



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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Editors Comments

Recently a friend and I were sharing our faith in Christ with two strangers. They justified themselves as being 'christians' by their 'good works' or the fact that they had been 'christened'. One had been raised a member of a Christian denominational church. As the conversation finished and we promised to send them material to read, I began to ponder how people attending church for so long could be misled by such a false gospel of works.

That same day my friend showed me some of what is being watched on the popular Pay TV '*Australian Christian Channel*'. On this channel I heard and saw why so many people today, and in so many ways, could be misled into thinking they were 'Christian'. The preaching of works and social issues was filtered through psychology and 'feel good' philosophies. As well, I watched preachers teaching topical sermons with little doctrinal content, yet enthusiastic large audiences were excitedly taking notes and being 'wowed'. As a Bible student it grieved me to watch the masses with 'itching ears' taking in what they think is 'meat' when so much of it is really a mish mash of misplaced scriptures, logic and cute catch phrases that in the end amount to at best nothing short of polluted 'milk'! Admittedly, the delivery and 'passion' of the preaching looked inspiring. But the people listening had only to *know* their Bible to realise that the verses used too often did not say what the preacher wanted them to say.

The deception here is that the Gospel is being re-packaged with all the glitter the world loves so much - just as the Bible predicts for the endtimes.

...But then comes the music - it certainly too has become a mighty drawcard! On one viewing I honestly thought I had the wrong channel - and was watching a rock music station! But when I saw a 'cross' in amongst the smoke and haze on stage I realised this was the latest 'Christian rock music'. I had seen this same station two years ago (see editorial July/Aug 2005), but now it was obviously more 'rock' and less 'Christian'. It was 'Hillsong' and the youth jumped, gyrated and moved their bodies to the beat. A mosh pit formed at the front. *I could not tell the difference between this and a full blown secular rock concert!*

As I travel this nation I see pastors and elders under pressure to conform to a new breed of 'Christianity'. The pressure is not just coming from the world but from *inside* their own churches. There, professing Christians want the latest fad so as to inject what they think is 'life' into what they see as a 'dead' church. I am all for 'life', but this 'Christianity' is stillborn, a counterfeit and another gospel, another spirit and another Jesus, (2Cor.11:4).

Pastors and elders who take a stand on this can expect trouble in the short term and those who don't take a stand can expect trouble in the long term. There are many selfish, fleshly people in churches today who want the church to be fashioned to their personal tastes and desires. They want a God of love without His truth and judgement; popularity with the world; 'purpose driven' standards instead of Bible driven doctrine; and the church to meet *our* needs. They want something 'relevant' - so the message is adapted to the method. But the Gospel is not popular nor 'relevant', but is offensive to the world, (Gal.5:11). The power to believe is in the message itself, not the presentation, (Rom.1:16,17; 1Cor.17). **Terry Arnold**

What Was Jude On About Anyway?

Jude was the half brother of Jesus. It is shown that at one time he had refuted his sibling's claim to Messiahship and shunned His truthful teachings, (Jn.7:5). Yet the resurrection dramatically changed this man, (Acts 1:14). And he subsequently penned the only New Testament epistle, 'Jude', devoted exclusively to confronting apostasy - in which he vehemently urges others to '*contend earnestly*' for that very same '*Faith*' he himself once rejected.

Jude lived during a period when Christianity was under heavy political attack from Rome and aggressive spiritual infiltration from Gnostic apostates and libertines who were sowing abundant seed for an immense harvest of doctrinal error. He seems to have viewed it all with great alarm - as an ongoing battle in which others must also participate.

Is that what we are now all required to do? To contend earnestly for the Faith we have received? Was Jude speaking to this generation also? Is this a call for some and not for others? Isn't it more important that we simply 'love' others, present the Gospel and bring souls to a saving knowledge of Christ?

'Contending earnestly for the Faith' is divisive, disruptive and depressing, isn't it? Surely these matters are subject to personal interpretation? And to claim that we have a corner on Truth is the ultimate arrogance in today's 'there's no such thing as a 'wrong' answer' society?

Has Jude called the Church to 'fight' in the midst of intense spiritual warfare - for Truth? Does this mean that all members of Christ's Body should be insisting on adherence to sound Biblical doctrine? It's quite obvious that it does. But, it seems anything other than that is occurring today.

What is this Truth? Biblically, Truth is that which is consistent with the Mind, Will, Character, Glory and Being of God Himself. Truth cannot be adequately explained, understood, recognised or defined without God as its source. He is the fountain of all Truth. The more you muse on the essence of Truth the more you see the stark need of a *universal absolute*. This is just what Paul did as he traced the decline of human thinking without God in Romans 1:21-22.

The battle, since Jude's day, is well advanced and it bears all the hallmarks of an imminent defeat.

We have emerged from the scourge of Modernism into a 'Post-Modern' era. A time when any teaching that proclaims itself definitively, confidently, and authoritatively as the Truth, must be viewed as stupendously ignorant and ill informed. And yet, anything short of that is not the '*Faith once delivered*' to us.

A great confusion reigns in the Church worldwide today as to just what constitutes the Truth back of our faith. Mutually exclusive doctrines now abound that have absolutely no scriptural foundation whatsoever. Immense new movements have ushered in a Christianity *that would be unrecognisable to the writers of the New Testament*.

This could never have occurred if the saints of today had been fully aware of the treasure that they have been charged to protect. Millions today view any attempt to correct false teachers and their venomous doctrines as mere 'heresy hunting' and as an 'unloving' pursuit. The few who have joined the fray are verbally spat upon and vilified. Entire denominations - (amongst them one bearing the name of the instigator of the Reformation) - now 'discuss', amongst

many other heresies, the possibility of ordaining homosexuals to ministry, and how best to produce an agreement on the doctrine of 'Justification' jointly with the Vatican!

How often do we hear 'let's not wrangle over what we believe, it's only doctrine; let's concentrate on what we agree upon. After all it's how we live that is important - we must set aside our disagreements over dogmas and creeds and show unity in love - by the way we live'. But this view itself seriously violates clear scriptural commands. It's what we *believe*, not what we *do* that secures us a right standing with God!

Emergent Church leaders have openly declared warfare on the Faith, and hardly a whimper is raised from those that have been charged with the safekeeping of Biblical Truth. Brian McLaren, for example, has gone so far as to state; '*I don't believe making disciples must equal making adherents to the Christian religion. It may be advisable in many circumstances to help people to become followers of Jesus and remain within their Buddhist, Hindu or Jewish contexts*'. The vast 'contemplative' Christianity movement has enticed hundreds of thousands of so-called Christians into adding to their worship such aids as candles, labyrinths, breath-prayers and the 'Prayer of Jabez'. Yet the outcry has been largely almost inaudible.

Yes, we were warned that great apostasy would be prevalent in the latter days - but does that mean we should simply take a back seat as it washes over us? Or worse, denigrate those who have moved up to the front-line trenches? No, faithful Christians must respond to this urgent call-up to service. Warfare of any kind is quite detestable. However, there are causes for which not fighting for is a far greater evil. And this is one of them.

What was occurring in Jude's time is happening now in a much larger way in a much-expanded world. The enemy of the Truth is as active as ever. Therefore Jude's admonition applies to us as much as it applied to the recipients of his letter. False teachers still assail the church with their damning heresies. Heretics arise *from within* demanding that they be heard, recognised and tolerated. They endeavour to have us embrace the post-modern mantra that dialogue is superior to debate, conversation is more edifying than controversy, and fellowship much preferred than a fight. But it is a cowardly stance when all is said and done. Their teaching **MUST** be opposed and clearly refuted with the plain Truth - the one that was '*once delivered*'.

It is the grossest disobedience for Christians alive in this crucial time to suddenly allow themselves to be persuaded to sweep aside in the name of 'love' and 'unity', every aberrant 'gospel' that comes our way, and unconditionally throw our arms around every new thing that calls itself 'Christian'. The fight must urgently be joined.

The ancient war against the Truth and the Faith is merely setting the stage for that final desperate lunge of Satan to destroy the Church once and for all. All of history has been but a steady drumbeat to the march toward that goal. It's closer now, as you read this, as it has ever been before. We are to be soldiers in this battle, not U.N. observers - and this is just exactly what our brother Jude was 'on about'.

Mike Claydon

Overheating?

As world leaders, scientists, meteorologists, politicians and clergymen of every stripe become more agitated and their voices more shrill over the 'threat' of 'Global Warming' the theory has taken on all the aspects of a new religion.

With great fanfare, in March, Al ['I used to be the next president of the United States'] Gore took Capitol Hill like a conquering hero as he testified on 'Global Warming' before both houses of Congress. Fresh from conquests at the Academy Awards where his adoring Hollywood elites showered him with coveted golden statues for spreading their favourite propaganda, Gore was determined to turn his personal conquest into draconian federal law and ultimate human misery.

Gore's words to Congress were predictable. The earth is warming. The polar ice caps are melting. Polar bears are on the run. And it's man's fault. Solution? Ban or control human activities.

The *Sea Shepherd Conservation Society*, in a recent editorial entitled; '*The Beginning of the End for Life as We Know it on Planet Earth*' says mankind is a virus that needs to be eradicated. '*We need to radically and intelligently reduce human populations to fewer than one billion. We need to eliminate nationalism and tribalism and become Earthlings*', writes founder Paul Watson. '*Who should have children?*' he asks - '*Those who are responsible and completely dedicated to that responsibility, which is actually a very small percentage of humans*'. Humans have become a cancerous threat to the planet.

One cannot turn on the nightly television news or read the newspaper in these days without being immediately confronted with politicians positioning themselves on this topic. Even reluctant Prime Ministers have been dragged kicking and screaming into the debate and the mad scramble to see who can be first to price a mythical '*emissions cap*'. It's sickening to watch as the leadership of worldwide Christendom clamours to ensure they play a major role in the fight against this coming calamity. Suddenly, no one is listened to unless they firmly believe that this planet is overheating due to the activities of men.

One has to ask though, is life on earth really in imminent danger? Does the planet have only a few short years left before it becomes uninhabitable? Or is this simply a greater part of the grand delusion God has promised, now coming into view?

Just days before Gore's charge up Capitol Hill, a high profile climate debate between prominent scientists ended with global warming sceptics being voted the clear winner. Before the start of the debate, held in New York City, the audience polled 57.3% to 29.9% in favour of believing Global Warming was a crisis. But following the debate numbers completely flipped to 46.2% to 42.2% in favour of the sceptical point of view. Conclusion: when people hear both sides they easily judge for themselves what is truth!

On March 13th, 2007, *The New York Times*, one of the most adamant promoters of the Global Warming gospel, published a landmark article stating '*scientists argue that some of Al Gore's central points are exaggerated and erroneous*'. French scientist, Claude Allegre, a prominent French Socialist and supporter of Global Warming dogma, recanted his belief in man-made catastrophic global warming and now says promotion of the idea is motivated by money.

One of Israel's top young scientists, Nir Shaviv, recently reversed his opinion, declaring that the link between emissions and climate variability holds nothing more than '*circumstantial evidence*'. The United Kingdom's famed environmental activist David Bellamy also recently converted to scepticism, as did Meteorologist Reid Bryson, who has switched from the 1970's global cooling scare to a global warming sceptic.

A report by the *Heartland Institute*, entitled '*What Climate Scientists Really Say About Global Warming*', exposes the weakness of the '*consensus*' claims of Global Warming shock troops. To reach its findings the report examined two surveys conducted among climate scientists; the first in 1996, and the second in 2003. Both surveys confirm scientists are divided on the issue. Yet many no longer question whether the atmosphere is being warmed due to human activities and instead are increasingly impressed with the speed and impact of the process.

Climate change sceptics have called Gore's documentary '*An Inconvenient Truth*' a '*sci-fi disaster*' movie, and scientists who do not agree with the former vice president's view claim their perspective is being shunned in favour of trying to attain a '*consensus*' on the subject of global warming. Gore's contention is that man-made greenhouse gases are responsible for global warming, yet *six different Antarctic ice core studies, whose results were published in peer-reviewed scientific studies between 1999 and 2006, found exactly the opposite!*

The ice core data allowed researchers to examine multiple climate changes *they say* reach back over the past 650,000 years. All six studies found atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations tracking closely with temperatures, but with CO2 lagging behind changes in temperature, rather than leading them.

The time lag between temperatures moving up or down, and carbon dioxide following, ranged from a few hundred to a few thousand years. Even a non-scientist, faced with those statistics, could only conclude that global warming *causes* increased greenhouse gases. You'd have to be a failed presidential candidate or an unbalanced eco-terrorist to conclude the opposite is true from the data presented.

Greenland is the sixth-largest landmass on the face of the earth. Indeed, it accounts for one-quarter of the earth's landmass; except that 81% of it is currently covered by a '*permanent*' ice sheet. Ever wondered how Greenland got its name? It was settled by Viking leader Erik the Red during what was called the Mediaeval Warming Period. They called it Greenland because most of it was green! The Vikings set up thriving farming communities that lasted for several hundred years before the onset of what is called '*The Little Ice Age*' around the beginning of the 14th century.

Much is being made of receding glaciers. What doesn't get much attention is what is revealed hidden beneath. The remains of human settlements, bones, arrowheads, pottery, copper and silver mines, flora and fauna, even the perfectly preserved remains of human beings - some of them dating back only a few centuries. The '*Ice man*' found in a British Columbia glacier in 1999 was radiocarbon dated to about 1450 AD. Not only was his body perfectly preserved, so was his clothing. He died wearing little more than a light cloak and hat and thin leather moccasins. The food pouch he was

carrying contained pieces of Salmon. What does that mean? It means that the glaciers weren't there 550 years ago. They melted during the Mediaeval Warming Period. There is no record of catastrophic sea level changes, submerging coastlines, etc. And it is unlikely that the industrial hydrocarbon pollution given off by humans in the years prior to AD 1000 were responsible for either the warming trend, or that buying carbon offsets brought on the 'Little Ice Age' that followed. History says 2005 was among the warmest years on record, exceeded only by 1936 - just before the cooling trend that by 1975 lent itself to dire forecasts of another 'Ice Age' by 2005!

The planet Mars is being hit by rapid climate change too and it is happening so fast that the red planet could lose its southern ice cap. Scientists from NASA say that Mars has warmed by about 0.5C since the 1970s. *This is similar to the warming experienced on Earth over approximately the same period.* Since there is no known life on Mars it suggests rapid changes in planetary climates could be natural phenomena. Or are we humans responsible for that too? *Two different planets in the same solar system, experiencing*

identical climate changes, but with utterly unrelated causes. An amazing coincidence!

Global warming is real, in the sense that the earth's temperature is currently rising. It began rising in the mid 1970's after the thirty-year cooling trend that began in the 1940's *that had 1970's scientists warning of a coming Ice Age.* Today those looking to a 'green low carbon emission' Earth for salvation are about to be sorely tested. God controls the Cosmos, and therefore our climate - not us. Two thousand years ago, BEFORE either the Mediaeval Warming Period OR the Little Ice Age, Jesus was asked by His disciples to reveal the signs that would indicate the end of the Age and of His impending return for His Church. In reply He spoke of the panic that would occur during a single generation, somewhere in time, replying: *'And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken'*, (Lk.21:25-26).

Mike Claydon

'Definitive Edition' of the 'Passion of the Christ' Movie Released: Motives Revealed

'...With the release of a 'Definitive Edition' of this production it can be clearly seen what the true objectives of the filmmakers were and what these 'artistic images' were intended to portray - namely the Roman Catholic view that Mary plays a key role in the redemption of mankind, and that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is the heart and core of what Rome considers true Christianity.

One of the many special features in this 'Definitive Edition' is a 'Theological Commentary' with remarks by three Catholic theologians and producer Mel Gibson...

*Let's allow these 'Passion of the Christ' commentators to speak for themselves...During the scene of Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, the camera cuts away to Mary asleep in her bed. She bolts upright, wide awake - at the exact same moment that Christ is struck in the face by one of the soldiers. In the commentary, Mel Gibson says: **'...this is more than a mother'**. Another speaker comments: **'Yes. And of course of all the movies about Jesus, this is the most Marian - the one that most connects Mary to Jesus...that femininity is there as a filter that the whole movie is shot through'**.*

*...As Jesus makes his way through the Stations of the Cross, he stumbles, he falls, he searches for the strength to continue. Then their eyes meet; he receives strength [from Mary], gets up and continues...This occurs no less than five times in the movie. Father John Bartunek remarks: **'And Jesus looks at Mary, who is his mother but also a symbol of the church...when he looks at his mother, he is doing this for her'**. Mel Gibson clarifies: **'Yes, she was cooperating with this, salvific work. I tried to make that***

obvious'.

*Mel Gibson stated his goal in the film was to show that Mary shares a role in redemption. **'In a sense they work together. That is the thing, that is the point. Jesus and Mary are working as the new Adam and the new Eve to bring about the defeat of the devil..'** Four times during this conversation Gibson comments that this or that event was inspired by the writings of mystic Anne Catherine Emmerich.*

*Of the scene in which a character named Veronica wipes the blood from Christ's brow and offers him a drink: Gibson says: **'That is not scriptural of course'**. Panel member: **'No, but it is one of those traditions'**.*

*[On 'Transubstantiation']...**'In John 6, 'I am the bread of life'. You have to eat my flesh and drink my blood if you want everlasting life'**. Gerry Matatics: **'He meant this literally'**. Gibson: **'The idea of transubstantiation staring you right in the face, right?'** Another panel member: **'...communion is a communion in the body and blood of Christ, not in something that is a symbol of his body and blood, or represents it. In other words, the Bible never says this symbolizes or this signifies my body...the [RC] Eucharist embodies the passion of Christ'**.*

(Excerpted from Roger Oakland - 25 May 2007 www.understandthetimes.org)

Editors comment: We were originally howled down for our warning of this movie! Evangelical pastors promoted this movie as a great evangelistic tool! Yet, from its inception it was designed to further the cause of Roman Catholicism and the ecumenical movement. The above 'commentary' surely testifies to this.

The Pope - On Evolution

'Pope Benedict XVI, in his first extended reflections on evolution as Pope says that Darwin's theory cannot be finally proven and that science has unnecessarily narrowed humanity's view of creation. In a new book, 'Creation and Evolution' [he] cautioned that evolution raises philosophical questions science alone cannot answer...Benedict added that the immense time span that evolution covers made it impossible to conduct experiments in a controlled environment to finally verify or disprove the theory. 'We cannot haul 10,000 generations into the laboratory...' he said' (Associated Press)

Mail on 'Hillsong' article

We have received much mail on the 'Hillsong' article (May/June 2007). Surprisingly, without exception, correspondence received so far has been favourable. The following letters are representative...

Please add me to your e-mail list to receive 'Diakrisis (Australia)' Newsletters. Your latest edition was passed on to me to read regarding the 'Hillsong' Church, which surprised me. I respect Terry's integrity and biblical knowledge as I have had the privilege and opportunity of meeting him and having him as a visiting lecturer when I was a Bible College student...in 1999/2000.

In the past I have attended one of the Hillsong Conferences (2004 - it was here that I witnessed for the first time people speaking in unknown tongues and being 'slain in the spirit'); plus I had also been a regular attendee to Hillsong Women programs every Thursday and I had decided to return again this year...I was always welcomed in and made to feel like I belonged and connected. What I liked was their positive, uplifting and encouraging messages they would share each week. However they had the ability to give spiels on getting your 'tithes & offerings'...I felt they would take passages of scripture and quote them out of context, and they would always ask God to bless the money and the giver! So it creates the delusion in your mind that if you don't give to God then He will not bless you!

...We recently had thought about Hillsong for their programs and resources they could offer us and our disabled child...and our son was introduced to their Youth Program and he loved it...

Thank you for your article and praise God for His perfect timing as it has alerted us to the unknown truths about Hillsong. After reading and learning all this new information regarding Hillsong, we no longer plan or feel the need to return and God has prompted not only myself but my husband that we should return to our home church that we attended when we were students at Bible College. Your article hit home with my husband as only last Sunday they (Hillsong) were talking about speaking in tongues and one of the pastors said it was a gift and if you couldn't speak it, perhaps it was because you hadn't tried, so you better go home and start practising!...Hillsong also preaches the 'Doctrine of Prosperity' which your articles confirm.

It is really sad to think how many people are swayed and sucked in, believing what they are doing is right and not realizing they are following false prophets. We did know of Pat Mesiti as he was a speaker at a Business Conference my husband attended many years ago and we used to support the Teen Challenge program, until we found out about Pat Mesiti and felt God telling us to withdraw our support and redirect our finances to another area. But we had no idea about the other founding people/pastors and their past...when they make their altar calls at the end of the services you never hear them speak about sin and why Jesus went to the cross? In this busy day and age we can so easily be distracted and take the easy road because that is what most other people are doing...and if it's OK for them then we try to justify it to suit our own needs.

Thanks again for your ministry, getting the word out and for saving our family from making a disastrous spiritual decision for our future. May God continue to bless you abundantly each day as you serve Him faithfully. Many Blessings...

(K.L., Sydney)

Terry & Mike, My friend...sent me 'Diakrisis' May/June and may I encourage you to keep exposing anything contrary to the Word of God. You will be soundly criticized for it because the light of truth is embarrassing. Thanks for your article on 'Hillsong'. It is a truly warped organization, and it's methods and anti-Biblical attitudes must be exposed. Hillsong's success only shows how easy it is to fool people.

One question: The Hillsong article covered sex in marriage and unless I missed the point it appeared to be negative towards Christians having an exciting and fulfilling sex-life...

...The things I have been told have lead me to ask other men about their love-life and all I have asked have answered that they don't have one or a poor one at best. Maybe you could consider investigating this and exposing withheld intimacy as the marriage destroying evil it is. This would cause you to cop some flak. But when has this ever held you back from telling the truth as you understand it?

Are you saying that an exciting and fulfilling intimacy is not a God given gift?...God bless,

(W.A., Sydney)

Editors' reply:...We had no intention of covering the subject of 'sex in marriage' in the 'Hillsong' article. We were merely pointing out the fact that Bobbie Houston spoke of orgasms, pelvic muscle strengthening and the like - in a coy and provocative manner. However, during that teaching she also went so far as to say that overweight people ran the risk of being viewed as 'retards'. Many people with mental and physical disabilities attend Hillsong - and we think that what was said in the circumstances was unconscionable.

We believe that married Christians should endeavour to lead exciting and fulfilling sexual lives...But it has to be consensual - and the Bible says that we are not to deprive our partners sexually - our bodies are no longer ours in marriage.

There is much misery in too many Christian marriages today. It is a sad and disturbing fact. We, above all people, should be enjoying all the benefits that a Christian marriage brings - but whilst people continue to hold on to their selfish and manipulative ways this situation will not change. We wrote an article on marriage ('The Secret To a Successful Marriage' (March/April 2007 Diakrisis) which you may find of interest? We think that if Ephesians Ch.5 is being obeyed and played out then there will be no need to emphasise sexuality in public teaching. We do not believe the scriptures emphasise the sexual dimension but rather the sacrificial aspect of the relationship described in Ephesians 5.

When you ask: 'Are you saying that an exciting and fulfilling intimacy is not a God given gift?' Our Answer: No, we are saying that Bobbie Houston was being coy, provocative and slanderous in her teachings titled 'Kingdom Women Love Sex'. Exciting and fulfilling marital intimacy is a beautiful gift from God - and is a vital component of a sound Christian marriage. Thanks for your worthy comments.

Mike Claydon & Terry Arnold

'Hillsong' letters continued next page >

More Mail on 'Hillsong'

Dear Terry and Mike, Good article on 'Hillsong' in the last issue, helpful, accurate and fair. May God Richly Bless you, (A.W., Sydney)

Greetings...The latest 'Diakrisis' today was a real blessing, most especially the article on 'Hillsong'...This organisation is only the tip of the iceberg...They use God to exploit people taking this to a new level...

(B.N., Sth.Aust.)

Dear Terry, Mike, Re: Hillsong - May the Lord keep you both encouraged...the days grow darker rapidly, as Rome gains ground in many minds and places.

As to the music of Hillsong, you could be stronger still. Tozers booklet, 'The Menace Of The Religious Movie', deals clearly with much that is merely a carry over of the 'Miracle Plays' of medieval times, eg, 'Christos Paschen written in 4th Century Greek'. Truly there is nothing new under the sun!...Be assured the Lord loves to support those who are on his side even if blunt in the process. God bless you both...

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry & Mike, Just received the May/June Newsletter and great stuff as usual. I have been interested (though not surprised) by some of your readers responses to your teaching on election and the Doctrines of Grace....and just wanted to encourage you to continue to present what the Scriptures clearly teach about these important doctrines. The doctrines of sovereign election and predestination are so clearly and abundantly presented in the Scriptures that it amazes me how many believers simply ignore or deny their obvious meaning (I used to fit in this category). My personal 'reformation' happened over 2 years ago when I read through Ephesians 1-3 every day for a month. Previous to this my theology had been Arminian based (not that I knew exactly what Arminianism was anyhow)...any exposure I had had to the doctrines of sovereign election and grace was only negative and authors like Dave Hunt (whom I have great respect for) were really pushing their Arminian agendas and presenting 'Reformed' folk in a most unfavourable light.

...An acceptance and understanding of the Doctrines of Grace as they are presented in the Scriptures brings with it great blessing and for me personally it has opened up my understanding of the Word of God enormously. Above all it has made me all the more thankful for my salvation knowing it is all of HIM, 'to the praise of His glory'!

(L.T., Victoria)

Dear Terry, Bless you for your ministry to those who are held captive to the traditions of men, Yours in Christ, (V.M., Victoria)

Dear Terry,...My wife and I were organists here in the church for a long time, but we had to quit. We tried to inform them for a year or so, but there was no response. It worried us so much we just had to pull out. They would not respond to the scriptures. The congregation started at 6 and grew to more than 30 and eventually had a permanent minister. In moved a few modernists. All was lost in a few years...Your ministry adds considerable weight to our beliefs and helps us to know we are not going silly but that the world is. Please God, bless 'Diakrisis' and the staff...

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

Dear Terry, Greetings...you may remember us when you preached out at our Church a while back! Just wanted to send some words of encouragement...we read with interest the 'Diakrisis' Newsletter, and as the latest one just arrived, it prompted me to write.

You are bound to get letters disagreeing with you...we were part of the 'Pentecostal/Healing' scene 20 or more years ago, only for about five years, until we saw the light! I had prayer for healing as I have one leg shorter than the other...I and everyone believed that the shorter leg grew!...but it was and is still shorter!

We still wonder how did we get duped by it all!!

We have seen so many people/relationships ruined by such false teachings..it is so sad.

As you say the secular T.V. programmes have exposed people like Benny Hinn...yet the church doesn't see it? (the master deceiver Satan has blinded them).

Terry and Mike, we pray for you and we pray the Lord will continue to give you health and strength to enable your ministry to continue...for boldness, courage and clarity to the truth with more and more people. With our prayers and love in the Lord,

(B.&R.G., Sth Australia)

I have been listening to John McArthur's radio program and was alarmed to hear him say that praying the Lords Prayer in Church was praying in vain. He likened praying a set prayer word for word was like the heathens praying in vain and that the Lord's prayer is only a model prayer. What do you think? (H.P.)

Sub-editors Comment: I believe what he is saying is this: To repeat this prayer by rote is 'vain repetition'...in many cases it is. Genuine prayer is between a person and their God. It is relational. Just mouthing the words is not indicative of a personal relationship with God. However, a genuine Christian may repeat this prayer (as I often do) giving each word meaning. I personally find myself expanding on it as I pray. It was given as a 'model' by Jesus Himself - MacArthur is right when he says that just to repeat it as a mantra is simply 'in vain'. I agree - it's the 'heart' and 'mind' that must be engaged.

Mike Claydon

Your Comments and Questions

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

More on Bible Versions:

(Editors Comments in bold and brackets)

Dear Terry, I felt constrained to reply to your comments on the KJV referred to in 'Diakrisis' (Jan/Feb; Mar/April). You appear to lump everyone who holds to a 'KJV only' position as an 'extremist' and 'legalist'. [It most certainly is not what I think. This is the section I figure you are questioning: '...I am not a 'KJV Only' extremist and have a distaste for some of the unscholarly arguments in 'KJV Only'. Their arrogant attitude seems to also pervade the issue. I have met too many 'KJV Only' Christians who view other Christians, (those who do not use the KJV), as carnal or in some way inferior. Using the KJV Bible only, has in many circles become a badge of 'orthodoxy', an orthodoxy often harshly imposed by 'KJV Only' legalists'.]

Nowhere does this 'lump everyone' as you say?]

I agree that there are some extremists, who for example believe that a person cannot get saved unless they read the KJV. [That is not the 'extreme' position I am speaking of though] The majority of KJVO believers do NOT hold to such a belief. [Of course not] To accuse someone of legalism because they believe the KJV is the perfect, preserved and inerrant word of God is simply untrue of the definition of legalism... [Nowhere have I ever defined KJV 'legalism' as any of these things!...]

You say that you have met 'many 'KJV only' Christians who view other Christians (who do not use the KJV), as carnal or in some way inferior'. That may be the case [It is the case and I see it often as I travel across this nation...]. I do not look down on any one who through ignorance and or false teaching uses a modern version. However, if after being shown the compelling evidence for the KJV being God's perfect and preserved word in the English language they continue to use another version, then I agree with Paul's sentiments 'But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant' (1Cor.14:38)! [The KJV translators themselves did not agree that their English translation was 'perfect'. They stated it could be improved, corrected, etc. The KJV edition has not been 'preserved' since it was only translated 4 centuries ago? But the manuscripts it was translated from have been preserved]

You also state: 'A common error in 'KJV Only' extremism is the comparison tests of versions with KJV...comparison should never be made with the KJV as the yardstick but rather against the parent Greek text...' Which 'parent Greek text' are you referring to? Erasmus, Colinaeus, Stephanus, Beza or Elzevir? Bearing in mind there are several editions of these...[The 'Received Text' (TR) is the definitive representative of the Byzantine family of MSS. I refer to the TR as a whole. Scriveners edition is taken to be the definitive edition of the NT text. There are only 6 differences between the extant editions of the TR that show up in translation]

Anyone who goes back to the 'parent Greek' is making himself the final authority on how a word should be translated. [No one is making himself the 'final authority' here. But the KJV was translated from the Greek as the original. The point is that to compare one translation with another translation instead of comparing it with the

originals that they came from is making the *English KJV* as the final authority (as you do?) which it is not (*and this the translators said themselves*)...Because someone has studied Hebrew and Greek does that make a Christian who hasn't inferior?...[I simply prefer to refer back to the Greek text as the final authority. One who does this is not 'making himself the final authority on how the word should be translated' but simply subjecting the translation to the authority of scripture in the original languages?]

It may interest you and your readers to know that the KJV translators used many sources for compiling the 1611 edition including the above mentioned Greek texts, they also had access to the following Bible translations: Luther's (German), Diodati (Italian), Erdosi (Hungarian), Olivetan (French), Wisoly (Polish), DeGrave (Dutch), Elizabeth (Russia), Coverdale, Great Bible, Matthew's Bible, Bishop's Bible, Tyndale Bible and Geneva Bible, Syrian and Latin Bibles. One only has to read the first page of any KJV to see that no one 'parent Greek text', 'original tongue or previous translation' was used to compile the KJV! [While the translators referred to many sources as commentaries, guides and helps the NT English itself was translated from Greek. They did 'diligently compare' the former translations and 'translated out of the original tongues' (Title page to AV published by Cambridge)]

You then argue the KJV [English] cannot be used as a 'yardstick' because it 'has gone through three major revisions since 1611 with more than 100,000 very minor changes'. This is not true. The KJV of 1611 has not been revised but corrected, [Anything 'corrected' causes a change - a 'revision' by definition?] the so called thousands of changes comprised mainly printing changes and spelling changes. Actual textual differences between the present editions and that of 1611 are obviously printing errors. They are not textual changes made to alter the reading. [Nowhere have I stated anything about 'textual differences'. I did say 'very minor changes'...I sought advice from a 'KJV only' expert from the Trinitarian Bible Society. He comments: 'While a very large proportion of the changes were as noted above, there were a number of changes by way of revision designed to make the translation even more accurate'].

You then go on to say 'the KJV is a remarkably accurate translation, but it is still a translation'...you are suggesting only the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts were inspired. [They have been copied and preserved faithfully]

...I would suggest your readers read the works of Gail Riplinger and Peter Ruckman...[Riplinger's book had many errors. No respectable KJV scholar that I know of agrees that her book is accurate. Ruckman is an extremist by your own definition...If you want a balanced view of 'KJV Only' read the material by Trinitarian Bible Society]

The 'Crown Copyright' had nothing to do with anyone copying anything in the original publication. [Yes it did. It was forbidden to do so by law at the time in England]...

Terry, You are a dear brother in Christ and your books and newsletter have always been a blessing. May the Lord continue to bless your ministry... (B.H., Sydney)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Hi Terry,...I wanted to personally thank you for a very fair and balanced perspective on John MacArthur's ministry [May/June 2007, P.10]. Your disagreements with some aspects of his ministry are clearly stated, yet you don't allow those disagreements to invalidate his entire ministry in your eyes. No believing teacher could ask for more; and I'm grateful for men such as yourself who do not blindly follow any man, but also do not utterly reject every teacher with whom you have some area of minor disagreement...I appreciate it.

(N.C., International Offices Administrator for 'Grace To You', USA)

Terry, I appreciate your integrity in this matter [John MacArthur article May/June, P.10] and your commitment to the word of God and the God of the word. We applaud ministries such as yours that are of genuine service to the church and to the Lord. May He continue to bless your labours as you seek to glorify Him in all your life and work.

*In Christ's service,
(T.G., Grace To You, Australia)*

Dear Terry, Mike & all valued workers of 'Diakrisis'. I thank God for your feeding spiritual food into my neglected area of life...Your newsletter is my only lifeline with the body of Christ, so it is received gratefully as nourishment for my flagging spiritual life.

If it was not for your newsletter, I would be uninformed as to the state of the church in general, ecumenical or otherwise, deceptions of all kinds, the feedback section, false teachers, prophets, but most of all, the teachings.

I've just come back to your newsletter...Do continue with 'Diakrisis' even if you are only preaching to the elect themselves, for in the end, that's all the truth, righteousness & sound doctrine will be accepted by. Thanks so much for the work you are doing.

(J.R.)

Praise/Prayer Points

- Praise the Lord for the recent NSW trip which was greatly encouraging whilst informing, teaching and equipping many saints and in hearing of salvations as well as opportunities to witness to the unsaved.
- Pray for the upcoming Fiji trip.
- Pray for results as our literature goes out each day.

Dear Mike and Terry, We would like to receive the Diakrisis by e-mail rather than by post. We really appreciate your work, and being warned of current issues we ourselves are not able to sort out. When friends mention things like the Alpha course or Hillsong worship etc etc which we have not come across ourselves, it is good to be informed, and able to give a word of warning or just pray for them, knowing the danger.

*May the Lord continue to bless you and your labours for His kingdom. Every blessing in Christ,
(E.&V., B.)*

Dear Mike and Terry, Thank you for your ministry of teaching through 'Diakrisis'. My husband and I find this magazine very informative and would like to help you decrease the print-run cost and time. So even though I am not very computer literate I would like to try having this Newsletter e-mailed to me.

(J.M.)

Dear Terry, ...you published a letter [May/June, P.11] from an Independent Baptist Pastor from Adelaide who asked you to remove him from your mailing list because he found your material 'depressing'.

I have enjoyed reading your magazine for some time now, and I can only suggest that if this man finds your material 'depressing', then his eyes are not on the Lord...The apostasy and falling away that we see today only serves to remind us that the return of Christ draws nearer all the time. How could anyone not rejoice when reading of the wonderful doctrines of grace and the righteousness of Christ which has been imputed to us! This alone is the hope of our Salvation...

...On another subject: Those who support rock music in church sometimes make the claim that rock music isn't specifically forbidden in Scripture. In Exodus 32:15-18 we read of Moses and Joshua coming down from the mountain...As they approached the camp they heard what sounded like the 'noise of war'. It was in fact the sound of the children of Israel worshiping the Golden calf. If the songs of idol worship sound like the 'noise of war', then songs of praise to God should be a solemn sound, (Ps.92:3)...Keep up the good work. God Bless you richly.

(D.Z., Maitland, Sth. Aust.)

Terry's Itinerary

July/Aug - Fiji Bible College

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