (Rom.4:1-13; 8:32-34), where the sin question is settled forever, (Rom.5:1; 6:23). Sanctification, however, is an *inside subjective* work of the *Holy Spirit in us*, (Phil.2:12,13; 1:6). This Sanctification is both *positional* at salvation and *progressive* throughout our life on this earth

(Continued P.8) >



before Glorification, (Phil.2:12,13; 1Jn.1:7-10; 3:3). Justification is *imputed*, (righteousness accounted to; 'unto' us); Sanctification is *imparted* to us *from within* by the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is the blessing of Justification. At Justification the gift of the Holy Spirit is given to make us holy and to do the work of Sanctification in us. Paul speaks of two gifts - the gift of righteousness (Rom.5:17), and the gift of the Spirit, (Rom.5:5).

This imputation or 'transaction' of righteousness is repeatedly taught in Romans using different translated English words: '*For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness*', (Rom.4:3)... '*But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness...faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness*' (vs.5-9) '*...it was imputed to him for righteousness...but for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised Jesus our Lord from the dead*', (vs.21-24). All the above underlined words come from the same Greek word '*logizomai*'.

This righteousness that comes through the above mentioned 'imputation' ('*logizomai*') is not in ourselves or on this earth, but *in Heaven!* Our righteousness is '*The Lord our righteousness*', (Jer.23:6), who sits at the right hand of the Father! John Bunyan said: '*Indeed this is one of the greatest mysteries in the world - namely that a righteousness that resides with a person in Heaven should justify me a sinner, on earth*'. Man's *experience* and outworking of this on earth is in Sanctification through the Holy Spirit. Paul says the Spirit brings life '*because you have been justified*', (Rom.8:10).

As with Sanctification, similarly '*regeneration*' is the fruit of Justification. Catholicism teaches the reverse - that regeneration is a condition for Justification, hence the emphasis on works to procure it. However, only the justified receive the gift of the infilling Spirit which regenerates them. Man cannot bring about Justification in any way - no man comes to Jesus unless drawn by the Father, (Jn.6:44). Catholic tradition, however, sees Justification as the renovating of the internal man, ie. human sanctification by works (eg. sacraments). Rome says we are justified by *infusion* of righteousness and that this is linked to a continuous impartation of graces through the sacraments which are mediated out through a priest. Because this is never completed it amounts to a program of faith and works to attain justification. The problem with this theology is that one never knows whether he or she is saved or how much of this type of sanctification is necessary to be justified in the end! It invariably falls into *working* for one's salvation. Hence the end is doctrines such as *Purgatory* - a place after death to purge and atone for sin so as to be righteous enough to enter Heaven.

Rome says that we are justified by God's work of grace in man. Yet the Reformers taught that we are justified by God's work of grace through Christ and that any work in man is rather Sanctification by the Holy Spirit as a *result* of Justification. It could be said that Catholic theology is subjective and man centred, while the other is objective and Christ centred. Of one you can never be sure if you have enough of God's grace in your heart; the other is sure because *Christ has it all*. Romans 3:24 says: '*...being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus*'. In other words, rather than being justified by anything *in* us we are justified by what God did *outside* of us *in Christ*. We cannot feel it. We should never look within for salvation or we will only see ourselves ('*filthy rags*'), but we should look to Him - our Lord and Saviour - '*our righteousness*' (Jer.23:6)!

By *faith* we have the possession of Justification and from that comes peace and assurance because it is based on a *finished* work done by *Christ alone!* '*...By the obedience of one shall many be made righteous*', (Rom.5:19).

The Reformers contended that Justification was by faith alone, (*Sola Fida*), without works: '*Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law*', (Rom.3:28); '*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast*', (Eph.2:8,9). Justification by faith alone without works essentially means that a man may believe in what God has already done *for* him, not *in* him. Catholicism in practice tends to focus on works rather than faith for righteousness. Yet the Bible is littered with passages that mention faith without any mention of works or the law for righteousness, (Rom.3:21,22; 4:1,13; 9:30; 10:6; Gal.5:5; Phil.3:9; Heb.11:7; etc.).

In the Twentieth Century there was a shift by various so called 'Protestant' groups to a more Roman Catholic theology on Justification. This has been enhanced by experiential and 'impartational' type teaching/preaching, not just in Pentecostal/Charismatic circles, but also across the neo-evangelical church scene. The emphasis is increasingly on the Holy Spirit and less on Christ. 'Anointed' leaders focus on an 'impartation' of spiritual power through 'power encounters'. Subjective mystical New Age type experiences are mediated out. Today the Holy Spirit is increasingly being glorified. Yet Scripture says He must never attract attention to Himself and that He will always point only to Christ, (Jn.16:13,14). The current waves of teaching in the signs and wonders movement are truly lapping on the shores of a Roman Catholic sanctification! The ecumenical thread running through the above movements is unmistakable. The increased acceptance of, and unity between, Catholicism and Charismatic/Pentecostalism, has in recent years dramatically weakened the original teaching on Justification by faith alone.

More than ever we need to return to the foundation and teaching of the doctrine of Justification, as well as the other Reformation truths such as *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture Alone). These truths were upheld at the expense of many martyrs and much bloodshed at the hands of the Roman Catholic religion.

With an understanding of Justification comes a peace, assurance and an increased appreciation of the grace of God and the *finished* work of Christ. *With an understanding of the truths of Justification, many will be better able to discern the true from the counterfeit.*

The Reformation truths such as Justification were truths that once burned in the hearts of many. Today there is a generation rising up that may well have little or no knowledge of the importance of such doctrines. The lamp of Reformation truth burns dimly. Many seek after revival and signs and wonders. Perhaps what we need is not 'revivals' but another mighty Reformation?

The cost of truth is high. The Reformation was costly in lives. However, the alternative is an increasingly apostate ecumenical church. May the Spirit of the Lord bring back the truth of Justification to the hearts of many in this generation. May the Holy Spirit use us to teach it to the next generation, that this lamp of truth might yet again burn bright.

Terry Arnold

(TA Ministries, PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld. 4655, Australia)

### **Answers To Questionnaire P.7:**

1. (A) 2. (A) 3. (A) 4. (B) 5. (A) 6. (B) 7. (B)  
8. (A) 9. (A) 10. (A)



## Canadian Church Utilizes Money Machine

'Some visitors to Desert Stream Christian Fellowship church in Belleville, Ontario (Canada) thought they were victims of a practical joke when they saw the little sign posted on the front door: 'ATM accepted here.' According to 'Christian Week' (Canada), Pastor Kevin Dowling said the CIBC Interac machine has been in the church's foyer for 15 months, as part of an innovative strategy to encourage the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada congregation in their 'tithing habits.' 'One of the areas we really look at as a ministry in the church is giving,' Dowling explained. 'It's an act of worship.' He added that many of the 250-member congregation would either forget to bring their cheque books, or did not have cash on hand. 'We're always looking at different ways of making people's participation as accessible and easy as possible,' he said. The machine is similar to the merchant's machines used to pay for goods at stores - parishioners can purchase items from special events or give their tithes directly to the church bank account, but cannot do other transactions. Dowling added, 'After the machine's installation in 2000, there was a 'dramatic turnaround' from the projected shortfall - result: a \$50,000 surplus.' (Religion Today, March/15/2002)

## 'Bibles For Betrayal'?

'Dr. Graham instituted a program whereby he asks for gifts to buy Bibles for Christians in China. His son, Franklin, is continuing this program. While this seems like a worthy cause, a look just below the surface reveals a betrayal of staggering proportions. The BGEA boldly states that their organization is the only one in the world that has a close enough rapport with the Chinese Government that they have arranged for these free Bibles to be distributed through official government channels. What few people realize is that, when a Chinese Christian comes forward to receive his free Bible, he has to give his name and address. A short time later, that Chinese Christian receives the proverbial 'knock on the door', and he and his family are arrested.'

(*'Bibles for Betrayal!'*, Cutting Edge, Feb.18th/2002)

## Ecumenism

'Truth has boundaries; error has none. A mixture of good with the bad will never make the bad thing better. The good gets worse. Does not one rotten apple in the barrel affect the good apples? Scripture says 'Leaven' affects the whole lump....'  
**Terry Arnold**

## 'Sex Misconduct': Evangelist Sacked

(By Kelly Burke, 'Religious Affairs' Writer; Sydney Morning Herald, P.8, March 27/2002)

'He was one of Australia's most prominent and internationally lauded evangelists - a champion of Christian youth [Former Youth Alive Director] and a motivational speaker who convinced thousands that the pursuit of money and fame was a Godly business.

Now Pat Mesiti is in disgrace and in hiding, sacked as national director of 'Australian Christian Churches' and stripped of his licence to minister. Gone is the 'Pat Mesiti Ministries' signage that distinguished the entrance of his Castle Hill mansion [NSW]. But the 4000-strong congregation of the Assemblies of God church Hillsong, where Mr Mesiti is based, remains in the dark.

According to Assemblies of God (AOG) documents obtained by the Herald, Mr Mesiti was sacked after allegations of sexual misconduct. It is understood the allegations were not of a criminal nature. 'We are aware that the above information may be a surprise and shock to some of you and therefore we have deliberately chosen to restrict this letter to our ordained and probationary ministers', the confidential document said. 'We cannot see any reason for this to be announced to your church or further afield.'

The national president of AOG, Brian Houston...Hillson's senior pastor, denied there was a cover-up. 'This whole area of sex abuse and predatory behaviour is devastating...but I believe we have tried to deal with this issue with integrity and honesty', said Mr Houston, speaking from Los Angeles.

But the scandal may prove devastating on more than one front for the church, which has spent two years rebranding itself as 'Australian Christian Churches', persuading other less powerful Pentecostal denominations to climb on board.

In 2000 Mr Houston was forced to sack his father, Frank, after he confessed to what the church's national executive has described as 'serious moral failure' while he was an AOG minister in New Zealand. Mr Houston senior was NSW's most senior AOG figure and the man credited with converting the champion jockey Darren Beadman, who later trained as an AOG pastor. The AOG's national executive vice-president, John Lewis, conducted the Frank Houston investigation...Mr Lewis said the offences were so serious that Mr Houston senior, now in his early 80s, was not even given the option of quietly retiring. The Herald has been contacted by one of Mr Houston's alleged victims, who is now considering legal action against the church.

Brian Houston said that of the AOG's 2,000 Australian ministers, no more than five in any year were exposed and disciplined for sexual misconduct. He went on to defend the former AOG New Zealand general superintendent Jim Williams, who serves as a pastor in Brisbane but whose licence in New Zealand was permanently revoked for sexual misconduct.

Mr Mesiti is undergoing what the church terms a three-year 'restoration process'.

**Editors Comments: 'Youth Alive' and AOG in general has had numerous occurrences of serious misconduct by leaders over many years. The 'five in any year' being exposed and disciplined for sexual misconduct is arguably underestimated, but nevertheless - is this excusable? For years we have received howls of protest when we exposed such articles as above. But we will not cease to point out that the problem of such 'misconduct' must be rooted to the doctrines, practices and music of such organisations as AOG, including Youth Alive.**

## Quotables

'We do not become more holy by discipline or by dependence. Neither do we become more holy by committing ourselves to God, or by developing Bible based convictions. We become more holy by obedience to the Lordship of God, by choosing to obey His will as revealed in the Scriptures in all the various circumstances of our lives.' **Jerry Bridges**

'I am not permitted to let my love be so merciful as to tolerate and endure false doctrine. When faith and doctrine are concerned and endangered, neither love nor patience are in order...neither toleration nor mercy are in order, but only anger, dispute and destruction - to be sure, only with the Word of God as our weapon.' **Martin Luther**

## Your Comments and Questions

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

### Acts 2:38 & Baptismal Remission

*'Dear sir, I went to visit a Spanish church, and they said that I have to be baptised to receive forgiveness of sins. Could you please explain if this is true or not. They used the Bible in Acts 2:38...Thanks in advance, and God bless your ministry, it's a great help to me and many others that come to get it at 'Jesus Is Alive Christian Book Store', Fairfield...'*

(J.O., Sydney)

**Editors reply:** Dear J. ...A reference booklet that I use on this topic is: *'Acts 2:38 and Baptismal Remission'* by Bob L. Ross (Pilgrim Publications, PO Box 66, Pasedena, Texas, 77501). Briefly and without going into the subject too deeply, the following might help:

The idea of regeneration through baptism was a heretical tradition developed in the 3rd century. This heresy of Baptismal remission also stems largely from Roman Catholicism and their false teaching of Justification by (sacramental) infusion instead of imputation. (See various articles in *Diakrisis* on Justification). Many early church leaders wrote against it. It has been revived in movements like *Cambellism* in the 1800's, (Alexander Cambell)...

We are cleansed only by the blood of Jesus, (1Pet.1:18-19). We are justified by Gods grace (Tit.3:7) and the blood of Christ (Rom.5:9). If water Baptism were to remit sins then the work of the cross is not finished, since man would be able to *do* something towards this. We are simply not saved by any *'works' of righteousness'*, (Tit.3:5-7; Eph.2:8,9). Baptism signified the death to the old way of life and resurrection to a new life, (Rom.6:1-4). Baptism is called a *'likeness'* (Rom.6:4-6); a *'figure'* (1Pet.3:21)...A symbol is not a reality but a picture of a reality.

The Lord also says: *'...but he that believeth not shall be damned.'* It should be noted that this negative statement does not include a reference to baptism, making it clear that what saves a person is living faith in Jesus Christ. This is made clear in Ephesians 2:8, *'For by grace are ye saved through faith. ...'* The word *'saved'* is translated from a Greek word which is a perfect passive participle. It means that this salvation took place at some point in the past and is continuing on in the present (perfect tense), being accomplished by Jesus Christ Himself and no action on our part (passive). If baptism is necessary for salvation, then Ephesians 2:8 and many others verses should have been translated *'ye are saved through faith and baptism!'*

In 1Cor.15:14 Paul makes no mention of baptism and elsewhere Paul said he did not come to baptise. This shows that the Gospel and faith were the important issues to him

rather than any water baptism.

Baptismal remission proponents are apt to take Scriptures out of context, such as Acts 2:38. However, if we read elsewhere in Peter's teaching we soon see that he teaches our cleansing by the blood of Christ, (1Pet.1:18,19).

As for Acts 2:38: *'Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.'* Many do not read the next verse - *'For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.'* The *'promise'* was not water baptism but the Holy Spirit Himself!

The preposition *'for'* in the phrase *'for the remission of sins'* is the Greek *'eis'*. Literally, it means *'for the purpose of identifying you with the remission of sins.'* This same preposition is used in 1Corinthians 10:2 in the phrase *'and were all baptized unto ['eis'] Moses.'* These people identified themselves with the work and ministry of Moses.

This *'eis'* does not mean *'in order to'* as the baptismal remission exponents would like it to mean. The preposition *'eis'* has no such one strict meaning in Scripture. In Matt.12:41 *'they repented at ['eis'] the preaching of Jonah'*. If one were to insert the meaning *'in order to'* or *'for'* in the place of *'eis'* here and in numerous other Scriptures, the reader might see the error of such an interpretation of *'eis'*. In Matt.12:41 the *'eis'* is rather the basis or ground - on the basis of the name of the prophet.

An examination of the more than 1,700 times the word *'eis'* is used will show these various meanings: *'into'*, *'unto'* (direction); *'in'*, *'among'*, *'upon'* (position); *'as'*, *'for'*, *'against'* (relationship to); *'because of'* (causative); *'for the purpose of'* (purpose)

Matthew 3:11 is a key passage in understanding Acts 2:38. *'I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance...'* If we are to insert the meaning *'in order to'* or *'for'* here we would have baptism *'in order to'* get repentance! Similarly, with many other Scriptures: eg. Matt.28:19 - *'baptise in [eis] the name of the Father, Son...'* - do we baptise to get the Trinity? (See also Mark.1:9; Acts 8:16; Acts 19:3; Acts 19:5; Rom.6:3,4; 1Cor.1:13; 1Cor.10:2, etc).

*Scripture interprets Scripture.* There are numerous verses that never mention baptism, but only faith, (Acts 16:31; Jn.1:12; 3:14-18; 3:36; 6:47; 20:31...). *'To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins'*, (Acts 10:43). Hope this all helps....

### 'Transformations' Deception

*'Obviously, someone has got it wrong. Either George Otis Jr., Ruth Ruibal (of Cali, Columbia) and Harold Caballeros (spiritual mapping enthusiast and close associate of C. Peter Wagner) who have been traversing land and sea spreading their 'good new' of the Holy Spirit's transforming power...have got it wrong, or else the Pope has.*

Roman Catholic Archbishop Isaiás Duarte Cancino of the so called beautiful, peaceful Cali, the transformed jewel in the crown of George Otis's amazing ministry, was shot dead on Saturday, as he was leaving his RC Church. How could this possibly happen when the 'Transformation' Video has convinced untold thousands of Christians that Cali is a place you

would all want to take your wife and kids for your next holiday? Perhaps the Pope has imagined all of this? According to the Pope *'Colombia has endured 38 years of civil war. Some 40,000 people have died over the past decade alone.'* But according to Otis and the Transformations video, for the last decade Cali has been totally transformed by the power of God'. (Hughie Seaborn, Cairns, Qld.)

**Editors comment:** For information on the deception and lies of the 'Transformations' videos see Website: <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~rseaborn/apostles.html> or our articles in *Diakrisis* March/April 2001; Sept/Oct 2001.

## Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry,...Brother, I have some concerns with the content of the last Jan/Feb. issue of 'Diakrisis'...I'm all for...a magazine that provides good teaching, but felt that some of the items were of a negative nature and served no positive purpose. (1) The heading : 'Australian AOG - Immorality' I felt this was a misrepresentation of the report under the heading. ONE man apparently committed adultery...(It would be akin to printing: 'Australian Baptist Churches - Immorality' if one Baptist pastor fell into sin. (2) The report itself about Pat Mesiti. Whatever the motive was for printing this, it came across as 'grapevine news'/gossip. There was no call to pray for Pat Mesiti or his family. A reader could conclude that the authors of Diakrisis were pointing an accusing finger at Pat Mesiti and the AOG churches, as if to say, 'There goes another Charismatic, falling into sin'. Whatever was intended by the report, it didn't come across as gracious...(3) I felt that the news item 'Graham's Fresno Crusade' on page nine was petty. (I realise that this item was not written by yourself but from another source). I could not see ANYTHING positive being produced by that item. All it served to do was stir up ill feeling toward a brother in Christ who has been mightily used of the Lord over the years. I do not agree with some of the things Billy Graham has done in recent years, but I felt that this report was a cheap shot at him. To me, it didn't serve to 'build up the saints'.

To sum up, I believe that 'Diakrisis' would be far more productive if it focused solely on building up the saints and refrained from printing news items about Kenneth Hagin, Benny Hinn, etc that may be true, but do not bring encouragement to the saints or unity to the Body. If people are teaching something that is false, we can counter it by warning the saints of the teaching, giving positive teaching, and refraining from the APPEARANCE of judging them. And I see no value in reporting to the Christian public in a magazine that a fellow Christian has fallen into sin, unless there is a valid purpose in doing so. I trust this letter is received in the spirit in which it is meant - a desire to be constructive and not to pull down. I believe there is a place for a magazine like 'Diakrisis', but would like to see a more positive tone throughout. (Two Christian leaders whom I respect have commented to me about the negative aspect of 'Diakrisis'). Yours in Christ, (D.H., Sydney)

Editor/advisory comments: Dear [D.H.]...

- The heading 'Australian AOG - Immorality': ...there has been consistent immorality in AOG and we have been steadily documenting it over the years. We could give you a list of leaders in AOG circles who have fallen...The heading was there because it meant what it says - AOG has a major problem with immorality in its leadership now and in the past...This is not 'one pastor falling' but one of many in a series. These articles serve to inform our readers of the moral failures in the Church, so that they may accurately warn others to come out of these movements.

- Pat Mesiti is another of those AOG leaders!...But what about the 'victims'? - those thousands of children who followed and listened to him over many years in Youth

Alive! (I have personally been involved in this in previous years and had seen leaders fall in the same way)...We have been warning of Youth Alive and its leadership, etc for years - was this seen to be 'negative'?...And now the leader falls and we print this and it is not only 'negative'...but 'gossip'? God forbid!

- We didn't print this news to say that 'there goes another Charismatic'. We printed it to show that the false teaching in AOG is leading to moral declension at all levels!

- Just how can you bring 'unity' if you don't expose error and teach truth? The 'valid purpose' in our articles is to inform our readers of exactly where all the false teaching within the church is leading us!

- 'The Graham Fresno Crusade' was 'petty'? This article (which was a direct quote - not ours or our comment!) is something that many Christians are deeply concerned about. Yet many Christians are totally unaware of these things. [One of our research advisors writes]: 'I didn't think that report on 'Graham's Fresno Crusade' was petty. I thought it was informative! I like to keep up to date with what Billy Graham's up to - for my own spiritual safety and for the spiritual safety of those I call brothers and sisters in Christ. Perhaps D.H. doesn't think Billy deserves the attention, but that's his opinion...as for 'stirring up ill feeling toward a brother in Christ?'...What type of feeling do you think should be stirred up towards Graham? An emotional feeling of love and warmth perhaps? It's because of the attitudes shown by such kind and loving people as D.H. that Billy Graham still commands such respect and honour in Christendom...if D.H. thinks 'Diakrisis' doesn't build up the saints then perhaps he should subscribe to 'Charisma' or some such 'uplifting' magazine...

...Reporting about Ken and Benny doesn't bring unity to the Body? What a great shame! I think I see the evidence here of someone in the early, though definite stages of going over into delusion...What is 'positive'? What is Truth? If you change 'Diakrisis', it won't be 'Diakrisis'. Not the one I'm used to at, any rate...'

- Refrain from 'printing articles about Kenneth Hagin and Benny Hinn'? This really disturbs us most. These men are false prophets! Why should we not expose them and warn people of them?...

I appreciate that our ministry in 'Diakrisis' may not be yours or everyone's cup of tea, but please don't go soft on these false prophets and false teachers; nor discourage us from earnestly contending for the faith once delivered.

It seems strange to me how so many others wrote to us confirming that that issue of 'Diakrisis' (Jan/Feb.2002) was the best ever! How can it be that some would think that, yet you (and possibly many others) might think the opposite? I urge you to not listen to those 'Christian leaders' who would cause you to weaken on these things.

[We included here the article on page 3 of this newsletter: 'Exposing Error - Is It Worthwhile?' - by Harry A. Ironside.]

## The Trinity in Salvation

'...But how does God save thee? - by His grace. How does God the Son save thee? - by His righteousness, death, and blood, and life...And how doth God the Holy Ghost save thee? - by His illumination, by His renovation, and by His preservation...'  
(From 'Pilgrims Progress' by John Bunyan)

## Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry,...the wonderful 'Diakrisis'...your magazine is the most encouraging material any Christian and every Christian should read. God bless you in your work for Him, Thank you, **(T.G. Coffs Harbour)**

Dear Terry, I do look forward to receiving 'Diakrisis'. It is informative, interesting and above all Biblically sound. The same cannot be said of [another discernment magazine mentioned]. On the one hand they claim to be 'Sola Scriptura' whilst simultaneously they defend the false prophecies of David Wilkerson...quote Jack Deere...and are pro the [unknown] tongues viewpoint. Some describe [Jack Deere] as a false teacher and mention the website: <http://www.gospelcom.net/apologeticsindex...> I concur with your viewpoint wholeheartedly - Sola Scriptura plus extra Biblical revelation is an oxymoron...please continue to send us 'Diakrisis'. Bless you, **(R.&E.,S. Maryborough, Qld.)**

Dear Terry,...I received two sermons of David Wilkerson in the post. They showed me just what a mixed up presentation is being given to the church today...I read a mixture of globalization + the tribulation + Judaism + 'the anointing' + a mixture of all of these, which would bring confusion, and a sense of 'he must be right'. This in a framework of his being a 'modern-day prophet' caused me to think of you and the stand that you have made, for which I am thankful.

Over here in Perth, I have been attempting to stand against error for quite a while, but the people do not want to hear. There is no contending for the faith, as most no longer know what is the true faith, and they do not know what to contend against, because they have no understanding as to where the 'church' is, and how it got there, or how to contend with it if they did come to understanding.

I love going to India, because there I can preach the Gospel to people who want to hear the truth. Of course, I cannot preach academically there (if I could), but they are eager to hear the Gospel put simply and plainly. I thank God that He has blessed me to be able to reach the people, but I come back here with 'withdrawal symptoms' as I face the local situation...my heart is heavy whenever I meet some who have had the same ministry in years gone by, but with whom I no longer find I can converse on any Christian subject.

Keep up the good work ... preach the Gospel in season and out of season .. and the Lord bless your ministry with abundant good fruit. **(Ps.D.G., Perth)**

### Praise Points

- Praise God for people who have come to a saving faith as a consequence of reading our 'Eternal Questions' book!

### Prayer Points

- Pray for strength, wisdom and humility from the Holy Spirit for the workers in this ministry.

Dear Terry, Your editorial (speaking the truth in love), Nov/Dec. was so appropriate, so needed and so timely. Oh that more men in this apathetic Australian Christendom would stand up and be counted as being bold enough to speak the truth in love...Many of our leaders are afraid of the truth because it may disturb the comfort zone of their congregation.

Paul charged Timothy to preach the word – to convince, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and teaching, (2Tim.4:2). And why such a charge (4:1)? The answer is in vs. 3 & 4: 'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.'...This is, in effect, turning away from God...God's Word is truth, and is before us for His good purposes. But we have elected to stop serving Him as He intended we should be serving Him. We have feared man who can do nothing for us but destroy us, rather than fearing God. Who alone can save us?

We are afraid to speak the truth in love for fear of offending. No wonder we are declining as Christians. We are trying to keep people happy and contented in 'user friendly' churches. Our Lord Jesus Christ never taught that way. Inspired by God, Paul boldly tells the Romans, 'I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.' (Rom.1:16)

If we will stand up in the pulpits of this nation and preach Christ and Him crucified, could it be that God may bring the increase? Or are we to continue pleasing their ears with easy believism in a vain endeavour to maintain numbers?

God's Word is truth, and we need to preach it as it is, not neglecting the warnings and conditions. May God help those who will stand for His truth in love...

**(P.S., Victor Harbour, Sth Aust.)**

Dear sir, I recently came across a copy of your excellent newsletter from a Christian friend...It is wonderful to know that out there in the wilderness of apostasy, heresy and confusion that there are people who are deeply concerned with our lost heritage of 'Sola Scriptura'. Keep up the good work. Look forward to more newsletters. **(K.T., Melbourne)**

Dear Brother Terry, Just a note to say how glad I am to receive 'Diakrisis'. It is always so informative and enlightening and also gives sound teaching which is spiritually helpful. I hope you can keep it up until the Lord comes...I was very interested in 'Myths of the Middle East'...(R.W. Sth. Aust)

### Terry's Itinerary

**May 19th 9.45am Howard Baptist Ph. (07)41294292**

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