

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.

We welcome comments and articles contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

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Editors Comment

The question is often asked of me 'what is the current state of the church?' This question is not easily answered in a short space, yet the answer to the problems the church faces today has a simple solution. But first the problem...

Confusion reigns. The church has drifted from its original mooring both from the teaching of the early church Fathers and from the Reformation which restored Biblical truths.

From within - the church has embraced endless extra Biblical revelation, teachings and prophecies. The 20th Century saw new teaching on the Holy Spirit in the area of the gifts, the Baptism with the Spirit, unknown tongues, demonisation, etc. A host of new 'spiritual warfare', 'deliverance', and 'prophetic' 'ministries' have burst on the scene with books, tapes, videos and seminars that keep bookstores buzzing with excitement and Christians running to the next 'wave'. 'Revivals' are supposedly breaking out everywhere. The signs and wonders movement sweeps thousands of Christians into a frenzied endtime scenario, despite the Scripture's specific warning against such a movement. Reports of miraculous healings abound. They continue to be exposed as fraudulent.

The church has become 'a reproach to the nations', (Ezek.5:14,15; 22:4).

From without - the world has come into the church to take the church into the world. Churches now employ psychologists to help Christians with the best the world has to offer. Modern marketing and entertainment strategies, dressed up as 'christian', are employed to cater for the unsaved and to entertain the flock.

Today most Christians are frightened of controversy. Tolerance has won the day. Love overrides truth. Anything 'negative' is unfashionable. Jude's cry of 'contending for the faith once delivered to the saints' goes largely unheeded.

In a more subtle and deceptive trend *terminologies are being misused and hijacked*. Discernment ministries claim to be 'Sola Scriptura' yet still validate extra Biblical prophecies and revelations. Others claim to be 'Evangelical' yet attack the Reformers and the Reformation where the very term came from. Ministries are linking up with each other even though their doctrines sharply disagree. The ecumenical movement has now swallowed up most churches and ministries. The doctrine of separation is a theological dinosaur.

The answer? *The answer is found in what has been lost*. The early church and indeed the Reformation church was a church of *Sola Scriptura*. The answer is to return to the faith *once delivered*. This 'faith' was forged on one book. In the *sufficiency of Scripture* is found *everything* the Christian needs for a *spiritual* life of faith and Godly conduct. Forget the new movements, the prophecies of foretelling the future or the mind of God, the new techniques of 'deliverance' from demons, the new 'spiritual warfare' weapons and the maze of worldly methods to tickle ears. *Sola Scriptura* may be boring, narrow and 'legalistic' to many today, but it is precisely what God has blessed with past revivals and great Awakenings. It is the means by which Christ builds *His* saints and *His* church.

The modern ecumenical church attempts a false unity based on love. But real unity can only be based on truth, (Jn.17). God has left His truth *only* in the *written Word. Sola Scriptura!* **Terry Arnold**

Victorian Trip - November

We have prepared a Victorian itinerary for November (see page 8). For more details or any queries contact John (03)54496368 or Terry 0411489472

Are You Led or Are You Driven?

There are two types of people in this world. The ones who are being *led* by the Lord of the universe, and the ones who are being *driven* by their own flesh. We Christians should be the former - Spirit *led*. However, because we live in a body of sin and in the presence of a sinful world, we may not always be led by the Spirit of Christ but at times driven by our fleshly ways.

The *driven* may think they are 'in the spirit' but the force behind this spirit is the flesh. The *led* are too busy mortifying the deeds of the flesh to be concerned if they be not in the spirit.

The *driven* say they are saved by grace yet live as though they are saved by works. The *led* dare not trust in any works lest they forget that this grace which saved them was a gift and must have nothing added to it. They know that by no works of the law will anyone ever be justified, (Gal.2:16).

The *driven* separate faith and works. The *led* understand that faith works, (James 2:14,17). The *driven* look for works to do. The *led* know that Christ has already before ordained the works to do, (Eph.2:10).

The *driven* feel the compulsion to be 'soul winners'. They see soul winning as the work of man. They must witness, be knocking on doors, handing out tracts and getting 'decisions'. They know they must bear 'fruit' to prove they are 'spirit led'. When this is done the sense of relief and good works fills them with a sense of righteousness and esteem. But the *led* know to be witnesses is to let their light shine out of earthen vessels, to exhibit the treasure within - the character of Christ himself. They know God is the 'soul winner' and that no man can come to Christ, except the Father has first drawn him, (Jn.6:44). They see soul winning as the work of God. Yet they are ready and willing at the first divine appointment to give an answer to every man that asks the reason of the hope seen within them, (1Pet.3:15).

The *driven* are prone to moral campaigning to change the world. They feel insistent on correcting the evils of the world and see their 'salt' as changing the world. But the *led* know

they cannot change the world, for it is evil and corrupting regardless. They see their 'salt' as preserving, slowing the necessary corruption. They know that a carnal mind cannot understand the things of the spirit and that the Spirit must illuminate the Gospel to depraved minds.

The *driven* sometimes recite 1John 3:9 and impose a sinless perfection upon Christians. The *led* fear the *habitual* sin of 1John 3:9, yet know the carnal deception of saying they have no sin, (1Jn.1:8-10).

The *driven* feel they must impose their true doctrine and thinking upon any who are ignorant of truth. They load up someone with truth. The *led* trust the Holy Spirit to raise the questions that might be answered in meekness. They feed the hungry souls first with milk, lest they choke them with meat.

The *driven* feel nervous and guilty if they have not read their Bible each day. The *led* reflect on the freedom and the desire they have to need spiritual food consistently.

The *driven* pray over and over for the same things that they would change God's mind on a matter. They wrestle with God in the flesh. They do 'spiritual warfare' so that God's hands might be untied. But the *led* place the request with the Lord and wait for the will of God to be clear, all the while knowing God will have His way anyway. They wrestle the flesh in prayer.

The *driven* are busy helping God. They nominate for and expect positions in the church. They feel they must *do* something. But the *led* are busy serving God. They are already the hand, the eye or the ear in the body. They feel free to do something.

The *driven* must succeed. The *led* know that Christ is already succeeding.

The *driven* emphasise the will of man. The *led* know and live the sovereignty of God.

The *driven* weary the saints. The *led* refresh the troops.

The *driven* strive in the flesh. The *led* surrender to the Spirit. **Terry Arnold**

JW Publication Against Trinity

Some years ago some Christians handed me a *Jehovah's Witness* publication titled 'Should You believe in the Trinity?' The book is full of quotes by prominent early church Fathers against the Trinity. Those who gave this booklet to me were perhaps themselves confused by the quotes. The publication has been a very convincing tool for the *Watchtower* (JW) organisation. At first glance my initial reaction was - if these quotes are true then I have got a lot of church history terribly wrong...and the Trinity really is a 'later invention'!

However, after an examination of the JW quotes compared to the originals, I was horrified to see the worst case of re-writing, 'cutting and pasting', quoting out of context and some wholly fabricated texts. The JW hierarchy who published the article *knew* that what they were doing was a desecration of quotes by the early Church Fathers.

The article begins by stating: 'There is no evidence that any Sacred writer even suspected the existence of a Trinity within the Godhead'. Yet the references to a 'Trinity' in the first three centuries are *numerous* and *explicit!*, (for proofs see our article 'The Trinity & Deity in Early History', *Diakrisis* May/June 2001).

This JW publication writes: 'Justin Martyr, who died about 165 C.E. called the prehuman Jesus a created angel who is 'other than the God who made all things'. He said Jesus was inferior to God and 'never did anything except

what the creator...willed him to do and say.'" However, Justin Martyr was actually a strong defender for the deity of Christ. This is what Justin Martyr, speaking of Jesus, actually said: 'He is called Angel and apostle...and the Angel of God spoke to Moses, in a flame of fire out of the bush, and said, I Am that I Am, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God of thy fathers...being the first begotten Word of God, is even God...' (Ist apology of Justin) Notice here too that the JW writers have conveniently slipped in the word 'created angel', yet Justin Martyr never mentions this! Similarly another Church father, Irenaeus, is misquoted in a passage where he was actually defending the Trinity! And no sources are given to the unsuspecting readers.

The JW publication also says of Clement of Alexandria that he called God 'The uncreated and imperishable and only true God'. The problem is Clement was actually writing of the Trinity here and beginning with the Father! He continued: '...the son of God who being by equality and substance, one with the father, is eternal and uncreate.' (Fragments from Cassiodorus).

One or two quotes are outright fabrications and lies. Never before had I seen, or since seen, such blatant and *deliberate* falsehoods in a cult publication. **Terry Arnold**

(For further documentation contact ex-JW, Ray Beharrell, *Free in Christ Ministries*, PO Box 308, Kingswood, NSW, 2747)

Bookstores Promote False Teachers/Prophets

For many years this ministry has expressed concern that major bookstores continue to promote false teachers and false prophets such as Benny Hinn, Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, etc. When the managements have been approached and shown irrefutable evidence there has been either a wall of silence or a vigorous response of 'don't judge'.

These bookstores are selling to a market that is driven by what Christians want or will buy. It seems many are lapping up the materials from such false apostles.

Recently *Word Bookstores* heavily promoted Robert Schuller's November speaking engagement in Australia. His topic was *'The Power of Possibility Thinking for Tough Times'*. One of the brochures reads that Schuller has for 25 years brought *'Christ-centred messages of faith, hope and love to hundreds of thousands of Australians and many thousands of lives have been changed and saved...'*

But what does Schuller teach in his books, tapes and sermons?: Schuller says there is no need for repentance, dying to self and conviction of sin, but rather a need for self-esteem; that Jesus suffered the cross to sanctify His self-esteem and He bore the cross to sanctify our self-esteem. Schuller says: *'The cross will sanctify the ego trip'*; *'Jesus never called a person a sinner.'* (Reader compare Matt.23; Mk.1:15; Jn.8:11; 1Tim.1:15; Rom.5:8); *'What is Hell? It is the loss of pride that naturally follows separation from God'*; *'A person is in hell when he has lost his self-esteem'...*

Schuller's TV show *'Hour of Power'* has hosted New Agers, cultists and occultists. On ecumenism he says: *'It's time for Protestants to go to the shepherd [the Pope] and say 'what do we have to do to come home?''*

Schuller is basically a universalist. He does not believe that Christ is the only way to Heaven: *'The Christ spirit dwells in every human being whether the person knows it or not.'*

What would the apostles say of this man? What do the Scriptures say of such a gospel? Surely this man is dangerous and his teachings rank heresy. Why do many major bookstores promote such? Will they not be held accountable for this?

(See *Diakrisis* Feb/98 for more on Robert Schuller).

J.I. Packer

At a recent Wheaton conference J.I. Packer said *'What I dream of and long to see is Evangelicals and Roman Catholics standing together on the same platform to tell the world that Jesus Christ is the Saviour whom everybody needs...'* (*Berean Call*, July/2002)

Editors comment: This dream has already occurred, but let the reader consider the hypocrisy of such:

A Christian believes Scripture has authority over the church, (2Tim.3:16). The Roman Catholic is taught that the church has authority over Scripture.

A Christian is Born Again by the Word of God and the Spirit, (1Pet.1:23; 3:8). A Catholic is considered born again by water of baptism.

A Christian is saved by grace alone through faith and not of any works, (Eph.2:8,9). A Catholic is considered saved by grace that must be kept by works and sacraments.

A Christian is purified by the blood of Jesus Christ. A Catholic has the hope that he will be purified after death by the fires in a place called 'purgatory'.

A Christian believes that Jesus was sacrificed once and for all, (Heb.6,7,8,9). A Catholic believes the 'Mass' is a continuing sacrifice of Jesus just as at Calvary.

(See also *Diakrisis*, Sept/Oct/2002 P.5)

Sad History of Ecumenism

'The last echo of the Reformation spirit was heard at Lamberth Conference, 1878, where the 'errors and novel doctrines of Rome were roundly condemned.' *The period between Lamberth, 1878, and Amsterdam, 1948, may be called the period of ecumenical incubation; the seeds of ecumenism germinated in high places. This was reflected in the changing moods of the five conferences between 1910 and 1939, where Rome was entreated, then openly solicited.'* (*'Enemies Within'* by Wallace Jackel, P.36 - written 1960's)

'Slaying in the spirit' Fiasco

(Kelly Burke, Religious Affairs Writer
September 27th,2002)

'Loraine Daly arrived at church armed with her faith. But that faith proved to be misplaced when the spirit of the Lord entered her body and she hit the floor. And there was nobody there to save her. Now Ms Daly, 40, is suing the Assemblies of God [AOG] - affiliated Waterloo church, the Sydney Christian Life Centre, arguing that the church breached its duty of care that Sunday - August 8, 1996.

Ms Daly, of West Como, is claiming up to \$750,000 in damages, including future loss of earnings, telling the NSW District Court she suffered brain damage from the fall, leaving her with disabilities including headaches, nausea, memory loss, impaired concentration and a feeling of vagueness.

The court was told by Ms Daly's lawyer that the Sydney Christian Life Centre had been negligent in failing to ensure there were enough 'catchers' - people appointed by the church to cushion the fall of those experiencing what is referred to within the Pentecostal movement as being 'slain in the spirit'.

It was also claimed that the church had failed to ensure that the catchers were in position before the Rev. Tim Hall started the prayer service which usually brought on such fainting episodes. And the church had not provided falling members of the congregation with a sufficiently padded area to prevent injury. Instead, when Ms Daly's spirit was slain, she fell backwards on to a concrete floor covered only in a thin layer of carpet. Nobody came forward to assist her...<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2002/09/26/1032734278505.html>

Editors Comments: See *Diakrisis* July/97 for what the Scriptures say of this practise 'slaying in the spirit'.

Who Chose Who?

In our unsaved states, did we choose God or did He choose us?...*'Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain...'* (Jn.15:16). Did we ever seek him?...*'There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God'* (Rom.3:11). It was God who chose us and sought us...*'For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost'* (Lk.19:10).

Spurgeon once said: *'When I was coming to the Lord, I thought I was doing it all myself, and though I sought the Lord earnestly, I had no idea the Lord was seeking me...the thought struck me. How did you come to be a Christian? I sought the Lord. But how did you come to see the Lord? The truth flashed across my mind in a moment - I should not have sought Him unless there had been some previous influence on my mind to make me seek Him...I saw that God was at the bottom of it all, and that He was the author of my faith, and so the whole doctrine of grace opened up to me...I desire to make this confession, 'I ascribe my change wholly to God.'**

Terry Arnold * (C.H. Spurgeon's *Autobiography*, 1:168-69)

The following is a fact sheet to be used with Jehovah Witnesses. NWT = *New World Translation* (the JW Bible); AV = *Authorised Version*. If readers copy this sheet please delete this note before copying. Copies of this and a set of other accompanying fact sheets can be obtained (send \$5 postage) from Pastor John Reynolds 88 Durston's Rd, Maiden Gully, Vict., 3551 Ph. (03) 54496368

'I Am'

NWT Ex 3:13, 14 - 13 'Nevertheless, Moses said to the [true] God: 'Suppose I am now come to the sons of Israel and I do say to them, 'The God of your forefathers has sent me to you,' and they do say to me, 'What is his name?' 'What shall I say to them?' 14 At this God said to Moses: 'I SHALL PROVE TO BE WHAT I SHALL PROVE TO BE.' And he added: 'This is what you are to say to the sons of Israel, 'I SHALL PROVE TO BE has sent me to you.'"

The name here is 'I am' though not translated here. The 'Watchtower' often refers to the 'I am' of Exod. 3:14 in many articles, such as 'Reasoning in the Scriptures' P.417. An interlinear Hebrew shows that the correct translation is a well accepted fact and does not have to be proven that Jehovah is the 'I am'...this will be tested in the first question.

AV Ex 3:14 'And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you'.

Who is the 'I am'?

NWT John 13:19 'From this moment on I am telling you before it occurs, in order that when it does occur you may believe that I am he. *{It is interesting to note that the Word 'he' is not in the Greek interlinear}*

Who was Jesus claiming to be in this proclamation?

NWT John 18:5, 6 - 5 'They answered him: 'Jesus the Nazarene'. He said to them: 'I am he'. Now Judas, his betrayer, was also standing with them. 6 However, when he said to them, 'I am he' they drew back and fell to the ground'. *{It is interesting to note the Word 'he' in the 'I am he' is not in the Greek interlinear}*

Why did they fall to the ground when he spoke the 'I Am'?

NWT Deut 32:39 'See now that I—I am he And there are no gods together with me. I put to death, and I make alive. I have severely wounded, and I—I will heal, And there is no one snatching out of my hand'.

Was this said before or after Abraham had lived?

What is the significance of 'I-I Am'?

In John 9:5 of the Greek interlinear {see photocopy} we can see the translation for 'I am'. The literal translation then for the following verses is I-I Am in John 8:24, 58; John 13:19; John 18:5

NWT John 8:57 - 59 - 57 'Therefore the Jews said to him: 'You are not yet fifty years old, and still you have seen Abraham?' 58 Jesus said to them: 'Most truly I say to you, Before Abraham came into existence, I have been.' 59 Therefore they picked up stones to hurl [them] at him; but Jesus hid and went out of the temple'.

Did the Jews stone anyone for claiming to be an angel?

Did they stone any one for saying that they pre-existed?

Why were they going to stone and kill Jesus?

{See John 5:18; 10:32,33}

If Jesus is not God but only 'a god', why did Jehovah deny him in Deut. 32:39 when he had existed before this time?

Why has the 'Watchtower' deliberately changed the 'I AM' of John 8:58 in THEIR Greek interlinear to 'I have been' in their translation, when they have translated it correctly in Jn.8:24; Jn.13:19 and Jn.18:5? This change would seem to be a predetermined attempt to hide the fact that Jesus is who?

NWT John 8:24 'Therefore I said to you, You will die in YOUR sins. For if you do not believe that I am he, you will die in your sins.'

If you do not believe that Jesus is the 'I Am' or the 'I Am He' {As also in Deut.32:39} what will happen to you?

Is Jesus the 'I AM' or 'I AM He' of the New and Old Testament?

Evangelicalism, *Sola Scriptura* & 'Prophecy'

What are the true meanings of the above terms? We say 'true' because today there appears to be an ever widening of views when these terms are used. These terms have been broadened so much that many Christians are simply unaware as to what they originally meant.

The term '*Evangelical*' now includes almost any who profess Jesus as Lord and Saviour. However, the original term was historically and doctrinally synonymous with the terms '*Protestant*' and '*Sola Scriptura*' ('*Scripture Alone*'). It came into being during the Reformation. Today many who claim this term have broadened '*Evangelical*' to mean simply the Greek word for 'Gospel' ('*evangel*'). Thus we now have Roman Catholics and Pentecostal/Charismatics including themselves as '*Evangelical*'. The former violate true *Sola Scriptura* with another gospel; the latter with the addition of extra-biblical revelations, (including '*prophecy*' as foretelling words from God). Thus some have now coined the phrase '*neo-evangelical*' to distinguish the modern broad approach in comparison to the original.

To be truly '*Evangelical*' in its original sense is to accept the Reformation pillars including *Sola Fide* (Faith alone) and *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture Alone). But here we come to another problem - some '*Evangelicals*' today also claim *Sola Scriptura* but again have changed the meaning. The Reformers, who shed their own blood by standing for this truth, would doubtless be horrified to see this broadened and diluted.

'*Sola Scriptura*' originally meant: '*All things necessary for salvation and concerning faith and the spiritual life are taught in the Bible, and clear enough for the ordinary believer to understand it*'. This was not just a Reformation cry but is taught in Scripture and by the early church Fathers. 2Timothy 3:16,17 states clearly that '*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*'. The Greek word here for '*perfect*' is not the common '*teleios*' meaning 'complete or mature' but is the word '*artios*' meaning 'now complete, sufficient, completely qualified'.

Chrysostom in the 3rd. Century, when teaching on 2Tim.3:15-17 stated: '*You have Scripture for a master instead of me; from there you can learn whatever you would know*'. (1) Augustine in the 4th Century clearly taught '*Sola Scriptura*': '*In those teachings which are clearly based on Scripture are found all that concerns faith and the conduct of life.*' (2) Luther once said: '*Any teaching which does not square with Scripture is to be rejected even if it shows miracles every day.*' (3)

Yet today many say the Spirit is working apart from the Word and in addition to the Word. The Charismatic/Pentecostal Movement allows for prophetic and new revelations, unknown tongues and extra Biblical teaching. The original *Sola Scriptura* Reformers would respond: *if these are Words from God then why do we not add them to the existing canon of Scripture? The truth is that these errors are additions to the Word of God and thus outright attacks on Sola Scriptura!*

The attack on *Sola Scriptura* can be seen in the following two statements which show the process by which this has occurred. (A) 'The Bible is the only infallible rule of faith and practise'. (B) 'The Bible is infallible only in matters of faith and practise'. ('Faith and practise' here refer to the sum of Christian living and includes all that is needed for salvation and to live a spiritual life). The deception is in the latter (B) which leads people to think that only part of the Bible is

infallible - ie. that part only that speaks to faith and practice...The next step to apostasy is to deny that the Scriptures are adequate for faith and conduct.

Outside the material in the Bible we are free to make choices one way or another. The Bible does not tell us how to repair our motor vehicle and we are free to consult elsewhere for direction. However, all we need to know in *spiritual matters* and *matters that deal with our soul and Godly living* are written in the Word of God - the Bible.

One of the principle causes of the apostasy is that *Christians are looking to the world for answers to spiritual problems*. Two examples suffice to show how Christians have lowered the original view of *Sola Scriptura*:

Firstly, today Church leaders look to the world for methods of church growth and hence we have the modern 'Church Growth Movement'. This movement unashamedly takes concepts straight out of the world's motivational marketing techniques and dresses them in a Christian veneer. A proliferation of worldly techniques has arguably affected the message of the Gospel to such an extent as to make Christian and non Christian hearers alike comfortable and entertained. The result is that sin and grace are minimised.

Secondly, Christians are increasingly looking more to the world for psychological methods to cure alcoholics, drug addicts and abused people. Churches have adopted self help groups; 'co-dependency recovery' groups; 'ten step' programs - all designed to build *self-esteem*, *self-fulfilment* and other humanistic and unbiblical values. Churches now have 'christian psychologists' on staff. Although their methods can help change behaviour and habits in practical ways and with medication (the brain is an organ), Christian psychology today teaches Christians to also look outside the Bible for solutions to problems of the soul and the spirit. Psychology has a low view of sin, partly because it has a low view of Scripture.

What do the Scriptures say about looking to the world?: '*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world...*', (Col.2:8). '*In times past you walked according to the course of this world...*', (Eph.2:2) '*And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...*' (Rom.12:2). The only means to transform our Christian minds is the *all sufficient* Word of God! Although there are many valuable things outside the Bible, *spiritually* all we need to know is in Scripture! The power of God to live a Christian life comes from the Holy Spirit through the *written* Word of God - the Bible. To know the Scriptures is to know the power of God, (Mk.12:24)!

How did Jesus handle attacks from Satan? - by quoting the Word of God - '*It is written*', (Matt.4:6-10). Even the symbols of the Word of God, ('*lamp*', '*hammer*', '*sword*', '*seed*'), show it's power. '*For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*', (Heb.4:12). With the above in mind, do we need psychology and Church Growth methods? How did the saints of last centuries ever survive without such?...they practised *Sola Scriptura*!

If the Word of God will not change people then forget about using any other methods!

A most insidious attack on *Sola Scriptura* has come from the Pentecostal/Charismatic sector through their understanding

of 'prophecy'. Confusion here stems from the misunderstanding of what 'prophecy' means in the New Testament.

The modern meaning of the verb to 'prophesy' has in many quarters unfortunately come to mean to predict, to *foretell* the future, or to put forth the mind of God. This is certainly indicative of the Old Testament usage but in the New Testament the primary meaning is rather to 'tell forth [forthtell] the message of God'. The New Testament 'prophesy' is the Greek 'prophetes' from 'pro' meaning 'forth' and 'phemi' - 'to speak': to speak forth the Word of God or to *forthtell*. The primary meaning of the word 'prophesy' in the New Testament is to *forthtell*, not to *foretell*. Since we now have the Word of God in written form in a *closed canon* of Scripture (4), the closest thing to this would be preaching or expounding - *forthtelling* the Word of God *already* contained in the Bible.

In the Old Testament the Word of God was given to men through the prophets or those specifically used by God, (Heb.1:1,2; 2Pet.1:21). The meaning of 'prophet' in the Old Testament was that of a *speaker of the oracles of God*, one *chosen* by God to speak His Words. Aaron was chosen by God to be a prophet before Pharaoh, (Ex.4,5,7). Many of these men had *immediate* and *direct* communion with God or God chose to communicate to them through dreams and visions, (Num.12:2cp.vs.6; Nu.12:1-8cp. Jer.23; Amos 3:7,8; Gen 20:7,8,17,18). However, this is not the practice today for we now have the *completed* Word of God!

Today it is surely grievous to God when we look for more than He has given us in the completed written Scriptures.

Even where the intent in the New Testament is to *foretell*, almost all the references are quoting something from the *Old Testament*, (Eg. Matt.15:7: '**Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you...**'; 1Pet 1:10: '**Of which salvation the [Old Testament] prophets...prophesied of the grace that should come unto you.**') In Luke 1:67 when Zacharias '**prophesied**' he recounts what was *already* promised and *looked forward to* in the Old Testament - that the '**God of Israel**' had '**visited and redeemed His people, and...raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David...by the mouth of His holy prophets...which he swore to our father Abraham...And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest...To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins...**' Again in Acts 2:16,17 on the day of Pentecost the word '**prophesy**' here is not *foretelling* the future but recounting something *already* spoken of in the Old Testament from Joel 2.

There is perhaps only one clear occasion in the New Testament where *foretelling* or predicting seems to be the sole intent - that of Agabus in Acts 11:27,28. However, we *now* have a *closed canon of Scripture* - the Bible is now *complete*. The faith has been '**ONCE delivered unto the saints**', (Jude 3). God '**spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son...**', (Heb.1:1,2). To add to the Word brings the threat of a curse, (Rev.22:18,19 cp. Dt.4:2; 12:3).

In Eph.2:20; 3:5, the prophets were named side by side with the Apostles (the eleven and those who were commissioned by Jesus directly) as the *foundation* of the New Testament church. New Testament prophets were for the New Testament church what Old Testament prophets were for Israel. They maintained the immediate connection between the church and God. They were messengers or communicators.

Pentecostal/Charismatics sometimes admit there is an apparent contradiction between their version of prophesying and the sufficiency of Scripture. However, through a gymnastics of terminology they redefine 'prophecy'. They

quote many Old Testament Scriptures such as 1Kings 17:1 where Elijah prophesied saying: '**...according to my word**'. However, *these words went on to become the completed Word of God!*

What is 'prophecy' to us now? What does a '**more sure word of Prophecy**' mean? Does this '**word of prophecy**' include new words from God as seen in Charismatic/Pentecostalism or in the 'prophets' of today?

A look at 2Peter 1:16-21 reveals the answer. The whole passage is speaking of *false teachers*, false revelations and a departure from the faith!: '**For we have not followed cunningly devised fables...We have also a more sure word of prophecy..**' But what is this '**more sure word of prophecy**'?...the very next verse tells us!: '**Knowing this first, that no prophecy OF THE SCRIPTURE is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you...**'

This '**prophecy**' in verse 19 is '**prophecy OF SCRIPTURE**' (vs.20)! *What is this 'Scripture' to any sound Christian but the 66 books of the Bible!* This passage also says '**Holy men of God spake...**' The word '**spake**' is in the Greek aorist tense and indicative mood - meaning it was done *once* as a *completed act* and *not to be repeated!*

Modern day Pentecostal/Charismatics say that their prophesying is in agreement with the Word of God and is the Word simply applied to our present situation. They say their prophesying is the revelation of God's word/will in our present situation. However, they are referring in practice to *foretelling*, rather than *forthtelling* the already completed Word of God. *Sola Scriptura* as it was originally taught says that the Word of God is enough and this *excluded* *foretelling* any new Words from God! Still some quote 1Corinthians 14 where the practice of prophesying is mentioned. Again, at the time of the Corinthian church the canon of Scripture had not been completed.

In short, *people who proclaim words directly from God are adding to the Word of God!* They are implying the Bible is not sufficient and they distract people away from written Scripture as being sufficient. *They cannot claim Sola Scriptura as the Reformers taught it!* The fact is there is a glaring contradiction between the Pentecostal/Charismatic practice of 'prophesying' as in *foretelling* and the all sufficiency of Scripture. No amount of rearranging or redefining the definitions of 'prophecy' or *Sola Scriptura* will change this.

Logically, anything outside of God's Word does not have to be 'prophesied' to give people direction or show the will of God. We are *free* to do whatever is outside and not contradictory to the written Word of God. We also have the benefit of prayer and the counsel of many. We simply do not need a 'prophet' or anyone to 'prophesy' words from God. The fruit of today's many false 'prophets' and their false 'prophesies' should drive us back to a reliance on the *all sufficiency of Scripture*.

In this ministry our hearts cry out to true 'Evangelicals' world wide to stand with the Reformers in the true meaning of the word *Evangelical* and to proclaim the original *Sola Scriptura!* Let it not be muddled by movements that would have an ear to hear new words and revelations from God. '**Every Word of God is pure...add thou not unto His words...**', (Ps.30:5,6). **Terry Arnold**

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

(1) '*Sola Scriptura!*' by various authors, P.7 (2) Ibid P.105 (3) Ibid, P.141 (4) Means rule; measure; complete and divine.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Brother Arnold, I enjoy reading your publication...The issue July/August was informative and enlightening...I believe though that you have used information that may be jaded in relation to Neil Anderson and his ministry. In 'Neil Anderson, Demonisation & Sola Scriptura' you state as fact that Anderson advocates...believers can be indwelt by demons. That is patently false and misleading. [However] he does say that believers can be inhabited by demonic activity. Being positionally free does not always equate to practical freedom. Do believers have habits? Of course they do. Can believers be in bondage to these habits? Of course they can, just ask the smoker or the drinker or the porno watcher or the one controlled by temper...

It would seem from your article that you are so blessed you never battle sin because, as you state, 'Were we not saved from the power of Satan?' Perhaps a study on the difference between our 'position' in Christ and our 'practice' in life would benefit us all. We may be seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus (Position), but we battle our enemies daily in the world, the flesh and Devil (Practice). To intimate otherwise is a mistake at best and deceptive at worst...

(Pastor D.B.)

Dear D., Thankyou for your remarks...

- You say Neil Anderson does not say believers can be indwelt by demons, yet he does clearly say that believers can be inhabited by demonic activity? I wonder what is the difference to the average reader? 'Inhabited' must surely refer to taking up residence! This is obvious to his readers

Without Prejudice

[Compilation of 2 letters] *Dear Terry, I am writing to you about the church my husband and I have just left...our pastor had no statement of faith and when asked for one it was never revealed. Our 'covering' was 'Millennium Ministries International' - a New Zealand organization. The church is called 'Freedom Christian Centre' and is at the Concorde Building, Coolangatta, [Qld.]. The Pastors names are Phil and Sally Guest who three years ago came from New Zealand but Phil had originally come from Clarke Taylor's church COC Brisbane. We found out that they are a 'kingdom' church but keep it secret because they fear everyone will leave...They have both confessed to us...that they are Kingdom believers...I was given books by Robert Govett and one by a NZ pastor Neal Patterson called 'Created To Rule' - an insight for preparation to qualify for the rewards for the coming 1000 year Messianic Kingdom...I disagreed with the teaching. Very subtly they introduce their doctrine...*

We have...warned as many people as we can. They are denying their beliefs now even though to us they admitted them...We are second class Christians to them...please warn Christians of this heretical teaching that is on the Gold Coast. One site is: <http://sigler.org> ...He has lots of links to go to. The big teacher is J.Preston Eby

...The leaders keep it hidden because they said to us that if they brought it out into the open they would lose all their people...when we said to them they had deceived us by not telling us what they really believe they said they have been teaching it little by little and we wouldn't have been able to handle it any other way. Their parents (Shirley and Ross Davies) come over regularly to teach at their church...They preached at Clarke Taylor's church in the eighties and caused a stir and Billy Pryor's church here at Tweed Heads. We are

I have spoken to. 'Inhabited' or 'indwelt' - both are still unscriptural in regards to a Christian. Please show one Scripture for a demon 'inhabiting' a Christian.

- You say: 'Being positionally free does not always equate to practical freedom. Do believers have habits?...Can believers be in bondage to these habits? Of course they can, just ask the smoker or the drinker or the porno watcher or the one controlled by temper...' True, we all have 'habits' and we are not perfect in practice. But where in Scripture are these demonic or because of 'inhabited' demons? Are these habits to be broken by Anderson's methods? No one would deny that Anderson suggests a 'the devil made me do it' mentality.

- You say I am 'so blessed and I never battle sin...' Quite the contrary! I made it clear in several places that we battle with sin. I mentioned the responsibility we have to 'mortify the deeds of the body', to 'cleanse ourselves', etc (P.5); our 'sinful behaviour' and 'habits' (P.6); oppression by Satan, (P.6). But are we not delivered from the power of Satan?...if we were not we would be hell bound.

- You say: 'We may be seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus (Position), but we battle our enemies daily in the world, the flesh and Devil (Practice). For you to intimate that otherwise is mistake at best and deceptive at worst'. Again, I made it absolutely clear that we battle with sin, the flesh and Satan, (P.6). I urge you to re-read the article. I thank you for your other comments and trust that some of the articles will continue to be enlightening. God bless...

totally shocked by all of this...[they] have...tried to make our names bad and we have had some real spiritual battles...I find it abhorrent that so called Christians can deceive people in their church and try to brain wash them by introducing this teaching gradually. We were elders in the church and they never told us the truth.

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

Advisory Comments: [One of our researchers has written the following]: 'The Kingdom Teaching that is spoken of here is either the Preterist belief that prophecy has been fulfilled, as from the time of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD. or the Latter Rain 'Kingdom Now' teaching.

J. Preston Eby endorses Preterism and Kingdom Teaching...see: http://www.preteristarchive.com/Preterism/dennis-todd_p_01.html

The links from this site are also quite heretical.

For information on the Preterist doctrine, also go to this site for an introduction: http://www.preteristarchive.com/Preterism/dennis-todd_p_01.html

'Kingdom Now' teaching promotes that...the church will usher in the final aspect of the kingdom as it takes dominion over the earth - before Christ's return. Part of this will come in the form of a great last day revival (Latter Rain revival) in which the world will turn to Christ.

The Phil Guest that I know...I met when he came in the late 80s to Cairns Christian Centre, (NQ) and 'ministered' in song...it was 'rock and roll' entertainment...At that time he was married to a lady named Sue...A couple of years later, Sue Guest and her children...turned up at Cairns Christian Centre, but minus Phil. He had...moved on...with his new wife Sally...

Your Comments and Questions

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

Possible Sth Aust. Trip

Consideration is being given to a possible ministry trip to Sth Australia in 2003. Those churches and fellowships wishing to be involved please contact Terry.

Dear Terry, I have to commend you on that excellent article 'Seventh-Day Adventist Challenge Answered' [Sept/Oct]. I have been through the maze of Adventism and can say with certainty that I have fallen prey to this teaching because I trusted them. Whenever they needed to condemn a person or an organisation, they would first write an article about their subject, outlining a set of principles which their subject (presumably) stood for. These would be completely false and outrageous, but written with craftily worded phrases. Then, still presuming this to be fact, they would hold a mock trial and condemn their subject to death! I have known several people who left their church thus character-assassinated. They would also use the same tactic to challenge nominal Christians saying 'Show me one single text in the Bible to say you should observe Sunday for worship', and they would hardly find one person who could call their bluff and say '...show me one single text in God's Word that requires Christians to observe Saturday for worship?'. I have taken some notes from your article for my next booklet, and applaud the way you completely demolished that challenge.

(Mark Duckworth, ex-SDA and author)

Dear Terry, Thankyou for all your efforts in exposing error that abounds today. I really look forward to receiving the 'Diakrisis' newsletter. However, after reading the article on Joyce Meyer (June/July) where you expose her to be what she is, a false prophet, I was wondering what 'helpful material' she could possibly have? Your newsletter is sent by friends of mine to a lady who is coming to see the error that exists in the Charismatic movement and reading such things may confuse her and others in a similar situation. I look forward to your response to my concerns.

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors Comment:...I appreciate your concern. I guess my intent was to tell the truth - that Meyer has at least some sound teaching. But then I guess most of the false teachers/prophets do too. If I rewrote the article perhaps I would have a caution/explanation with this statement? Thankyou. I have noted the comment for consideration in the future.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the Victorian itinerary and for safety in travel.
- Pray for improved health for Terry, his family and continued strength for those who work in the ministry.

Dear Terry,...It is some five years since I left the Pentecostal church scene and I thank God for the faithfulness of you and your team in 'contending earnestly for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints' despite frequent opposition.

The excellent teaching in your newsletter is such a blessing to one who walks in the wilderness waiting for deliverance from this corrupt world...(R.C., Vict)

Dear Terry, A number of years ago I read your book 'To Catholics Whom I love'...The Lord led me out of the Catholic Church about 20 years ago, even though I was born again approximately nine years before...I believe, if I had seen the truth earlier, I would have been very judgmental and critical.

I was walking to 'Mass' one morning and it was like a veil lifted and I could see the truth. Later I asked the Lord why I could not see the deception in the Catholic Church. It came to my memory that when I was about three years old, I broke a doll and hid it from my parents, and for many years I was living a lie. I could not see I was deceived...

...I have...two of my precious granddaughters go to a Roman Catholic school...I pray that their eyes will be opened and that they will be used mightily to bring the message of salvation to many. Thanking you, (S.B.)

Dear Terry, Mike...I look forward to getting your 'Diakrisis' and keeping fed on God's Word, plus up to date information on different ministries...false teachers and false prophets...when I do share your material with other professing Christians who revere these folk...its like I've walked blindly into a wasp nest.

The reactions I receive include 'shoot the messenger'. I've learned, as you put it, when to back off. Its got to the stage where I keep my pearls in my pocket. They can continue with the diet that they've become accustomed to...God's sheep know His voice and the delusioned Christian is oblivious to the masters call, preferring to follow human shepherds.

In 'Diakrisis' the comments you receive, must make you wonder at times, as to the genuine nature of their Christian walk. I for one just shake my head in disbelief...Thank you so much. Keep up the good work...(J.R. Biggenden, Qld)

Terry's Itinerary

Oct.27th am Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld Ph. (07)41240631

Victorian Itinerary

Nov.3rd Sun. am Melton Baptist Ph.(03)97473536
Nov.3rd Sun. pm Golden City Baptist, Bendigo (03)54496368
Nov.6th Wed. pm Golden City Baptist, Bendigo
Nov.10th Sun. am & pm Rose City Baptist, Benalla 57625220
Nov.13th Wed. pm Numurkah Gospel Hall Ph.58712569
Nov.17th Sun. - Thurs 21st Lavington Baptist, Albury Ph. (02)60215860/Bethel Baptist, Mt Beauty Ph.57541784
Nov.24th Sun. am Calvary Baptist, Melbourne Ph.97285778
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