



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 expressed by subscribers 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 Comments

The prophet Jeremiah is known as the 'weeping prophet'. The book of Jeremiah is often viewed as being 'negative'. However, Jeremiah had no choice but to '*root out and pull down*', (Jer.1:10; 18:7). He did it with tears and mourning. The problem with written material is that the reader does not see the heart, emotion and 'tears' of the author. Paul said '*out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears, not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you*', (2Cor.2:4)...*But Paul's tears do not appear on the page!*

Space often is at such a premium in this newsletter that we might often fail to show our heart and compassion. Nevertheless, we in this ministry often write with hearts of anguish and tears.

This ministry has now been in existence for 17 years and the newsletter for 11 years. The newsletter began with the intention of *informing, teaching and equipping* Christians concerning the issues of the day facing the church. Today, the mission statement is as relevant as ever, as the church continues to slide into what many believe is the greatest apostasy since the Reformation.

The *informing* is aimed to give people the facts about any given issue; the *teaching* is aimed to bring scriptures to bear on the subject; the *equipping* is the result of both the facts and the scriptures enabling Christians to think objectively about any given issue. We admit the 'equipping' can only bear results as the Holy Spirit brings conviction to the mind of the reader.

We are often criticised for our 'narrow' stand on scripture. Yet so much of this criticism is itself often unscriptural and mostly fails to show our supposed 'errors'. It too often bears no facts, no substance. This has been a constant disappointment to us.

We have also been criticised for 'harping' on one or more particular subjects at any time. We wish our readers to understand that we are only responding to what mail we get or what is in fact the issue of the day! If Calvinism/Arminianism is the issue of the day then that is what we deal with, (this is currently on many Christian minds). If the issue is 'music' then that is what we deal with. We listen carefully to pastors, elders and our readers each day and gauge what and where the issues are. Then we write accordingly. We ask readers to be patient with us and understand that the issues we write about are what Christians 'out there' are most concerned about. Nevertheless, we do our best to offer a variety of subjects that will interest our readership..

We are also sometimes accused of 'attacking' people and being 'unloving'. We do not attack people. But we make no apologies for refuting their teachings where they are demonstrably erroneous and where that would affect large numbers of Christians! And yes, we do often approach these people first, before we embark on refutation. Where the error is publicly declared, then the issue is usually serious enough to warrant warning our readers in the same fashion.

We pray for our readers daily that they will remain firm in the Faith once delivered. The days are evil and world events go from one crisis point to another. And so, we must 'redeem the time', (Eph.5:6). Come Lord Jesus!

Terry Arnold

The God of holiness or The god of This World?

In the *Sunday Mail* [Queensland-Australia] Sunday, 19th November 2006, an article caught my attention, titled 'God's Surf Squad Spreads His Word Across The Water' by Lou Robson. It read: 'In a Sunshine Coast park, a group of surfers cooks chops on a barbecue. The twenty in the mob are sun-tanned and wear surf gear and wrap around glasses. There are tattoos and Kingswoods, cold beers and banter. Meet Queensland's young believers - a new breed of Christians making religion cool.'

Recent figures show a growing number of young people are turning to religion and groups such as the Coolum Christian Surfers have sprung up around the state. In a further sign that religion has become cool, websites dedicated to Christian chatrooms, dating services, cruises, coach tours and musical events have been created.

California born surfer Melody Thompson said Christians were normal people who wore fashionable clothes, went clubbing and enjoyed a few drinks. 'Sometimes we have a few beers after Bible study', said the 22 year old, who heads the Coolum Christian Surfers. 'We're everyday people who get together to surf and discuss things that really matter'.

Youth pastor Karolina Gunsser, from Brisbane's Citipointe Christian Outreach Centre, said hundreds of city teenagers from non religious backgrounds had adopted Christianity in recent years. Mrs Gunsser said young people realised religion wasn't about 'guilt and condemnation'. 'Being a Christian isn't a drag - Christians can actually be trendy, good looking people and that surprises some kids', she said. 'It's not about being nerdy or daggy'.

...Coolum Christian Family Church Youth Pastor Tim Turley said churches had changed to make Christianity more appealing to young people. 'The message never changes but the methods to explain the message to young people must change', he said.

This article highlights the changing face of Western Christianity. Making Christianity acceptable and palatable to the world has become almost an artform. But can Christianity and its message - the Gospel - ever be 'acceptable' to the world? Galatians 5:11 speaks of the 'offense of the cross' and Hebrews 12:2 speaks of it's 'shame'. 'The preaching of the cross' is still 'foolishness' to the unsaved, (1Cor.1:18,21) - thus the Gospel is still offensive to the world. God put this barrier in the gospel so that to believe, it would be of God and not of man!

What 'message' does 'tattoos and Holden Kingswoods, cold beers and banter' really send? Can we really 'make religion cool' by being conformed to the fashions of the world? What do we do with Romans 12:2 'And be not conformed to this world...'? This verse literally commands us 'not to be conformed to the fashions of this age'!

Today the word 'cool' means to be accepted by the mob or your worldly peers! But there is also another hidden meaning in this word 'cool'...The root of this 'cool' religion must at some point go back to its message - the Gospel. But can we really make the Gospel 'cool'? I think not. The Bible says the gospel and its cross has a shameful 'offense' built into it! Anything offensive is just not 'cool' today! How can the 'offense of the cross' (Gal.5:11) and its 'shame' (Heb.12:2) be made 'cool'?

What would the martyrs of old who gave their lives for the Gospel - what would they think of this 'new breed of

Christians making religion 'cool'?

The article goes on to explain more of what this new 'cool' religion is: 'In a further sign that religion has become cool, websites dedicated to Christian chatrooms, dating services, cruises, coach tours and musical events have been created...Christians were normal people who wore fashionable clothes, went clubbing and enjoyed a few drinks. 'Sometimes we have a few beers after Bible study'.

But are Christians 'normal people'? I thought we were elect, called out, separated and blood washed pilgrims passing through a dark and sinful world that is destined for fiery judgement!

Mrs.('Pastor') Gunsser says religion 'wasn't about 'guilt and condemnation' and 'Being a Christian isn't a drag - Christians can actually be trendy, good looking people...It's not about being nerdy or daggy'. But the Christian message very much includes 'guilt and condemnation'! You don't need a saviour if you aren't condemned and guilty! If one never felt the 'guilt and condemnation' of sin, then how can one ever be saved? The Gospel convicts of the guilt and condemnation of sin. If being different to the worldlings in habit, dress, 'fashions', drinking and 'banter', is 'nerdy' and 'daggy', then we should gladly suffer such reproach of the world which Christ warned would come, (Jn.17).

The final paragraph in the article says it all: '...churches had changed to make Christianity more appealing to young people'. But is it possible to make the Gospel of Biblical Christianity 'more appealing' to the world? - Not without taking the offense of sin out of the Gospel! So, how is the modern church making its message 'more appealing to young people'?...by giving them what their flesh wants! - the worlds music, entertainment, fashions...and throw in some real deals - clubbing, beer, chatrooms, dating...

And as for 'surfing...cruises, coach tours...' - why is it that Christians have to make excuses for enjoying God's creation? Why turn such freedoms into gods that we then use as an excuse to worship Him? You cannot channel worldly pursuits through a Christian prism. You can do all these things and be a Christian, but why turn these activities into 'Christian' pursuits?

Why is it that we have to use what we love to do and are free to do and then turn it into a cause for 'religion'? I love the water, beach and surf as well as barbecues. But I am free to do that anytime I want. I don't have to use it to spread God's message. His message is preached not surfed!

How long must we put up with Christians hankering for the dreary old ways of the world to spread a message that in itself refutes such methods! The statement 'churches had changed to make Christianity more appealing to young people' cannot be divorced from the message of that Christianity - the Gospel - and that item is non-negotiable!

And the statement 'The message never changes but the methods to explain the message to young people must change' - is an outright lie! The worlds philosophy and its methods do change the 'message'! The message does in fact not need any new methods that pander to the thinking of the world. The message is preached, and God in a divine miracle makes it acceptable and 'appealing' to the spirit. Are we ashamed of the Gospel (Rom.1:16) or do we feel the need to surf it in on the waves of the fashions of this age?

Terry Arnold

John Philpot- English Martyr

John Philpot was born in Compton in Hampshire. He was the eighth leading English Reformer who was martyred under the reign of Queen 'bloody Mary' in England in the 16th Century. He was the archdeacon of Winchester when he was burned in Smithfield on Dec.18th, 1555.

At the time of his martyrdom he was 39 years of age and a renowned scholar, preacher and Reformer. At Oxford university he attained a Bachelor of Civil Law and Fellow of New College. He also studied languages, particularly Hebrew. This helped him towards an increasing interest in the Scriptures.

Although King Henry VIII had politically broken with the Roman church in 1534, to keep the favour of the powerful Roman Catholic clergy he clamped down on theological reform by introducing the 'Act of Six Articles'. This confession upheld six dogmas of Roman theology as the belief of the new church of England. Many Protestants, including Philpot, left England to travel to Europe, mostly to escape the demands of the new laws which favoured the Romanists. The Roman Catholic Clergy used the new laws to accuse Protestant leaders of 'heresy' in an attempt to wipe out the Protestant views which had spread quickly when Tyndale and his supporters had smuggled in English New Testaments.

While in Europe, Philpot got into a doctrinal discussion with a Roman Catholic Monk. The monk threatened to report him to the infamous Roman Catholic Inquisition which tried those who would not accept the Pope's doctrines. However, Philpot managed to avoid trouble and continued to support the Protestant Reformation which had taken a hold due to the influence of Luther and others.

King Edward the VI came to the Throne of England, which for a time allowed Reformers to preach without persecution. Philpot returned to England and commenced a Ministry in Winchester diocese. He lectured at Winchester Cathedral on the Epistle of Romans and later became the Archdeacon of Winchester. He was well known for his evangelism, piety, courage and learning.

On the death of Edward, Mary Tudor ascended to the Throne. She intended to return the church to Rome and held a series of councils within the church to repeal any Protestant laws. Many Protestant ministers left for Europe but Philpot chose to remain. He was well known as the Protestant

champion in these councils.

One of Philpot's detractors was a bishop Gardiner who had been influential with previous kings and now became the Lord high Chancellor of England. He quickly brought Philpot to be examined for 'heresy'. For eighteen months, Philpot suffered imprisonment in terrible conditions. The Bishop of London, Bishop Bonner, sent food and messages to Philpot in an attempt to get him to recant his Protestant principles. Philpot and other prisoners remained steadfast and were known for singing Psalms together in worship.

Thirteen times Philpot was brought before a Commission to be examined. Each time Philpot testified to Scripture. None could sway him from his 'Sola Scriptura' principles. Like most of the Reformers, he also had a deep understanding of the Doctrines of Grace, a subject he strongly preached and debated wherever he could. His last statement to the Court was to denounce the Roman Church as Spiritual Babylon and that the doctrine of 'Transubstantiation' (the bread and wine actually becoming the body and blood of Jesus) was false and an invention of the Pope of Rome.

As Philpot remained unmoved in his faith, he was condemned to be burned. He answered: '*I am ready: God grant me strength and a joyful resurrection.*' He spent his last night in prayer asking God for strength.

The road to Smithfield was wet and muddy. They carried him up to the stake at which time he merrily said '*what, will you make me a Pope? I am content to go to my journey's end on foot*'. He kissed the stake and said: '*Shall I disdain to suffer at this stake, seeing my redeemer did not refuse to suffer a most vile death on the cross for me?*' He then repeated the 106th, 107th and 108th Psalms. Before he was fastened to the stake he bade the guards farewell and gave each of them money in thanks for the things they had done for him during his imprisonment. They then lit the fires and burned him. He died relatively quietly.

John Philpot had joined the many other martyrs and was later joined by hundreds more, in glory. They died protesting against a religious system and for teaching Scripture as the only means for doctrine.

Today a single plaque at the spot in Smithfield, England, reminds any who would care to investigate this important history. Lest we forget.

Terry Arnold

Chronology of Christianity

by R.C.Wetzel '*A Chronology of Biblical Christianity*'

[Continued from past editions of *Diakrisis*. To be continued]

1390 The Hittites reached the height of their power.

1372 Joshua died at age 110 and was buried at Timnath-serah in Mt. Ephraim.

1370 The kingdoms of Moab, Ammon and Edom established

1332 Ehud, son of Gera of Benjamin, delivered Israel from the Moabites and judged Israel 80 years.

1251 The events in the Book of Ruth began to take place.

1252 Deborah, wife of Lappidoth, and Barak, son of Abinoam of Kedesh, delivered Israel from the Canaanite King Jabin II, and judged Israel 40 years.

1212 Gideon, son of Joash, an Abiezrite of Ophrah, delivered

Israel from the Midianites and judged Israel 40 years. His name was changed to Jerubbaal.

1184 The Trojan War began.

1183 The fall of Troy.

1172 Tola, son of Puah of Issachar, judged Israel 23 years.

1155 Jesse was born to Obed, the son of Boaz and Ruth.

1149 Jair, the Gileadite, judged Israel 22 years.

1127 Jephthah, the son of Gilead, delivered Israel from the Ammonites and judged Israel for 6 years. The Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant and took it to Ashdod.

1121 Jephthah made his vow to God and offered his daughter as a sacrifice.

Brian Houston with Schuller and Rome

At a 'Faith Forward' conference January 22-24, 2007, hosted by Robert Schuller, Brian Houston of 'Hillsong' shared the platform with Dr. Schuller and Roman Catholic priest 'Father' C. Lou Martin. Brian protested loudly a while ago when we exposed his endorsement of the ecumenical 'Share The Holy Spirit' conference here in Sydney, Australia - saying he had not given permission for his endorsement to be published. Now, here he is in the U.S., along with a Catholic priest, expounding his wisdom in no less a place than Schuller's *Crystal Cathedral*.

The Mission Statement read: *'The purpose of the Forum for Possibility Thinking Leadership is to motivate and encourage leaders to discover the God-given dream for their ministry and to develop a possibility thinking faith that enables them to strive towards the fulfillment of that dream'*. [Excerpted from *Apostasy Alert* e-mail bulletin]

Editors Comment: Is Houston in 'unity' with these men? If not then what does Houston do with the following heresy?: In his book *'Self Esteem - the New Reformation'* Robert Schuller says there is no need for repentance, dying to self, conviction of sin; but rather a need for self esteem. On 'sin' he says: *'I don't think anything has been done that has proven more destructive to human personality and hence counter-productive to evangelism enterprise than the often crude, uncouth, and unchristian strategy of attempting to make people aware of their lost and sinful condition'* (1) (Compare Rom.1:18-3:20)...*'Sin is any act or thought that robs myself or another human being of his or her self esteem'* (2)... *'The core of sin is a lack of self*

esteem'...Schuller says: *'Jesus knew His self worth; His success fed His self esteem. He suffered the cross to sanctify His self esteem and He bore the cross to sanctify your self-esteem. The cross will sanctify the ego trip'* (3) (Compare Phil.2:3; Gal.6:14; Matt.16:2)...*'To be born again means that we must be changed from a negative to a positive self image - from inferiority to self esteem'* (4)...*'He [Christ] was self esteem incarnate..'* (5)... *'Jesus never called a person a sinner'* (6) (Compare Matt.23; Mk.1:15; Jn.8:11; 1Tim.1:15; Rom.5:8). Schuller says *we should change the Lord's prayer to 'Our Father in Heaven, honourable in our name'* (7)

On ecumenism Schuller says: *'It's time for Protestants to go to the shepherd [the Pope] and say 'what do we have to do to come home?'* (8)

Schuller is also a 'universalist'. He does not believe that Christ is the only way to Heaven. He says: *'The Christ spirit dwells in every human being whether the person knows it or not'* (9)

'Hillsong' itself has become a meeting place and a melting pot for many such diverse teachers preaching different Gospels. Conferences such as this one only highlight the lack of separation and the increasing acceptance of ecumenical unity with Rome.

(1) 'Christianity Today', 10/5/84 (2) 'Self Esteem: The New Reformation', P.14 (3) Ibid. (4) Ibid, P.68. (5) P.135 (6) Ibid, P.100,126 (7) Ibid, P.67 (8) 'Calvary Contender', 11/15/87 (9) 'Aust. Beacon', 9/91; 'Calvary Contender', Vol.IX No.3 1/2/92

Benny Hinn

(The following from a late 2006 bulletin by Benny Hinn Ministries. Editors comments in bold and brackets):

'In the next few minutes, you and I will make decisions that will make the difference in heaven and hell for literally millions of lost souls. [So now their salvation depends on us?] I have not previously released to the general public this dramatic word that God has spoken to my heart. But I must share it with you now, because at this very moment that God is clearly directing me to win the lost at any cost, I am facing the tragedy of canceling crusades in 2007...we are at a crossroads of monumental proportions! During these months we have seen millions upon millions of precious souls who have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior! Thousands upon thousands of men, women, and children have been transformed through the healing power of our Lord. **[A lie proven by several US Ministries over many years]**

...I am getting ready to go to the Dominican Republic then to the Middle East, Cyprus, South Africa, Singapore, and Taiwan...I am heavily burdened with the critical decisions I must make in the coming days concerning our broadcasting, crusade, and outreach ministries through the remainder of 2006 and into 2007...We must dedicate ourselves anew to reaching the lost around the world!

I was having a wonderful time of prayer in my bedroom, totally enjoying God's presence. Suddenly I was given a vision of an endless line of people, slowly walking forward. Their faces seemed empty and somewhat confused. I was told to come closer and, to my horror, as the throng moved

forward, I saw the person at the front of the line falling over a cliff into a horrible fiery pit, disappearing from sight. I heard, 'If you don't preach the Gospel, every person that falls over the edge will be your responsibility'...God has spoken a clear and specific word to my heart for 2007: 'Win the lost at any cost!'...so many still have not heard. They are lost without Him, lost for all eternity, unless we can reach them with the glorious Gospel.

...I have laid out a massive evangelism plan for 2007 with a goal to reach over 25 million souls...This is historic and unprecedented!...unless God intervenes miraculously through our partners during the next few days, we will have to radically cut those...planned 2007 crusades...the thought of having to contact and cancel any or all of them is literally tearing my heart out!...we cannot continue going forward through the open doors God has shown us without your most sacrificial help today...We must pay millions now for the crusades...unless I hear from you, some of these crusades may have to be canceled...I'm asking you to match the largest gift you have given to our ministry in the last two years...within the next 48 hours, to help me avoid canceling any of the upcoming crusades...SOULS, SOULS are at stake in nation after nation...sow your seed today for souls...For souls, DONATE NOW...

[Apart from the false theology here, Benny Hinn is a false prophet and a Charlatan as documented in many of our previous newsletters. Secular TV has exposed him well in the past. But what of the sleeping church?]

Church 'Disciplinary Action'

Having travelled to hundreds of churches throughout Australia and overseas I have seen many church 'splits'. At times I have travelled to a church and walked into the middle of a 'split' and observed the 'politics' of two opposing factions. As well I have seen Pastors/Elders under crippling pressure as they cope with division within their church. And I have personally faced the experience of an impending church split involving unruly, and divisive members. These experiences have driven me to question why there are *increasing* numbers of church 'splits' today and yet why church discipline of sinful or divisive members is almost non-existent.

The bible speaks of disciplining unruly members of the local church. Yet this one aspect of church life is almost completely ignored in the modern church. I know of very few churches that 'discipline' their members. Some would say it is unnecessary and unloving, but as any pastor or elder will tell you, there are few years that go by when any church would not need to approach a member to correct him or her in their sin *for the sake of the body of believers*. It is simply part of church life and any pastor/elder would need to get used to this idea before going into ministry.

Church discipline is too 'tough' for many because people are not used to the idea of being held accountable for their behaviour! Sadly too, many pastors/elders are living unholy lives themselves and so how can they then 'discipline' others?

Of the reasons why churches have a 'split', many can be traced back to a leadership not facing the issue of members who would cause division and strife in the assembly. It is also interesting to note that most church splits today are not caused by doctrinal differences but by selfish factions which cause division within the body. (However, it is likely that at back of such behaviour sound doctrine is somewhere lacking?)

I personally have been involved in facing divisive members rather than seeing the church face a possible split. It is not comfortable business and it is easy to let the problem be swept under the carpet, pacify many, or just duck ones head and hope the problem or the sin goes away.

I know of pastors who have been relieved of their positions, voted out, or driven out under pressure, because they dared to confront sinful members or trouble makers. And if the divisive member happens to be in leadership positions themselves, the problems for the pastor/elder can be more serious. This is further exacerbated by the number of elders who are just not biblically qualified and have been selected on their worldly or personality merits alone. Many of these men do not have the heart for the sheep that requires backbone to *'refute the gainsayers'* and discipline unruly members, so that the 'leaven' is removed from an assembly.

Although there are many pitfalls in church disciplinary action which I have unwittingly stumbled into, if it is done scripturally and objectively, the congregation will be blessed and fruitful, as I have seen many times.

The main scripture passage used for Church discipline is Matthew 18:15-17. The whole process of Matthew 18 is to be done with a goal of *restoring the offender* to purity and truth within the body of believers. This must be the motivation, rather than a 'witchhunt' approach. But the second reason is just as important - *to keep the body of*

Christ pure - the body of believers, in the sight of God. With these two points in mind let us examine Matthew 18:15-17:

Vs.15: ***'Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother***'.

When an offence occurs, at least one person at any time should go to the offending person and simply make known the offence. From experience I have found it is best to first pray (even for several days) *for the offender and about the offence*. Very often, one will find it not only softens the heart, making the eventual approach to the person better, but the Holy Spirit may even lessen the 'sting' of the offence to a point where we are prepared to leave it alone and leave it to God to deal with. This preparation is extremely important, as it brings the heart in line with the mind of the Holy Spirit. Then as we are lead by the Lord we approach the person alone and tell and show the person their sin. If this step were carried out in more churches it would arguably eliminate much gossip and slander.

Vs.16: ***'But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established***

If the offender refuses to hear with understanding and shows no repentance in this conversation, then we are to take *'one or two more...two or three'* who will simply listen to the same conversation and act as *'witnesses'* to what is said. The *'two or three witnesses'* means two maximum plus the offended. Commentators suggest these *'witnesses'* could be mature or esteemed men.

If the offence is against *Elders* then 1Tim.5:19 is primary: ***'Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 [but] Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear'***. This is done to protect the government of the church which God Himself has ordained and set down.

Continuing in Matthew 18: Vs.17: ***'And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican'***.

If the offender is still not hearing with understanding then we are to ***'tell it unto the church'***. There appears to be some debate in the modern church as to how this is to be done. It either means (A) tell it to the elders - the God ordained authority who rule over the church in all spiritual matters...and they then make a ruling. Or, (B) the church is told at a meeting. That meeting naturally has a chairman and is conducted in the normal order that meetings are conducted.

If the Elders are biblically qualified, then they are the ordained elected and trusted *authority* within the church and *overseers over all spiritual matters*. Thus, such serious matters should involve the eldership at least at this last stage. Having been involved in the matter, they should ***'tell the church'***. I have found from experience this is a far better and less destructive approach than a possible 'free for all' at a public meeting.

The ***'tell it unto the church'*** here is not a debate between two sides; nor a display of 'dirty linen'; nor a voting or decision exercise made by the 'church' - the pastor/elders are simply authorised to tell the truth concerning the sin. Ruling and making such decisions is their role and reflected

by their character as in the qualifications for an elder (1Tim.3; Tit.1; Pet.5).

It is at this point that many churches run into division. The congregation needs to trust the Elders or the designated leadership as the God ordained authority within the church - to tell the truth *with spiritual discernment*. The congregation does not need to know all the 'dirty washing' involved, only the sin as named. It is my experience that many churches here create unnecessary division and I have seen pastors/elders lose their ministries over such contention within the church. I have personally found it best to be brief and have people ask questions to the elders later in private. This is done for two reasons - firstly, to keep in mind the possible later *restoration* of the person in question; and secondly, to prevent further gossip and division, especially amongst the younger and more immature believers. At all times the *restoration of the member* as well as the *protection of the flock* is paramount.

It is a mistake to have people 'vote' or make decisions on something that is 'sin' as deemed by the Elders! Such meetings with votes and decisions only divide the flock. If the offence has been deemed sin by the Elders and is serious enough to reach the final stage of the Matthew 18, then there should be no 'voting', decision making, or even much discussion. (Although the teaching elder/pastor may need to teach on Matthew 18).

At the end of such action there is always the feeling by the pastor/elders '*did we do it right*'; '*could we have done it more lovingly?*'; etc. But we simply must begin with Scripture and then learn from any mistakes.

Then '*if he neglect to hear the church*' - at the informing of the church, if there is no change in the man, then he is to be treated as a '*heathen man*' - '*ethnikos*' - an unsaved man. The verse '*let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican*' is translated literally '*just as; exactly like...*' This is intensified by '*and a publican*' (or a '*tax collector*') - one who was despised and shunned by the Jews.

Commentaries explain:

Wesley says: '*Tell it to the elders of the Church - Lay the whole matter open before those who watch over yours and his soul. If all this avail not, have no farther intercourse with him, only such as thou hast with heathens. Can anything be plainer?*'...Wesley continues to speak of the unrepentant person...'*To whom thou art, as a Christian, to owe earnest and persevering good will, and acts of kindness; but have no religious communion with him, till, if he have been convicted, he acknowledge his fault...*'

Spurgeon says: '*The brother is left to himself; he is regarded as being like the rest of the unbelieving world. This is the utmost stretch of our severity. He is one who needs converting, like the Gentiles outside; but towards even a heathen man and a publican we have kindly feelings; for we seek their salvation, and we seek that of the excommunicated brother in the same way*'.

This unrepentance should then be brought before the congregation at every following members meeting and the members reminded of verse 17. This verse 17 naturally means the person should be asked to refrain from sharing in the 'breaking of bread' in the communion service, since this ordinance is only for believers *and those who are in fellowship with their brethren*. It is sad to see churches where disciplinary action has reached verse 17 yet some of the congregation refuse to treat the person as 'separated'

and instead fraternise with them, despite the clear teaching of verse 17. This either displays rebellion by these church members or a lack of understanding of the reason for the separation. Again, the disciplinary action according to God is to *restore* the sinning member to purity and truth within the body of believers; and to *keep the assembly free of 'leaven'*. God will not bless 'sin in the camp'!

But there is a third reason for separation and avoidance - and this is tough for many - to '*shame*' the person to repentance. 2Thessalonians 3:14,15 '*And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed*. 15 *Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother*'. One of the reasons for the separation of Matthew 18:17 is to '*shame*' the brother into seeing the problem.

Most churches will today simply not go to this last step in Matthew 18. Herein lies a great difficulty to the modern church, which errs on the side of 'love' and sentiment to the detriment of truth and purity. The very reason why disciplining of sinful members is important - is to maintain *purity* within the body of believers! This one point seems to be largely forgotten in the gallop to love the unrepentant sinner at the expense of the purity of the rest of the believers! This 'body' is not ours, it is Christ's! And it is at His command that we discipline and get rid of the leaven! 1Cor.5:5-13 '*To deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus*. 6 *Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?* 7 *Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:* 8 *Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth...* 11 *But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one no not to eat*. 12 *For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?* 13 *But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person*'.

Before the reader might run off and begin acting on Matthew 18 at every offence or sin in their fellow believers, we need to be aware of the consequences of initiating Matthew 18. It is hypocritical to look at sin in other's lives when our own lives are sinful, especially if we are sinful in the same ways. Before ever enacting Matthew 18 one should deal with any hypocrisy: '*Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye*', (Matt.7:5). But this is one of the benefits of Matthew 18! - in one way or another it clears the cobwebs of sinful lives from the congregation as well as *our own*.

I know of a large church in the US where Matthew 18 disciplinary action is going on almost every week somewhere amongst the congregation. Many such actions do not reach the attention of the elders. These churches are usually not racked with division and strife.

Many people who are brought under disciplinary action leave the church (and sometimes with others in tow). Many Pastor/Elders here lament this result and grieve at the loss. But if scripture has been adhered to, then the body of

believers have been protected from division or sin. The job of pastors/elders is not to leave sinners in their sin and infect the whole body of believers, but to see a congregation sanctified and set apart from the ways of the world. God could have left Adam and Eve in the garden! But instead he drove them out - in love, that the sin of mankind could be dealt with God's way.

After church disciplinary action, most unrepentant ones leave. However, I have seen some people go entirely through a Matthew 18 action only to later repent and confess before the entire church. This does wonders for the church and its magnificent teaching on humility in action!

The congregation is the body of believers. Christ's body, the church, will be taken by Christ at the end of the age and will be without spot and blemish. The church is supposed to be holy and pure. Judgement begins in the house of God first, (1Pet.4:17). Disciplinary actions help

transform Christ's church into that holy and spotless bride, on the day in which the bridegroom comes.

Discipline is about keeping the unity of the Spirit: Eph.4:2,3 *'With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...'*

The world no longer approves of parents disciplining children and such acts are looked upon as unloving and outdated. It is the age of sentimentalism and without absolutes. But as Christians we no longer walk according to the course of this world, (Eph.2:2). The modern church is filling with false conversions and unrepentant sinners who create leaven in Christ's own body as well as make life difficult for those honest and God fearing pastors/elders. Discipline may not be popular but it serves a vital purpose in any church. And it is a command issued by God Himself.

Terry Arnold

The 'Secret' To a Successful Marriage?

How is your marriage? If you are reading this and single, then don't hang up on me. Passages of Scripture that appear to be designated for particular persons or special situations all present a learning curve in the defining of character.

In my years of shepherding, eldering, teaching, I am increasingly coming across Christians with 'marriage problems'. It is perhaps epidemic in today's church. The rate of divorces and separations are now nearly as high as in the secular world.

After 35 years of married life and years of watching other marriages disintegrate, I want to share (mostly with the men) the most valuable but hardest earned lesson I have lived. To this day the lesson sometimes still remains tough, but truth is truth no matter how 'tough' it may seem.

There are several passages that deal with the institution of Marriage but one passage for me is the granddaddy of them all. It is a passage easy to teach yet at times mighty hard to live! Ephesians 5:22-32 is a literal blueprint for a successful marriage! *Everything in this passage that Christ is doing, the husband is supposed to be doing for his wife!* And everything the husband is supposed to be doing, Christ is already doing as an example!

Vs.23 *'...For the husband is the head of the wife, EVEN AS Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body'. Husbands are the 'head' and even a type of 'saviour'... 'even as Christ is the head of the church'. The word 'saviour' is 'soter' - a deliverer; preserver; one who saves from danger and brings into a state of happiness. 1Cor.7:16 *'For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?'* 1Pet.3:2,3 *'Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation [behaviour] of the wives 3 While they behold your chaste conversation [holy behaviour] coupled with fear.'**

Lot should have *protected* ['saved'] his wife. Ananias should have *protected* ['saved'] his wife Sapphire! As Christ protects and saves his church, do we husbands have the same heart for our wives - protecting, preserving them from harm and sin?

Vs.24,25 *'Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing 25 Husbands, love your wives, EVEN AS Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it'*

This is the ultimate demonstration of real love! Christ was crucified and died for His church! He *'gave himself'* ('*paradidomi*') - that is, He *gave up* as well as *laid down* His power. 1Cor.7:3 *'Let the husband render [*'paradidomi*] unto the wife due benevolence [favour; goodwill]; and likewise also the wife unto the husband'.*

Do we love our wives as Christ loved the church? Do we *give ourselves* to her as Christ 'gave himself' for the church. That may mean laying down some cherished 'rights' and even 'convictions'.

Vs.26 *'That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word'. It is here that husbands might stop reading and think the passage is now only speaking about Christ. But later, verse 28 joins all together: 'So ought men to love their wives...'*

The word '*sanctify*' ('*hagiazō*') refers to separation and holiness. The word '*cleanse*' refers to being free from the filth of the world, sin and corruption. The tool to accomplish this is *'by washing of water by the word of God'*. The husband is to provide opportunities for the spiritual growth of his wife. But how can a husband do this if he is not in the Word himself?

Vs.27-33 *'That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, EVEN AS the Lord the church 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife EVEN AS himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband'*

Husbands are to '*nourish*' (nurture, feed, rear up) their

wives just as we look after and groom ourselves. Husbands are to **'cherish'** their wives. The Greek here is interesting: *'thalpo'* literally means 'to make warm, to heat'. The spiritual implication here is that we are to keep our wives spiritually warm for the Lord. Perhaps a by-product of this is that the wife would naturally then be 'warm' toward the husband.

The phrase **'so love'** is important - *as Christ loves and does all these things for His church, so the husband does so for his wife!*

Today, sadly, instead of *'unto death do us part'* it is more like *'til dissatisfaction do us part'*! There is simply a lack of commitment in everything today. This is partly why Marriage is under sustained attack. Commitment to and an understanding of Ephesians 5 could well be the 'glue' that holds a marriage together!

Practically, I have found the following to be great detractors from the working out of a successful marriage: fast pace living; lack of Godly role models; alternate lifestyles; and a lack of respect and fear of God. These bump up hard against the teaching of Ephesians 5 which is a passage that demands mortification of the flesh and the self!

The application of Ephesians 5 is hard work and at times impossible without the Lord's intervening help. But if the marriage is built on the Lordship of Christ, the Bible, and even Ephesians 5 alone, it will not only endure, but it may well flourish!

A counsellor friend who has counselled in many marriages wrote this to me concerning advice for husbands: *'If you look closely at marriage problems you'll find those involved are not considering their partner to be more important than themselves! A majority of Christian husbands, it seems to me, are now more interested in having their wives 'submit' to them, than simply 'loving' them as Christ loves the Church? How can you argue and fight with someone you esteem higher than yourself?...Whether she is saved or not - the Christian husband must love and 'cherish' her as Christ does the Church...*

...Love is an action not a feeling. Feelings soon follow the action though...many husbands are experiencing problems because they are putting 'themselves', their 'feelings' and 'hurts' ahead of everyone else...especially their wives. This is why Paul insisted that we not become 'embittered' toward our spouses. If some husbands really knew how close they are to standing before Christ - they might shudder!...

...No wonder the world scoffs at the Church? They should see us physically showing great tenderness and love for our wives...but no, in many cases we show less affection toward them than do the non Christians. God is not pleased with this...many of us men may well be severely judged for the way in which we treated our wives...They are the 'weaker vessel' and must be nurtured and cherished no matter that we find them irritating at times? I have found over many years that many Christian men treat their wives as 'mothers' and 'slaves'...and behave like children when they don't get their own way within the marriage...and so, too many men are 'battling' and not 'loving'.

Christian husbands, by and large, in my experience of 20 odd years of counselling, are now worldlings...selfish, unloving, demanding, comparing other women with their wives, overbearing, passionless, and very, very unattractive human beings from a marriage standpoint? And that's just

the nicer ones I have met! Christian marriages are becoming disaster zones...I can assure you there would be more wonderful marriages if husbands put half as much effort into their wives as they do their hobbies...

Christ did not see dying a painful death as too much to save the most awful, God-hating, abusive, disobedient, selfish and hell deserving creatures to ever walk this planet - yet we balk at obeying just the simplest of commands from Ephesians 5 with our wives - commands that He views as not at all 'burdensome'. When we consider the weight of glory that awaits us - it is hard to see our puny 'needs' as having any substance at all.

When God sovereignly saved me...I was probably the person to win the 'worst husband of the year award'? He hardened my beautiful wife's heart toward me - and presented me with stubbornness in return for my bullying, passive aggressive behaviour - and it was an excruciating time. But God broke me in pieces over a number of years - I was suddenly rudely awoken to find that I could no longer behave like this. I was enraged, frustrated, and out of control most of the time God was dealing with me over the matter. Slowly, and surely, it dawned on me that God wanted me to be a servant to my wife, not a tyrant - a strong man that didn't need to throw his weight around to obtain the desired result...I finally decided one night amidst tears of frustration - that I would take Him at His Word...even 'test' Him if you like? I determined to do 'everything' around the house...not to leave ONE thing for anyone to do. I promised God that my wife would never have to ask me to do anything for her! The kids thought I'd gone mental, and my wife was ready to 'commit' me. But finally everyone accepted that this is the way I intended to behave...And the marriage was revolutionised...and still is.

Do we love our wives like Christ loved the church? Some days the old man wells up and asks 'doesn't anyone else do anything around here'? But I usually manage to squash that by looking back at how I used to live - and how life is today. Now I enjoy hearing 'let me do that for you' from my wife!

I can tell you, it isn't fair, it's unjust, I get taken advantage of, I get angry and frustrated because members of my family don't 'appreciate' what I do...but deep down inside, I know God is pleased. I know when I stand before Him soon I won't have to cringe when the marriage part of His judgement comes around. This depends on no one but myself. The behaviour of others is incidental. I am in full control of the situation - everyone else will have to answer for their behaviour - but I am the only one responsible for the way I treat others. So I do what I have to do - and what others do or don't do - or how they treat me - is of absolutely no consequence at all. This is liberating and God pleasing! When you expect absolutely nothing from others in return for your love - then little can affect you really?

It's also very hard for anyone to be unpleasant toward you when you are doing everything for them? And the returns of having a loving, appreciative, and happy wife are beyond recompense for the effort I have to make...'

Do we protect, preserve, 'give of ourselves', 'nourish' and 'cherish' our wives as Christ did so for the Church? Are we even prepared to die for our wives as Christ died for the church?

Husbands, do we love our wives as Christ loved the church?

Terry Arnold

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editors)

Mail from 'Herald of Hope and Election' (Jan/Feb/2006)

Bro Terry, I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. I had to write this letter to you; I have just read the article on 'Herald of Hope and Election'. Don't be surprised for a backlash - a lot of Independant Baptists hold him [John Ecob] in high regard as I do. I hold you in high regard also, and higher still the truth, which I commend you for revealing in scripture. The bottom line is: what is the truth on this subject, or what does the Bible actually say! Not what is commonly taught, as my teaching over the years has been. Now that I understand the Doctrines of Grace, I realise I have been Arminian. Be encouraged, I appreciate the truth and I have learned a lot from your sound exposition of this subject. I cannot refute scriptures on this subject for the verses are numerous, even though I was searching for the verses that prove Arminian dogma...

(Independant Baptist pastor, Australia)

Dear Terry, Your article titled 'Herald of Hope and Election' misrepresented John Ecob and contained the following errors:

1. You say: "Ecob states: 'Arminianism was a reaction to Calvinism'". Ecob did state that...and you then say: "Yet church history shows a situation that is diametrically opposed to such a notion! The 'five points' (later erroneously labelled 'Calvinism') issued by the Synod of Dort in 1619 were made to REFUTE the five points making up the heretical doctrines of Arminius. Historically, Arminianism predates so-called 'Calvinism'".

R.C. Sproul...disagrees with your view of church history...[he says]: "A group of theologians became known as the Remonstrants because they remonstrated (protested) against five articles of Reformed Theology. These five points later became known as the 'Five points of Calvinism, which have been summarised by the popular acrostic 'TULIP'".

R.C. Sproul and John Ecob agree that the Remonstrants (led by Jacob Arminius) were a reaction to Reformed Theology/Calvinism'...John Ecob and R.C. Sproul agree on Arminianism being a reaction 'against five articles of Reformed Theology',...But far from taking the word of these two men, one can turn to any history book to see that Arminianism was a reaction to Calvinism...Therefore Terry, the claim you made that 'Historically, Arminianism predates so called 'Calvinism' is not held by any reputable sources...

2. Regarding the subject of Election, you say:

"Ecob in attempting to understand election writes: 'If God does not elect him, then God is appointing him to hell'. Yet historic Calvinism teaches no such extrapolated strawman logic. This is the stuff of 'double predestination' and aligns with Hyper Calvinism". [Several quotes from Calvin are then given] So Terry, Calvin himself confirms Ecob's 'attempting to understand' was correct.

3. ...Furthermore your treatment of Ecob...was most unchristian. We are reminded in 2Thess.3:15 on how we should treat the disobedient, that we should 'Count him not as an enemy but admonish him as a brother'. John Ecob is a God fearing Christian, faithful and obedient to the word. He is your Christian brother yet you have treated him as an

enemy.

'Diakrisis' is a good ministry Terry, and having met you, I know you are a good man. The right thing to do is to publish this letter in the next issue of 'Diakrisis' with an apology to Ecob on account of your tone...'It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks'...

Anonymous

Editors' reply: We have a policy of not publishing in reply to 'anonymous' mail. We make a rare exception here, but because of space cannot print the long letter in its entirety. It is sad when one cannot put their name to what they write. However, the accusations in the letter are serious and warrant a reply.

Where did we ever treat John Ecob as an 'enemy' or in an 'unchristian' manner? This is a most unrighteousness judgement. We treated him as a brother and even spoke well of his work! Nowhere did we attack his character at all! Yet we make no apology for refuting his lack in history and doctrine. And this in the light of the fact, (contrary to what some have heard), that we contacted him and received *no reply*. We and others e-mailed John with our concerns over his article - and we were prepared to discuss the errors in it hoping he would print a retraction on at least some of his erroneous statements - but we received no reply. Some of our readers also subscribe to the *Herald of Hope* and had contacted us with their concerns. In the absence of any word from John, we felt it necessary to write the article in question.

The history we have espoused in our various articles is this: The doctrines of Sovereign Grace were taught by the church fathers, Augustine and beyond to the Reformers. Most Christian leaders, teachers, reformers, martyrs, etc. taught the Doctrines of Grace which unfortunately some *later*, and still today, call 'Calvinism'. But they were never called 'Calvinism' and never had *five* distinct points as such until the Synod of Dort - and that *after* Arminius's 5 points of heresy were *refuted* by that Synod.

The so called 5 points of 'Calvinism' came from the Synod of Dort which was *after* and *in response to* Arminius! That history is irrefutable.

In 1610 the Remonstrants (followers of Arminius) drew up 5 points which attempted to refute the Doctrines of Grace held to in the various confessions of faith at the time. In 1619 the Synod of Dort called these 5 articles heretical and refuted them with 5 points of their own, which *later* were given the acrostic 'Tulip'. They quoted some of Calvin's works. *Calvin had been dead for many years* before either of these 5 points had been raised. The Synod of Dort came *afterward* and refuted the new doctrine of Arminianism. 'Calvinism' derives its 5 points from the Synod of Dort (which POST DATES Arminius).

The problem here is with the various terms - 'Calvinism' 'Historic Calvinism', 'Reformed', etc. The Doctrines of Grace which later became synonymous with historic 'Calvinism' were taught from the beginning (as what many now call 'Reformed Doctrine'). The 5 points

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Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editors)

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of 'Calvinism' came from the Synod of Dort and that was held *after* Arminius departed from a belief in the Doctrines of Grace and his five points were issued by his followers - the Remonstrants. This history is undeniable. That is what we were teaching in our article! More thorough research by John Ecob should have revealed these important details.

As for the quote by Sproul: You obviously misread what Sproul is saying - he equates the teachings of the Doctrines of Grace with '*Reformed theology*'. He says: '*the Remonstrants...remonstrated (protested) against five articles of Reformed Theology. These five points LATER became known as the 'Five points of Calvinism...'*' (emphasis ours). Notice the '*later*'. And he does not say Arminius and the Remonstrants came after 'Calvinism' but after '*Reformed Theology*'. You have read the word 'Calvinism' into the sentence! Sproul is saying the '*articles of Reformed theology*' were already there as the Doctrines of Grace.

We have several other books by the same R.C. Sproul which refute what you are saying. In his book '*Willing to Believe*' he details the history exactly as we have written - that the Synod of Dort refuted the 5 points of the followers of Arminius with 5 points of their own which came to be *later* known as the 5 points of 'Calvinism'...

'Dear Terry and Mike...Your once interesting discernment newsletter 'Diakrisis' has sadly become a rather boring 'hobby horse' for John Calvin's 'Doctrine of Predestination'...I will not be subscribing to 'Diakrisis' anymore as I cannot financially support a ministry which promotes the 'false teaching' of Calvin's 'Doctrine of Predestination'.

(C.B., Qld)

Editors reply: ...'*a rather boring 'hobby horse' for John Calvin's 'Doctrine of Predestination'*'? Yet the previous few issues of *Diakrisis* had *nothing* on the topic of Predestination, sovereign election, etc, at all! Is it a difficulty to you if it is mentioned only once in several issues?...

We are not 'Calvinists' and 'Predestination' is not 'Calvin's doctrine'. It was taught (as we wrote in the article) *long before* Calvin, as well as in Scripture! What should we do with the many places where Predestination is taught? (Strong's No.4309 - Acts 4:28, Rom.8:29,30; 1Cor.2:7; Eph.1:5,11). Do we cut them out of our Bibles?

...If we have '*false teaching*' as you state, then surely you could show us where? We grow weary here of people who criticise but do seldom show us where exactly the error is they accuse us of! We wonder why that is the case with so many. With love...

Our statement was: '*Arminianism predates so-called 'Calvinism'*'. By that we meant: Arminius's heresies arose *before* the 5 points of 'Calvinism' were ever formulated (at the Council of Dort). Is this not historical truth? If not, then we challenge you to find the word '*Calvinism*' as a term in common use before the rise of Arminius!

We apologise to our readers if this was not made clearer. John Ecob's incorrect statement '*Arminianism was a reaction to Calvinism*' is perhaps understandable if one erroneously views 'Calvinism' as the accepted doctrine of the various Confessions of the day. But how can it be true when the 5 points of 'Calvinism' came out of the Synod of Dort which *post-dates* Arminius and his Remonstrants? This was not explained in his article and is not understood by most Arminian writers such as John.

As for what Calvin taught on 'election', we do not agree with every statement Calvin made on every point. We have never been followers or even readers of Calvin and *have never even quoted him once* on the Doctrines of Grace! When we refer to 'historic Calvinism' we refer to what such men as Whitefield, Edwards, Spurgeon, Martyn Lloyd Jones and many others generally taught as the *Doctrines of Grace* and which had always been held to in the great Confessions of faith until recent centuries.

Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon

Final Comment by Martyn Lloyd Jones

'The gospel is to be offered to all. It is to be preached to all. And the Apostles did so. Human responsibility is something that is asserted everywhere in the Scripture, and it is asserted side by side with the doctrine of the absolute free sovereignty of God, and that salvation is entirely the result of His election.

So this is what the Bible teaches. Election alone accounts for the saved, but non-election does not account for the lost. That is worth repeating: Election alone accounts for the saved, but non-election does not account for the lost. Let me explain. No man would be saved were it not that God in a sovereign manner has chosen him, as we have seen abundantly from verse 6 to verse 29. It is God's action alone that saves a man. So why is anybody lost? Is it because they are not elected? No! What accounts for the lost is their rejection of the gospel, and before that, of course, the fact that they are in Adam, that they belong to this mass of perdition. We have all sinned in Adam.

And it is here that human responsibility comes in. We are responsible for our rejection of the gospel, but we are not responsible for our acceptance of it. That is the result of the electing Grace of God'.

(Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones, Romans, Exposition of Ch.9 - God's Sovereign Purpose, P.285, Preached 1962-1963)

Correction

In the article '*Herald of Hope and Election*' Jan/Feb/2007 we made the statement '*at the time of the Council of Dort John Calvin had been dead for 146 years*'

The figure should have been '*46 years*'. Calvin died in

May 1564. The Synod of Dort did not put out the '5 points' of refutation against Arminius until after 1609. Thankyou to the reader who quickly brought this typing error to our attention! Our apologies for this inaccuracy.

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editors)

[Editors reply in **bold type** and brackets]

E-mail No.1:...My daughter had a large lump on her neck...doctors wanted to take a biopsy etc,...At a [Benny Hinn] healing meeting...that lump (big as a squash ball) disappeared instantly while sitting in the anointing presence of the Holy Spirit. [What do you mean by the 'anointing presence...'. God can heal. I have sent you an article on 'healing'. Such healings need to be tested. There have been many false claims, false teaching/prophecies...]

E-mail No.2 [...After we sent the article on 'healing']; 'But I have experienced and...witnessed...Terry do you enjoy getting beat up brother, making enemies, you're making it so hard on yourself. Do you enjoy this like some self abusive addiction; are there some old Catholic roots still there? [...Paul said: 'Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?' Gal.4:16]

We must stay sweet in a sour world...time to smell the roses, Terry. Christianity is not a religion of the mind. He has written His law on the flesh of my heart now. As for doctrine, I am not in Doctrine, I am in Christ. [We Christians are all 'in Christ'. But we are supposed to be 'in doctrine' too! What do you do with Timothy, Titus where 'doctrine' is mentioned frequently? The scriptures never have anything good to say about mans 'heart' - it is 'deceitful' and a terrible indicator of truth (Jer.17:9). One of the most important assets in 'discernment' is the use of the mind. We are to be 'renewed in the spirit of your mind', (Eph.4:23). The Bereans used their minds to test what Paul taught, (Acts 17:3). We are to monitor and control thoughts (Is.26:3, Phil.4:8). And what of Romans 12:1 - 'be transformed by the renewing of our minds'...]

Terry I fully believe in the person of God the Holy Spirit. God the father is not on earth today, neither Jesus the son, but God the Holy Spirit is working, doing fathers will, drawing people to Jesus, Healing, delivering... The problem with the ['Toronto Blessing', etc] moves of God is people didn't allow the move of God to move them to obedience (eg. Book of Acts), so the waters were no longer living that flowed but polluted streams, [But the source was polluted - The false prophecies showed that!...can a fountain produce both bitter and sweet? - James 3:11]

Doctrines won't win the lost Terry [The doctrine of salvation - the Gospel - this alone will win the lost! Any other Gospel of signs and wonders, healing, prosperity, etc, will not win them]. The letter kills, but the spirit gives life. [I hate 'legalism' too - I left that in the Roman Catholic religion. But the Spirit wrote the 'letter', so surely I should have sound doctrine and obey it?]

Terry, I read some of those ['Diakrisis'] newsletter from old, it made me depressed, that's scary stuff there...[Yes, the truth can be scary...]

Spurgeon had a great healing ministry, they say he healed more than all the doctors in London [Spurgeon never had a 'healing ministry'. There are no documented claims of miraculous healings in his ministry...he did believe God heals, as I do. He was actually a 'cessationist' regarding the sign gifts...] Didn't he smoke? Does that make him false. [Why would this make him 'false'? It might mean he wasn't a 'legalist'?...Here are the facts: Spurgeon smoked an occasional cigar - it was a custom then. He stopped smoking altogether when the media (who were often scathing of him) suddenly cartooned him in the papers with a huge cigar. Spurgeon believed the image portrayed was a stumbling block so he stopped smoking...So, what is your point here?] Wesley had anointed meetings, people sliding out of their seats onto the floor in hysterics, does that mean he is false. [Never said he was 'false'. But note this: Wesley considered these manifestations DEMONIC! He never agreed with them and avoided them and spoke strongly against them...]

But Hillsong is getting bigger and bigger, now building another big church reaching thousands...is that wrong, [Big does not mean good. Hillsong has been racked with sexual sin, lies and deception. Many leaders have fallen - Houston's father, Geoff Bullock, Pat Mesiti...I left that music, the mosh pits, strobe lights, the beat, etc, in the gutters and discos of the world] Bonnke and Benny Hinn are having bigger crusades and Rodney Howard Brown is building a bigger church, [Rodney Howard Browne's itinerant ministry has actually dwindled. He rarely pulls crowds like he used to. He has had tragedy in his family - the death of one of his children, who was not healed...] Time to smell the roses, Terry. [The roses of truth smell good to me...but even 'the very elect' could be deceived by the sweet smelling roses of the false and 'lying signs and wonders' movement in the end-times]...Howard-Browne, Bonnke, Benny Hinn, Hillsong...These men are extending forgiveness to you every day and to the cronies you hang with...[Is Benny Hinn a false prophet or not? If I am wrong here I will repent publicly and in writing to you. I have evidence over many years. Will you take up my challenge and examine this man with me? Love, TA]

A Final E-mail:...how do you think Jesus feels about your actions, towards His bride...this is the last time I will communicate with you on any issue...You have violated spiritual principles Terry, I cry mercy for you...

Bible Versions and 'Copyright'

Dear Terry, Your comments about the different Bible versions were interesting...all the Bibles, except for the KJV, have a copy right... [The KJV does have 'copyright'. The title page of the NT of the original edition of the KJV reads 'Cum Privilegio', Latin words literally meaning 'with privilege' or 'right' - that is, with the right of reproduction retained or 'copyrighted'. The 2nd edition of the KJV (1613) has the same. The rights went to Robert Barker, the royal printer, whose father,

Christopher Barker, had received from Queen Elizabeth the sole right to print English Bibles. The heirs of Robert Barker went on printing the KJV as sole owners of the exclusive copyright for more than 100 years before the right passed into other hands. At the turn of the 19th century, the KJV was still under British copyright in the hands of Oxford and Cambridge University Presses and the Royal Printers, who were George Eyre and Andrew Strahan... (Sources various)

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editors)

Dear Terry, In Nov/Dec 2006 Diakrisis under 'Occultic Spirits' P.11, your response, by omission, appears to suggest that it is possible for 'born again Christians' to be demon possessed, though I know you don't believe this. I feel that you should have made it very clear that Satan's demons and the Holy Spirit cannot dwell in the same temple and therefore true 'saved' believers cannot be demon possessed or 'delivered' or 'exorcised' of Demon possession.

(G.O., SE.Qld.)

Editors reply: Thanks for this comment. I am not sure how one could have got this false impression but if I have not been clear, the following might clarify things:

An understanding of the Old Testament temple and the 'Holy of Holies' will quickly dispel the possibility of a demon dwelling in the Holy of Holies with the presence of God Himself. The teaching that Christians can be 'possessed' with demons is unthinkable if one considers the truth of a Christian being indwelt with the Holy Spirit and being the 'temple of the Holy Spirit'!

No believer mentioned in Scripture ever had an indwelling demon, let alone was delivered of one. However, we are not here saying a demon cannot 'oppress' the mind of a Christian, (2Cor.10:3-5).

One of the worlds foremost New Testament Greek scholars, Spiros Zodhiates, lists the cases of NT demon possession and then states: 'In view of the fact that Jesus Christ has absolute power over the demons, it is impossible for a demon to possess a believer in whose heart Christ dwells'.

The Bible says: 'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new', (2Cor.5:17).

As with most false teaching today, the teaching of Christians being inhabited with demons is an invention mostly of the 20th Century. The integration of Psychology with Christianity; and certain 'Deliverance Ministries', have done much to further this error.

Praise/Prayer Points

- Praise the Lord for the volunteer help we receive each day to answer the increased mail and to handle correspondence, typing and orders.

- Please pray for the Sydney itinerary - pray that the topics chosen will be used by the Holy Spirit to quicken the word and meet the needs of the believers.

Hi Terry, I can't but help to pause to give thanks to God for your wonderful informing newsletter, 'Diakrisis'. I've been searching through all of the 'Diakrisis' on your website for the last few hours as I need to deal with a certain church matter, and it's just been so wonderful to find so many articles that are just so relevant to what I am looking for. The articles seem to give a good solid treatment of the subject at hand, getting to the bottom of the real issue, and are a genuine attempt to expose truth from error in a non-compromising, but loving way! I've just told my son to go and read the articles for an hour and see what God does! Thanks so much.

(G.M., Qld)

Dear Terry, Keep up the good work...There is very little reverence in todays churches and especially in church music; just 'vain repetition' and little doctrine...

(D.S., Toowoomba, Qld.)

Terry's Itinerary

Sydney/NSW Itinerary -

(To be completed next (May) newsletter)

May 6th (Sun) 9.30 am North Ryde Gospel Hall Ph.88503904

May 9th (Wed) 7.30pm Marrickville Home Group Ph.95534818

May 10th (Thurs) 7.30pm Guildford Christian Assembly Ph.88077725

May 13th (Sun) 10am Church for Everybody, Marrickville Ph.95534818

May 13th (Sun) 6pm Emmanuel Baptist Church, Glenwood Ph.96743007

May 16th (Wed) Ishak Home Group 7.30pm Ph 0425277794.

May 18th (Fri) 7.30pm Cootamundra Bible Fellowship Ph.69423541

May 19th (Sat) 9.30am Cootamundra Bible Fellowship Ph.69423541 **Seminar** (Topics to be decided)

May 20th (Sun) 10am Cootamundra Bible Fellowship Ph.69423541

May 20th (Sun) 7pm Independent Baptist Church, Wagga Wagga Ph.69265804

May 22nd (Tues) 7.30pm Camilleri Home Group, Cootamundra Ph.69422582

May 27th (Sun) 11.30am Combined churches Wentworthville Arabic Baptist Church/Guildford Christian Assembly Ph.96799442 Ph.88077725

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