



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 editors may not necessarily agree with all the views by subscribers 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 article 'Legalism' and *Methods of Ministry*' on page 5,6 of this newsletter is perhaps one of the most important issues we have ever addressed. The 'method of ministry' we use will often determine whether we co-operate with the Holy Spirit or whether we grieve and hinder His work. Wrong methods of ministry will usurp the role of the Holy Spirit to lead, guide, convict and to sanctify us more to the image of Jesus Christ. If our ministry is not based on *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture Alone) then it may well be based on some form of humanism. Too many people today say they are *Sola Scriptura* but in practise they are actually legalistic.

Legalism has a lot to do with hypocrisy and Pharisaism. Jesus reserved the title of 'hypocrites' for the Scribes and Pharisees because of their legalism in binding God's people to laws, rules and regulations that they themselves could not keep, (Matt.23:4).

A hypocrite ('*hupocrites*') is literally one who acts pretentiously, a counterfeit, a man who assumes and speaks or acts under a feigned character.

Hypocrites are very often legalists; legalists are nearly always hypocritical.

The pharisees were 'legalists' - they imposed their mindsets upon others and expected them to live as they were attempting (and failing) to live.

Legalism is really opposed to *Sola Scriptura*. It is man's judgements as opposed to Scripture alone. Only the latter ultimately judges us, (Jn.12:48).

At the heart of legalism is misjudgement and a lack of discernment. Legalists will too quickly 'box' those who do not agree with them. For example, because one might be scholarly they will be boxed with the 'sin' of 'intellectualism'. Because one defends the Reformation and the Reformers they might be boxed as a 'Calvinist or hyper-Calvinist'. Because one might not have the same view of a particular Bible version they will be boxed as a 'modernist' or 'apostate'. Because one might agree with one article by a liberal theologian, they are boxed as a 'liberal'. This packaging mentality is the effect of a legalistic mindset which judges according to its own standards. Legalists, when disagreement arises, will suddenly label and judge the other with increasing failings. Every jot and tittle will be exposed. Yet legalists rarely admit error themselves.

We all have legalism within us because we battle with the flesh. Our safeguard is a mindset of Scripture alone for all doctrine, the spiritual life and conduct. Whatever we teach, preach and expect of others must be clearly grounded in the Written Word of God.

It is only through Christ in us who, as we surrender to His Spirit and His Word, will enable us to live a life free from legalism and hypocrisy. Because we live in a body of flesh and in a fleshly world, we expect it to be a battle royal. But the victory has already been won. We have the compass of the Holy Spirit and the map of the written Word of God to guide us clear of such obstacles.

Terry Arnold

Sydney Trip

Any fellowships wishing to part of a June Sydney itinerary please contact Terry 0411489472 Fx. (07)41240915 E-mail: tam@satcom.net.au

A Current Deception

Recently some Pentecostal ministries have been utilising a particularly deceptive method to defend their unbiblical doctrines, and to divorce themselves from the aberrations of Toronto/Pensacola/Brownsville/Hillsong et al.

In an effort to whitewash the genesis of their movement they classify the beginnings as the 'Classic' form and the excesses of today as the 'Neo' thereby *creating* two streams; *Classic Pentecostalism* and *Neo Pentecostalism*. They hold conferences to explain this thinking.

These leaders, who claim to be the *Remnant Church* and within the 'Classic' camp, have in the past done well in exposing the glaring errors of the Signs and Wonders Movement, the Health/Wealth Gospel and various spurious 'Revivals'.

They have rightly sounded the alarm, but have also misplaced the historic roots of Pentecostalism. Instead of correctly planting them in Topeka, Kansas and Azusa Street, California* in the early twentieth century, they place their beginnings in the Holiness Movement of the century before. This is simply not correct.

An in depth study of the origins of the Pentecostal Movement can be found in the January 2001 edition of *Diakrisis* - which we will forward to anyone by request. In addition to that, on the following page of this newsletter is our review of a definitive book on this very subject.

The *tongues* spoken today in the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement are the *same* as those used in Topeka in 1901 - *unknown*, and a counterfeit of those depicted in Acts 2.* Biblical tongues were for *unbelieving* Israel, (1Cor.14:22).

The current Pentecostal *Baptism with the Spirit* is identical to that *invented* in Topeka in 1901 - an experience *subsequent* to salvation. This is to be contrasted with Acts 2, 8, 10 & 19 where the recipients of this baptism had *never before* received the indwelling Holy Spirit! These events in Acts were a *first time* coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell believers. That could not occur until the ascension (Jn.16:7) which occurred just prior to Acts 2. It is futility for a Christian to attempt to repeat these actions today since we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion.

This *subsequent* baptism was first introduced by a Charles Parham in 1901 and *unknown tongues* spoken by the recipients became the *evidence* of the experience having taken place.**

The roots of the movement in it's entirety are firmly planted in the so called *revivals* in Topeka (1901) and Azusa Street (1906). Those that call themselves 'Classic' Pentecostals must go back to these dates to find their origins.

What is misunderstood by many today is that the *core doctrines* are the *same* in all areas of Pentecostal belief. *All* Pentecostalism is founded upon the doctrine of subsequence and unknown tongues as evidence of that. These doctrines are shared by the founders of the movement *and* the adherents of today.

At the heart of all Pentecostalism is the phenomenon of *extra biblical revelation*. Early Pentecostals indulged in this activity as do their modern counterparts. The Toronto & Pensacola *revivals* are merely replicas of events at Azusa Street. Messages in unknown tongues and predictive prophecy are still present in the movement today.

Admittedly, some *forms* and *styles* have changed such as the music used; and there are obviously further excesses and extremes in today's assemblies. However, the core doctrines of both early and modern Pentecostalism *remain the same*.

Considering the behaviour of the founders it's not hard to understand why leaders today endeavour to distance themselves from the actual beginnings of Pentecostalism. The sordid history of Topeka and Azusa Street is rife with Homosexual scandal, demonic manifestations and heresy.*

When discerning the correctness of any spiritual movement it is absolutely imperative that scripture is applied to the doctrine being taught. As the years pass it is becoming painfully obvious that this particular tree has borne no good fruit. '*Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?*', (James 3:11).

We urge our readers not to be swayed by those who would use this deception to keep people within a religious system that continues to practice the doctrines of it's corrupt foundation.

Mike Claydon

* See our papers '*Pentecostal/Tongues Roots - The Amazing Facts*' and '*The Other Side of Azusa St*'.

**For the true and false teaching of the '*Baptism With The Spirit*' see *Diakrisis* Aug/Sept 2000 or our book '*Tongues & the Baptism With the Spirit*'.

Proposed Tape Ministry

We often have people and fellowships requesting preaching/teaching tapes. There appears to be a real need for more tapes from this ministry. To facilitate this we are offering a ministry to send 2 tapes (4 messages) per month to anyone wishing to receive them. These messages would be from Terry Arnold or other speakers with material we think sound, relevant and important to our readers. Tapes would be \$4 each + postage. An invoice would be sent every quarter. Any profit will go to the development and support of this ministry. If you are interested in being on this mailing list, please contact us and give your address to Terry on **0411489472 Fx. (07)41240915 E-mail: tam@satcom.net.au**

New Video Tape With Booklet

We have put together a package of a new video and a copy of the book '*Eternal Questions*'. The video has 4 vital messages and teaching by Terry Arnold conducted in Victoria in 2001/2002. They are 1. *Sola Scriptura!* 2. *The Baptism With the Spirit/& Filling* 3. *Salt & Separation* 4. *Spiritual Warfare & Demonisation*. The cost of the video and book is \$14 (postage included).

Book Review 'Fields White Unto Harvest' by James Goff Jr.

This is 264 pages of accurate and surprisingly frank material concerning the history of the Pentecostal movement. The author, (a direct descendant of a co-worker of Charles Parham who founded the movement), divorces himself from his own Pentecostal roots and ties, and documents the progression of the movement from its beginnings in Topeka in 1901. Nowhere do we see the authors doctrinal views or Pentecostal distinctives.

There is no book in the world I know of that is as accurate, objective and readable as this book. It is a must for every Pentecostal and a must for every reference library. The documentation is simply the best and most scholarly available. (There are 80 pages of notes, references and sources at the end of the book alone). The book also includes photographs and photostats of exhibits.

The book defines clearly the Pentecostal movement as: 'A Christian confession or ecclesiastical tradition holding the distinctive teaching that all Christians should seek a post-conversion religious experience called the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, and that a Spirit baptised believer may receive one or more of the supernatural gifts known in the early church: instantaneous sanctification, the ability to prophesy, practise divine healing, speaking in tongues (glossolalia), or interpret tongues'.

Goff also takes the reader back to the holiness movement of the 19th Century, when there was a new emphasis on the Holy Spirit. The 1890's saw radical holiness movements breaking away from Methodists, and the teaching of sanctification became divided into different views, including the erroneous view of what some now call 'Entire Sanctification'. Divisions in the doctrine of the Trinity also followed.

It was Charles Parham who first formulated the definition of Pentecostalism by linking tongues with the Holy Spirit Baptism. 'Glossolalia' (γλωσσο-tongue/λαλια-speak) became the proof or evidence of a post conversion experience. Parham actually had three main teachings which included the above. Two of these teachings were *rejected*: these were that Spirit filled believers are 'sealed' as the bride of Christ, and that the 'glossolalia' would be the tool for a world endtime revival, (P. 173). However, the teaching of 'the evidence of tongues' for a subsequent Baptism with the Spirit remained as the *distinctive* teaching that defined and separated the Pentecostal movement from historical Christianity.

An interesting thread to the movement shown by Goff is the Sociological aspect. At the inception of the movement there were social problems and influences that gave the new Pentecostal experience a climate in which it was readily accepted.

That Charles Parham was the founder of the Pentecostal movement, is well proved in this book. It is only in more recent times that the Pentecostal movement has sought to distance itself from this history. The reason becomes clear when one reads the documentation of the life of Parham...

Earlier in life Parham had suffered a viral infection of the brain which some believe caused him to behave in a disorderly manner. He was in fact rejected for ordination by the Methodist Church. He denied the doctrine of eternal punishment, opposed medical and medicational treatment and believed

serious diseases to be demonic. He was also influenced by a cult like centre called 'Shiloh' run by a Frank Sandford near Durham, Maine, and believed that missionaries could be endowed with special powers for last days mission work. Parham was documented as having mental, emotional, psychological and sociological disorders.

In 1907 he was arrested for homosexual acts with a 22 year old man in San Antonio, Texas. From then unto his death in 1929 he was considered by the movement as a 'fallen prophet'. However, he continued his religious endeavours up to the end, including raising funds for a trip to the Holy Land to search for the Ark of the Covenant. This trip never materialised as Parham claimed to have been 'mugged' in New York and had all his money 'stolen'.

Many writers and leaders have sought to reject Parham as the founder. But it was Parham who founded the *first* Pentecostal magazine called 'Apostolic Faith', he issued the *first* Pentecostal minister credentials, and it was he who *first* formulated the new Pentecostal doctrine of a *subsequent* Baptism With the Spirit.

Parham was a Bible College teacher at Topeka, Kansas, USA and mentor of a William Seymour who founded the Azusa St. church some years later to which various Pentecostal affiliations trace their roots.

The [unknown] Tongues movement is clearly traced to Topeka in 1901. Before this only isolated cases of unknown tongue speaking can be found with mystics, Roman Catholics and extreme sects, and some isolated occurrences by individuals during holiness camp meetings.

The part of this book that should shock all Christians is the history of the Topeka event in 1901 where the 'tongues movement' began. This event also documents Parham's true understanding of 'tongues'. Parham *did not believe in unknown tongues* but rather 'Zenoglossa' - (Zeno-foreign/Glossolalia-tongue speaking). He believed true tongues to be *real human earthly foreign languages* as in Acts 2 and they would be supernaturally and instantly given to Christians for the purpose of missionary work in other countries.

After suffering a nervous breakdown in 1899 Parham attempted to reproduce Acts 2. However, the event at Topeka was proved to be something very different. Parham later rejected the same phenomenon at Azusa St. which had been imparted by Seymour. The unknown tongues of today are traced precisely to the Topeka event and the later Azusa St.

The book traces the developments of Azusa St. and Parham's eventual denouncement of this movement as occultic. Much of this history is today being re-written or is presented selectively, but this book leaves no stone unturned and the background of references and bibliography is simply exhaustive. At times this book reads like a novel as it traces the fascinating history of men such as Parham and Seymour to the very end.

Christians who are lovers of truth will want to read this scarce classic and learn from history. Whatever one thinks of the Pentecostal movement, the irrefutable documentation in this book will enlighten and give a source of valuable information as to how, where and why this movement originated. Cost: \$29.50 + postage \$4 (Limited stocks)

Terry Arnold

Pope Says All Baptized To Seek Unity

‘Vatican City, Jan.22, 2003 - John Paul II says that the restoration of full communion among Christians is...the duty...of every baptized person. Addressing 3,500 people who attended the general audience at the Vatican today, the Pope dedicated the meeting to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants [no longer protesting!] and others are observing the Jan.18-25 event.

‘In virtue of the strength of the faith that unites us, we Christians, therefore, are obliged, each according to his own vocation, to restore full communion...’ the Holy Father said...

In order to *restore* the lost unity, ‘it is necessary to cultivate among Christians a love that is committed to surmounting the differences,’ he added. ‘It is necessary to

‘Worship Warrior’ Seminars

Koorong books are sponsoring a conference described as ‘Ascending in Worship - Descending in Warfare’... ‘a time of radical pursuit for God’s people. A time where the Spirit of the Lord is calling believers to worship and manifest His will on earth. He is releasing a sound from heaven that is being embraced all over the earth, and causes us to draw near in intimacy. This sound causes us to go to war! The war in the earth realm has always been over worship, fought by worship, and won by worship. Worship warriors, arise in the generations, connect and stand!’

The above language sounds more like something out of a *Star Trek* movie than Scripture. The ‘sound from heaven that is being embraced all over the earth’ that ‘causes us to go to war!’ - is false doctrine on spiritual warfare including unscriptural methods for the eviction of ‘territorial spirits’.

The brochure says of the speakers: [Chuck Pierce] ‘...to launch his new book ‘worship warrior’...to bring...a release in the area of worship and warfare. For the past decade Chuck has been mobilising the church world wide through the global strategic prayer movement, and he serves on several strategic apostolic and prophetic teams. He is...an internationally recognised prophet to the body of Christ.’ [Barbara Yoder] ‘is founder and senior pastor of [a US Church] known for her cutting edge and apostolic ministry imparting Jesus ‘breaker anointing’...[she] serves on the US apostolic council and prophetic elders...’ [Robert Stevens]...‘[is] dedicated to bringing unity and awakening to the body of Christ.’

The list of seminars include ‘War to possess your inheritance’ - ‘...learn how to remove ‘squatters’ from our portion...’ [\$120 per person]; ‘The spiritual dynamics of breakthrough’ - ‘...God has commissioned the apostolic church to breakthrough with the presence and power of God...on a..territorial level, so that you can implement this ‘breaker anointing’’. [\$120]; ‘ascending in worship, descending in warfare’ - ‘...The church is rapidly becoming God’s warrior bride, preparing to move his kingdom to the next level in the earth. Learn how to break through...’ [\$120] A fee for all seminars is included - \$290 per person.

What is this new ‘breaker anointing’? So many of the false prophets have come up with new ‘anointings’. These teachings defy Scripture which teaches a *single, past and same* anointing for Christians - the Holy Spirit Himself! (1Jn.2:27). Beware of these seminars which make ‘merchandise’ of God’s people, (2Pet.2:3).

make the effort to overcome every barrier with incessant prayer, with persevering dialogue...’ He recalled the proposal he made in 1995...to ‘find a form of exercise of the primacy [His!]...’

This commitment is decisive for two fundamental reasons: ‘on one hand, unity expresses fidelity to the Gospel; on the other, as the Lord himself has indicated, it is a condition in order that all will believe that He is the one sent by the Father,’ the Pontiff explained.

In fact, the present division ‘constitutes a ‘scandal’ for the world and ‘harm’ for the preaching of the Gospel.’...(Apostasy Alert 2/2003)

Editors Comment: This is ecumenism at its worst. ‘The faith that unites us’ and the ‘lost unity’ that must be ‘restored’ assumes a unity that is simply not there. The Roman Catholic religion preaches another gospel, rejects faith alone and scripture alone and adds numerous traditions that openly defy Scripture. The ‘barrier’ of the ‘surmounting differences’ are to be swept away to accept the ‘primacy’ of the Pope as the head of the church on earth? This ‘unity’ does not ‘express fidelity to the Gospel’ but betrays it and places a curse on anyone who would preach it, (Gal.1:6-8; 2Cor.11:4). This ‘present division’ is not a ‘scandal’ as the Pope says but a fact and prophecy of Scripture as foretold by Jesus and the apostle John.

Uproar Over Calling Homosexuality Sin

‘Officials in a Michigan community have decided not to fire a volunteer police chaplain for saying homosexuality is a sin, but ordered the police chief to bring in more chaplains to represent a wider religious viewpoint. Tom Hansen, who has been the Ferndale Police Department’s lone chaplain for several years, has been under fire for comments he made earlier this year while opposing Motor City Pride, a gay pride event in the city located near Detroit, ‘The Royal Oak Daily Tribune’ reported. In addition to characterizing homosexuality as sin, the pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church said the gay lifestyle was an ‘abomination to the Lord’.

The city received more than 100 letters about Hansen’s remarks after ‘Soulforce’ took on the issue in July, when members of the pro-gay religious group met several times with Hansen, asking him to retract his statements, apologize or resign. Hansen refused. Several clergy members defended Hansen’s right to speak out on issues, but some disagreed with his biblical interpretation that homosexuality is a sin. The Ferndale City Council recently passed a resolution that said Hansen’s anti-gay remarks were ‘callous, outdated and hostile’ and an affront to it’s gay community. (Charisma News)

Editors Comments: Does not this chaplain say what God says?: Homosexuality and Lesbianism are both severely condemned in the Old Testament as an ‘abomination’ with the penalty of death, (Lev.18:22). In the New Testament it is called a ‘vile affection’; being ‘against nature’; ‘unseemly’; and ‘error’, (Rom.1:26,27); and that this act of ‘going after strange flesh’ will bring ‘eternal fire’, (Jude 7). 1Corinthians 6:9,10 says ‘..the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven...nor the effeminate, nor the abusers of themselves with mankind...’ The original Greek words here for ‘effeminate’ and ‘abusers’ specifically refer to Homosexuals and Lesbians.

‘Legalism’ and ‘Methods of Ministry’

Sometimes we in this ministry are accused of ‘legalism’. This always shocks us as we have a deep and abiding hatred of real ‘legalism’. Having come from false religion and then years of being ‘controlled’ and manipulated by false teaching and church leaderships, we have had our fair share of ‘legalism’. So to be accused of legalism now is a surprise; therefore we always ask for a definition of the term from our accusers.

Unfortunately today a person is often called legalistic because he or she will not go beyond the Word of God or conversely ignore it. The term legalism has been given a new application. Nowadays, anyone who conscientiously obeys God’s commandments is likely to be regarded as ‘legalistic’.

One risks being labelled ‘legalistic’ when attempting to expose false teaching and contending for the faith; so too when one deliberately separates from error, false teaching, false teachers and from professing Christians who are living unholy lives or in open sin. Such defence of the faith and application of Scriptural separation* is increasingly bringing the charge of ‘legalism’.

Too often when one adheres to the letter of the Word one is accused of having the ‘letter of the Word instead of the spirit of the Word’, and that ‘the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life’, (2Cor.3:6). However, the passage in question is comparing the Old Testament law in tablets of stone which cannot now save - with grace in Jesus of the new covenant which saves. The ‘letter’ of the Word was put there by the Spirit to be obeyed!

Legalism is primarily defined as ‘*the theory that a man by doing good works or obeying the law earns and merits his salvation*’. (1) Man is by nature legalistic. Religions are basically the outworking of that legalism. For example, Roman Catholics willingly put themselves under laws and rules that they might ease the conscience over sin, thinking that works might merit salvation in some way. Christians are not immune to this. The flesh wars with the spirit and it is in the flesh that we will pursue the spirit of legalism and self righteousness.

Now most readers would say they are not ‘*doing good works or obeying the law to merit salvation*’. But often we forget about more subtle and dangerous forms of legalism.

Let us work from the obvious to the not so obvious:

The Bible says to ‘***Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage***’, (Gal.5:1). ‘***Liberty***’ here refers to ‘freedom and independence from religious regulations and legal restrictions’. We are free from legalistic Judaisers who would bring us back under laws with Sabbaths, foods, drinks, etc, (Col.2:16; Rom.14:5-21). While legalism is a following of the law to earn merit, it is *not* a refusal to go beyond the requirements of the law as the Word of God. The ‘liberty’ we have is not a license to do as we please but a submission to the Lord’s will and His Word.

We are free from anybody imposing upon our conscience anything outside of Scripture. People who would subtly impose upon us their dreams, visions, revelations, prophecies, their ‘God told me’, and their ‘hobbyhorses’, are not to be listened to.

This brings us to a very important ‘method of ministry’. How does God change the character and behaviour of a saved

person? How does a pastor/elder/teacher see the desired change in a persons life?

There are two ways we have seen that affect change in peoples lives. One is of God and one of man. One produces lasting fruit, the other is deceptively fleshly and legalistic.

The Scriptural method is as follows: The Word of God, including the preaching/teaching of Scripture in the believers own life, gives *understanding* and *personal conviction* by the *Holy Spirit*. The persons *attitude* then changes. It is this Spirit inspired attitude and conviction that leads the person to continued repentance and a change in character and behaviour. They should then practice what they believe and understand. They will be ‘doers of the word’ - but from the right motivation - to glorify God. They will have been transformed *by the renewing of their minds directly through the Word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit*, (Rom.12:1,2).

So the Biblical method for ministry is:

Doctrine > Attitude > Application.

This method takes a great load off the elder/teacher or those involved in discipleship! The teacher is responsible for the *teaching of doctrine* and leads the recipient *to* truth; the Holy Spirit is responsible for taking the person *into* truth. The Holy Spirit produces the *attitude* and the resultant *application* will be *spiritual* instead of fleshly.

If the conviction and attitude is appropriated by the believer then it will be *his* or *her* own personal conviction and they will willingly change with a happy and contented spirit. No one will have to make them do things and check up on them. There will be no pressure and coercion. However, *the attitude developed is governed by where we start. We must start with the truth of Scripture and doctrine and trust the Holy Spirit to do His promised work!*

But what if we were to start in reverse as multitudes do - with ‘application’?: *Application > Attitude > Doctrine...*

...The pastor/elder/teacher sets the rules and standards or pushes his ‘hobbyhorses’ that he wants the believers to adhere to. As he finds more and more things that he sees as wrong behaviour he sets more rules in place. (Likewise the Pharisees continued to add to their already long list of laws. These kept people under bondage but also made it even harder for the Pharisees themselves to live up to these laws. Finally of course, they hardly bothered to observe them at all but continued to expect others to do so).

Because of the rules the pastor/elder/teacher has *applied* he now develops an *attitude* of authority to administer these rules. To justify this he may go to the Bible for proof texts for his *doctrine*. So he preaches from *application rather than doctrine*. The starting point is wrong and legalistic!

An example of this is someone who is personally convicted of or hates TV, computers, a particular sport...or whatever else he sees as evil. He speaks out or writes on the subject and uses Scripture in an attempt to prove the evil of the thing. Although none of the Scriptures selected may have anything explicitly to do with the topic, nevertheless it is made clear to the reader or hearer that if one engages in the thing it is evil or fleshly. The hearer may be ‘convicted’ but it is not necessarily by the Holy Spirit or even his own, but by pressure brought to bear by the instigator of the doctrine. The material presented has not been worked *from Scripture as the starting point*; or the Scriptures used have really nothing to

do with the topic. The *real Scriptural issues* (such as say idolatry) have not been the starting point and the opportunity for the work of Holy Spirit conviction has been subtly bypassed. Holy Spirit conviction comes only *through the Word of God as the starting point!* The above method would also not be in the spirit of *Sola Scriptura*, and is not only legalistic but actually a counterfeit method to the work of the Holy Spirit! As legalists develop methods of applying God's laws (and some of their own) to others, the person becomes the authority, the administrator.

In practical terms legalism is someone or something taking the place of the Holy Spirit! This approach has shipwrecked not a few pastors, families and churches. Children sometimes go 'off the rails' when they rebel against a 'conviction' that they had no real understanding of - it was not their own. *Rules and convictions without relationship and understanding, foster rebellion.*

The Bible alone is our authority in all spiritual things. The Holy Spirit is the administrator, the interpreter. If we want Holy Spirit conviction in peoples hearts we must *start* with Scripture and *trust* the Holy Spirit to do whatever he might (or might not) do. If we want people to stop doing something they are doing (for their own good and growth) we should be able to *clearly* and *explicitly* show them it is wrong from *Scripture alone* and *Scripture as the starting point.*

We may have personal convictions about certain activities, but do we have the right to expect people to have the same *personal conviction* as us unless the specific conviction is *clearly* addressed in Scripture? The Word of God does not tell us that TV, the computer internet, competition/sport, etc...is inherently evil. Many of these things are in themselves amoral. (2) But as we read Scripture or preach expositionally through Scripture *we trust the Holy Spirit* to address any area of idolatry, time wasting, selfishness, etc. These are the *real issues* of Scripture, and we can then make many applications and question those *from* these explicit matters as addressed fully in the Word of God.

Such Scriptural 'applications' and 'questions' (sometimes called 'conscience decisions') can be addressed by use of the following:

1. Will it be spiritually profitable? ***'All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not'***, (1Cor.10:23)

2. Will it master me? ***'All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any'***, (1Cor.6:12)

3. Will it cover my sins? ***'As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God'***, (1Pet.2:16); ***'For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another'***, (Gal.5:13).

4. Will it help others? Will it be a 'stumblingblock'?, ***'But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak'***, (1Cor.8:9); ***'Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offense...'***, (1Cor.10:31-33). ***'And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men'***, (Acts 24:16); ***'Abstain from all appearance of evil'***, (1Thess.5:22).

Are we prepared to let the Holy Spirit convict people in their own personal consciences or do we feel to be 'God's little helpers' in this by giving our personal judgement on

amoral matters? Do we attempt to 'convict' people with guilt on an issue that is simply not explicitly found in the Word of God? This kind of 'conviction' is a thin disguise for guilt, condemnation and legalism. If we are using these methods then we cannot claim to be *Sola Scriptura* in practise.

There is no doubt that we are entitled to express our *opinion* on any issue, especially *when asked*. Our opinion and personal conviction may range from *interest only* - to *discussion* - to a *preference* - to *contending/debating* - and even to *dying for!* But *who is the interpreting authority?* Who is the interpreting authority in such issues as: celebrating Christmas/holy days; mixed bathing at beaches; going to the movies; watching TV; Christians in politics; Christians in the army; competitions and playing/watching sports; having 'shares' in the stock market; wearing make-up; contraception/ or pro-creative sex only; Christian vs Public schooling...etc? There are mature Christians in *every* affiliation who have *opposite* views on these issues. Arguably many if not all of these are not addressed explicitly in Scripture. Legalism would be imposing some of the above opinions or demanding or expecting other Christians to have the same viewpoint. There is no license for us to manipulate Scripture to suit our personal convictions. However, the sins that may surface from these such as idolatry, selfishness, lewdness, drunkenness, offences, appearance of evil, violence, immodesty, etc. can be addressed *directly* from Scripture as *the starting point. Will not the Holy Spirit do the rest?*

Other examples of legalism might be demanding women wear headcoverings; that Christians be re-baptised because they were baptised as believers in another church; or demanding that another accept a particular version as the only correct translation of the Bible.

The method of ministry we have will influence the way we relate to people in the body of Christ and in our local fellowship. 'God's little helpers' and those who have their 'hobbyhorses' are not edifying people to be around! But those who allow the Holy Spirit to witness through their lives in character, conduct and speech feel no need to 'help' the Holy Spirit in any way.

In a paper on '*Legalism - What is it?*', Pastor Graham Ellingsen writes: *'Legalism is not a Christian allowing God's Word to control their every action. Legalism is not one seeking to call attention to God's pathway and plan for our lives. Legalism is not obedience to God's Word. Legalism is when one seeks to bind others with requirements of the Old Testament that have been done away with in Christ. Legalism is when I seek to bind upon another, something that is not commanded of God. Legalism is when obedience to a set of rules becomes the standard of ones salvation. It is God's Word that gave us life, (1Pet.1:22-25)...It is God's Word that the Spirit of God uses to clean the church, (Eph.5:27). It will be God's Word that will form the basis of our assessment at the judgement seat of Christ, (1Cor.3:10-13; 4:1-5)...'*

We need to be careful and fearful in our reading of Scripture and the application of it, especially those of us who would write, teach or preach. The Holy Spirit is powerful and as we yield ourselves to His Word and work, He will convict when and where He desires. And Christ and His Word will be glorified. **Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon**

* See *Diakrisis* article Sept/Oct 99 '*Fellowship, Separation & Sectarianism*'; (1) Baker's Dictionary of Ethics (1981); (2) '*Amoral*' means neither inherently good nor evil.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Mr Arnold, Yesterday a friend e-mailed me your newsletter and I would like to encourage you, and your Advisory panel, in your ministry. The Lord has given us all a task to do and he provides us with the gifts and talents to do the things He has destined us for. Keep up the great work.

I am, however...concerned about some of the things you wrote about...it's not so much what you wrote about but...why you write it? Obviously you are a teacher and you write from a teacher's heart. The Bible teaches us to encourage and uplift one another, but I'm afraid...I was not very uplifted...I wrote the following...to my friend about your newsletter...:

'Dear...Thank you for sending me the 'Diakrisis' newsletter. I haven't read it all...but I read many of the articles. I'm afraid I don't feel very uplifted by it...it seems to be just criticism of what others believe they are doing in obedience to God. Admittedly, I don't really understand or agree with the way that many Charismatics (like Bonnke & Hinn) conduct their ministry, but there is no way I am going to speak against these perceived men of God, just because little me doesn't understand it. God can use them, I believe, and I'm not going to limit God by saying that He can't do miracles today.

...I pray that the LORD will use this newsletter to bring others to Himself, if that is the ultimate aim of the newsletter...I must admit that there does need to be balance to the extreme Charismatic movement, but...this newsletter may be the extreme opposite, rather than the balance...I hope that you can see that I'm not condemning it, but I can't condone it either. God loves all these people, no matter!

May the Lord reveal to each one of us the path that He has for each of us, and to grant the gifts we need along the way...including (especially) discernment...in this day where

us Westerners are becoming increasingly aware of the 'spirit realm'...according to God's perfect will, in Jesus' Name, in the power of the Holy Spirit (in whatever way each of us perceives His power)...'

Mr. Arnold, I hope that you are not using the ministry (that the Lord has given you), nor the audience that He has provided, to have a whinge about things you don't understand...All I'm asking is that you check your motives for writing. Please continue to write and to teach and to encourage... (E-mail address supplied only)

Editors Comments: Dear..., We write these things because we believe in 'earnestly contending for the faith...' We don't write the newsletter so you will be 'uplifted' although many readers say they are. We wrote the newsletter to *inform, teach and equip*.

Nowhere do we say that God is limited and cannot do miracles. But these false prophets and teachers (Bonnke, Hinn, etc) are not doing miracles!

We were not endeavouring to 'whinge' about what the Lord has written, but rather what some have written in obvious error. Our ministry was begun to counter the rising apostasy in Christendom and to challenge false doctrine with Biblical truth. We are only too ready to be corrected and learn. Would you please point out to us exactly what it is we have written in error?

It's not a matter of our motives, but of 'truth'. If we merely stand aside and say nothing when others write offering their opinions as fact, we do not serve God aright, no matter that God 'loves them'.

We look forward to your comments of correction so we may bring to our readers the errors in our writings and ask forgiveness for them. [...No reply received]

Dear Mike, More recently I am picking up some strange statements in Dave Hunt's 'Berean Call'? In TBC/Dec/2002 Hunt says: 'There even seems to be a hint that man's creation came about as a result of Satan's rebellion. Surely man plays the key role in the final defeat of Satan. We see this in the part played by Job in the controversy between God and Satan...' This sounds strange theology. I thought it was God who defeated Satan. That's what I had always been taught. Why the emphasis here on man instead of God?...also in the February TBC Hunt says: 'Tragically, man's natural tendency is not to seek the true God to whose will we must submit, but a false god that will magically fulfil selfish ambitions...' I also found Dave's book denigrating Calvinism to be muddled and contradictory and it was pleasing to read your critique which came to the same conclusion.

(Name withheld)

Sub-editors reply: So, what is Dave saying, that God

decided to defeat Satan using mankind? This appears to be speculation from Dave put forward as a fact that Scripture 'hints' at such a thing, which it does not. Christ defeated Satan at the Cross and Christ was fully man...is that what he may be driving at? It sounds a little Gnostic and esoteric to me....With regard to the contradictions in Hunt's book and your quote from the latest *Berean Call* newsletter: 'Tragically, man's natural tendency is not to seek the true God to whose will we must submit, but a false god that will magically fulfil selfish ambitions. There is a vast difference between praying for God to grant one's fleshly desires, and submissively praying for that which God in His wisdom and love knows that one needs.' Yet in his book 'What Loves is This?' Dave insists that man can and does choose (or reject) God's salvation. The Bible explicitly states otherwise. Confusing? We find it so...

Mike Claydon

Dear Terry, Thankyou for your continued 'Diakrisis'. I'm writing to ask you if you have a copy of the reference to Bonnke's tape of the healing of a Jean Neil...this video can be purchased from...bookshops in Sydney - it has not been taken off the market. Perhaps you could give further warning to people who are seeking the truth. May God continue to bless your work and witness for Truth. (D.B., Kiama, NSW)

Editors Comment: This 'healing' was and still is being

lauded and marketed as one of the best documented miracle healings of all time. However, it has been well exposed as false by Christian surgeons, (*Diakrisis* Dec/99 'Something to Shout About? - The Healing of Jean Neil?') Bonnke was shown the evidence and asked to take this video off the market. The video is still being sold, and as well other fraudulent videos about Bonnke 'raising the dead' have also been added to the merchandise.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, I am writing to say thankyou. I was lucky enough to go along to two of your sermons in Melbourne. One on 'Salt and Separation' and the other on 'Spiritual Warfare'. I attend church sparingly and read the Bible only sparingly. I struggle to understand the meaning of the passages. I would appreciate more of your works to get me started. 'Eternal Questions' sounds like a good book for a new believer. Being in the world on a (building) job site does not put me in a good state and in the right frame of mind everyday to come home and read deep and meaningful. I just wanted to say it was a blessing to hear you and praise the Lord for my path to cross yours. Keep up the good work. I Pray for more like you...

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

Dear Terry and Mike,...I just want to tell you how much my wife and I appreciated your in depth Book Review on Dave Hunt's book 'What Love is this? Calvinism's Misrepresentation of God'. ...the enemy of souls continually seeks to distort Gospel truth, and especially when it comes to 'The Character of God'. That ploy and deception commenced in the Garden of Eden, and is alive and well today. Mike, you handled it brilliantly.

...Also, that insert from David Holden 'The Hindu, Muslim, and the Christian'* was excellent. We were very impressed with that paragraph relating to the 'Example of Marriage'. We have two dear grandchildren living in de facto relationships, and their 'professing Christian' parents do not appear to be at all troubled by it. We love these dear grandchildren, and they love us, but it breaks our hearts.

All those friends I have put you in touch with re sending 'Diakrisis', have expressed to me their pleasure and appreciation of the Magazine.

May the Lord richly bless you and your team. May He sovereignly continue to expand your Ministry. Yours in Gospel Bonds.

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

*** Editors Comments: Some subscribers may not have received this insert. If so, please inform us and we will endeavour to send the article with the next issue.**

Prayer Points

- Pray for the 'Tape Ministry' (see P.2), that those who receive tapes will be taught, equipped and edified through the Word of God.
- Pray for the upcoming Sydney trip in June.
- Please pray for the Sth. Aust. itinerary in August which is currently being worked on. Any fellowships interested should ring/fax or e-mail Terry on 0411489472; Fx. (07)41240915 e-mail: tam@satcom.net.au

Dear Terry, Mike...Your editors comments are a blessing and encourage us to keep contending for the faith despite the complacency around us. The local scene is more ecumenical. The local Presbyterian...minister is chairman of [combined churches group]...the Roman Catholics are readily accepted...They want to do a 'Christian' outreach in the community and hold it in the Catholic church hall...There is no love for the truth...Tony Campolo* spoke to the 'combined churches' on the Gold Coast and was guest speaker at the Qld. AOG conference. He is a well known liberal, Schuller** follower and universalist, who supports homosexual behaviour as legitimate and teaches Jesus is present in every human...the Archbishop of the Anglican church, Peter Jensen, on SBS applauded the RC Archbishop Pell on the launch of his autobiography...Is it not God's judgment which begins in the house of God? The Gospel is under threat and disappearing fast. Do we deserve to lose it all together? Amos is relevant...Now I have got that 'off my chest', God bless you in your ministry...(T.S., Brunswick Heads, NSW)

* See Diakrisis 12/98; 12/99; 5/2000; ** See Diakrisis 2/98

Terry's Itinerary

March 23rd 10am Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld (07)41240631

March 30th 10am Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld

April 13th 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld

April 27th 10am Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld

SYDNEY/NSW Itinerary (to be completed next issue)

June 1st (Sun) Churches on NSW Nth Coast (to be confirmed)

June 2nd (Mon) - **6th** (Frid) New Tribes Mission, Laurieton, NSW Tony Verlaan Ph.(02)65598766

June 8th 10am & 6pm (Sun) Emmanuel Baptist, Glenwood Ph.96743007

June 10th (Tues) 7pm Minchinbury Assembly Ph.96702648

June 11th 8pm (Wed) Kingsgrove Gospel Youth Ph.0403113764

June 13th 6.30pm (Frid) Capitol Hill Bible Church, Canberra, Ph.(02) 62547473

June 15th 10.30am & 6.30pm (Sun) Capitol Hill Bible Church, Canberra

June 16th 7.30pm (Mon) Cootamundra Assembly Ph.69423541or 69421857

June 18th 8pm (Wed) Kingsgrove Gospel Youth Ph.0403113764

June 20th 7pm (Frid) Combined meeting Wentworthville Arabic Baptist 96799442 & Guildford Christian Assembly Ph.98351513

June 21st 11am (Sat) Lethbridge Park Group Ph.98351513

June 21st 7.30pm (Sat) Church for Everybody, Marrickville Ph.95534818

June 22nd 12pm (Sun) Combined Meeting, Wentworthville Arabic Baptist Ph.96799442 & Guildford Christian Assembly Ph.98351513

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