



Diakrisis (Australia)

PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld. Australia, 4655.
E-mail: taministries@bigpond.com Ph. 0411489472
Website: taministries.net

'But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern [diakrisis] both good and evil', (Heb.5:14)

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TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry,
teaching, informing and equipping the church.
Editor: Terry Arnold (Dip. Bib.&Min., Dip. Teaching)

The editor may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by subscribers in this newsletter.

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

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New Format for Newsletter

You will have noticed the new A5 size for this newsletter. We hope it will be easier to read with the text now wider, yet the pages shorter. We are working on more changes that may add some colour and increase the amount of pages, yet lessen the cost of printing. Let us know what you think of this new format.

Editors Comment

Today 'postmodern' thinking abounds. There are no absolutes. There is a 'new tolerance' thinking. 'Ecumenical unity in diversity' is the philosophy. Love is emphasised at the expense of truth. All these are integral parts of what I call 'ecumenical thinking'. Wherever I travel I meet Christians who have unknowingly adopted this thinking of the age. This thinking says 'lets concentrate on the similarities we have...Lets forget doctrine and concentrate on the things that we agree on'.

Recently I was asked if I would recommend attending a health programme run by Seventh Day Adventists. I expressed my *personal* view that I myself would not do this because I am against the gospel of Seventh Day Adventism. The reply was 'Oh, but your against all religions!'. My reply was 'Yes, I am!'...and so is God!

Praise the Lord for any 'similarities', but do we concentrate on them at the expense of truth? What if certain truths of the gospel are being discarded so that 'two can be together?' What if the Gospel doctrine of a religion is diametrically opposed to the Gospel of the Bible? Do we still concentrate on what we have 'in common'?

Roman Catholicism does not believe that God's righteousness is credited (imputed) to a person by faith alone, without works. They officially 'anathematise' (curse) anyone who teaches this. So, do we just ignore this and concentrate on the similarities? What does God say to this?...

The message of separation is the doctrine of holiness, which literally is on nearly every page of the Bible! Israel was commanded to '**put difference**' between them and other religions from which they were '**severed**' (Lev.20:23-26). The New Testament commands us to '**avoid**' those who '**cause divisions...contrary to the doctrine which you have learned**' (Rom.16:17). This separation is done *through the Word of God* which is '**truth**' to us (Jn.17:17). If the teaching is not Biblical we are to '**withdraw**' ourselves and have '**no company**' (fellowship) with those who claim to be Christian, yet teach another Gospel (2Thess.3:6-15). Charles Spurgeon wrote: '*...a chorus of ecumenical voices keep harping the unity tune. What they are saying is, 'Christians of all doctrinal shades and beliefs must come together in one visible organisation, regardless...Such teaching is false, reckless and dangerous. Truth alone must determine our alignments. Truth comes before unity. Unity without truth is hazardous...' Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.'* Only those sanctified through the Word can be one in Christ. To teach otherwise is to betray the Gospel'.

The Bible is clear that we cannot fellowship or be yoked with false doctrine, false religions, false teachers, false prophets, unsaved people, uncleanness, unrighteousness or disobedient brethren. Yet the modern church in many ways defies this and continues on its ecumenical path to find 'similarities'. I am convinced pastors and teachers will suffer judgement for not teaching separation and for watering down its absolutes so as to gel with postmodern thought.

Scripture consistently cries out against ecumenical thinking. '**Can two walk together except they agree?**' (Amos 3:3). Should I ignore the scriptures to have a unity of non agreement on the gospel? It's the differences that make the difference! And the differences concern eternal things.

When I left the Roman Catholic church a member of my Catholic family said that

what I had done 'would affect me for eternity'! To their surprise, I wholeheartedly agreed! - it would give me 'eternal life' instead of striving to keep church laws and sit under a gospel that did not match with scripture. What if I would have said 'OK. I will just concentrate on the similarities'. How would I be judged according to God and His word? What if one were to gain all the 'ecumenical' benefits in the whole world and yet lose their soul because they did not obey God and His Word? Biblical Christianity is 'narrow' and will always be too 'hard' for the world, for its religious people and for ecumenical professing Christians. *The Bible does not teach us to concentrate on similarities that unite us. It teaches separation from error, from false teaching, from false religions, from false communions and from false philosophies.*

Is the gospel and the word of God negotiable? God demands that there be no fellowship with apostasy and unbelief. **'And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them'** (Eph.5:11).

So far, the reader might agree with all that has been written above. But the Bible goes further! We are to '*contend*' for the Gospel truths, '*the faith once delivered*' (Jude 3). We may not all have that ministry of contending every day, but we can partake in that by practising separation, *which is holiness*. We are to reject heretics and heresy (Tit.3:120). We are to come out from among unions with apostasy and purge the leaven of unbelief from our lives (2Cor.6:14-18; Rev.18:4). If we are in an ecumenical church then the question God would put to us is: **'what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion has light with darkness?'** (2Cor.6:14,15).

The Greek word translated '*separate*' ('*aphorizo*') refers to the setting of a boundary. We get the word '*horizon*' directly from this Greek word ('*apo*' - from/'*horizo*' - to define). Paul tells us that we are to put a 'boundary', a 'horizon' between us and that which is unholy. We must have no fellowship with such. There is no instance where an apostate denomination has made a full recovery! Christians who stay in their ecumenical local churches are either ignorant of God's word or disobedient. God does not say 'stay in there, you might have an effect'; He says the opposite, **'come out and be separate'** (2Cor.6:17; Rev.18:4). Those that think this is too harsh would need to read what God said to the Israelites when they 'mixed' it! Read what the apostle Paul says about separation (2Thess.3:6,14,15; 2Cor.6:14-17; 1Cor.5:7,9-14). If we are in an ecumenical church then we need to find one that is separated from that movement and has a clear understanding of that. (If there are no such churches near us then we could consider meeting with like minded Christians in our homes).

God's word is not to be watered down. *The Gospel must be kept pure and free from the thinking of this age*. Paul fought strenuously for this as did the great leaders, reformers and martyrs down through the ages. Is our thinking and testimony the same?

One author sums up the case: *'As custodians of God's word we are required to preach (and teach and disseminate) the word, and reprove, rebuke, exhort (2Tim.4:2) ie. against error. In this day of rampant and universal unbelief, the remnant of God's people are commanded to 'earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered' (Jude 3). It is also the responsibility of faithful Christians to warn against the rapidly spreading apostasy and the snare of the ecumenical movement.'* (Dr. Tow Siang Hwa, Editor RPG Ministry, Dec/2003)

Terry Arnold

The Error of ‘Dualism’ (1Cor.10:31)

Some years ago I was in conversation with a person who was lamenting the fact that they had to work in a secular environment and be subject to its ‘worldliness’. During the conversation I mentioned that I have a (‘secular’) hobby and loved to use that as entertainment and as rest from the mental and physical drain of ministry, (something which I strongly recommend to all ministers). The reaction quite surprised me in that the person perceived that my ‘pastime’ was ‘unspiritual’. As the conversation went on it was obvious that they wanted their every waking hour to be ‘spiritual’ and that any things ‘secular’ were not of God. In further conversation it was obvious that this thought played out in many other legalistic applications. They lacked joy and were struggling with the impact of the secular activities they were doing in an ungodly world.

‘Dualism’ is the concept of dividing our lives up into the ‘sacred’ or the ‘secular’. It is compartmentalising things into that which is ‘spiritual’ and that which is ‘unspiritual’. It is the concept that the two are incompatible. This understanding was evident in the early church with some Gnostic Greek philosophies which taught that matter was evil. Later marriage was separated from that which is ‘holy’ and therefore ‘celibacy’ was necessary. Monasticism also played a part in the idea that one needed to separate from the world to secure a pure form of ‘holiness’.

Roman Catholicism from its inception in the 4th century displayed this dualistic approach and today most serious Catholics practice this in some way. They divide the ‘holy’ services to God of confession, the Mass, etc., from the rest of their secular week. Neither did the Reformation entirely free Protestant people from this thinking.

We are required to live in an evil world full of fleshly lusts and sin (1Jn.2:16). We are commanded not to separate from the world in a physical sense (Jn.17:15; 1Cor.5:10). Rather, we are to *‘shine as lights in the world’* (Phil.2:15). We are required to work in secular environments; to work and handle money to support our families (Paul was a tent maker); to use secular transport, secular appliances. We are subject to the worlds advertising daily. We do many ‘secular’ things such as eat, sleep and wash. Are any of these things a hindrance or separate to our spiritual walk? Jesus came to earth in the flesh and lived in a secular world and did the same ‘secular’ activities we do. Jesus taught that such ‘secular’ things do not defile a man, but rather what is *in the heart* could defile a man (Matt.15:11-20). We are to do ‘secular’ duties *‘heartily, as unto the Lord’* (Col.3:23).

This does not mean that some things are not more important than others. Certainly there are priorities and not everything has the same value or importance. But the division here between the secular and the sacred is not real. Jesus Himself knew no such division. The apostle Paul summarised the issue with this: *‘Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or **WHATSOEVER YOU DO, do ALL to the glory of God’*** (1Cor.10:31). The *‘whatsoever’* and the *‘all’* includes all ‘secular’ activities! God does not reject *anything* secular in our life. Neither should we reject it in our brothers and sisters in the Lord. We are warned not to judge others in ‘appearances’ (Jn.7:24) or in their Christian liberty in daily activities (Rom.14). ‘Whatsoever we do’ - *‘all’* is sacrificed to the Lord because of Jesus Christ. It is *‘all to the glory of God’*.

Terry Arnold

Which Jesus?

‘I fear...that your minds should be corrupted...He that comes preaching another jesus, whom we have not preached, or if you received another spirit...or another gospel...’ (2Cor.11:3,4).

[The claims and statements below can be substantiated with evidence available from this ministry].

The Jehovah Witness ‘jesus’:

This ‘jesus’ is ‘*a god*’, a created being, the archangel Michael. He was a man, not a God-man. He was ‘re-created’ at the resurrection and did not rise physically but only spiritually. He has failed to return, as the *Watchtower* predicted, on at least four given dates. If I obey ‘jehovah’s’ will and instructions in continued obedience to the *Watchtower* organisation for the rest of my life, I will get everlasting life on earth (only the 144,000 will be with ‘jesus’ in Heaven). This obedience involves being baptised in the organisation, attending meetings several nights per week, doorknocking and other works.

The Mormon ‘jesus’:

Joseph Smith, after a vision with this ‘jesus’ and two angels, ‘restored’ the Gospel to mankind, (since the church was ‘totally apostasised’). The Mormon ‘jesus’ was born in Jerusalem (not Bethlehem), and not to a virgin. He was a created being having been conceived by sex between Mary and God, and is therefore the spirit brother of Satan. This ‘jesus’ was a polygamist. He had a prophet, Joseph Smith. This Jesus blood did not remit all sins and he cannot save man without the prophet Joseph Smith. (Joseph Smith was well known for his occult-dabbling and telling of tall tales. His account of his vision with jesus was also changed several times).

This ‘jesus’ came to America to restore the ‘Gospel’ (although there is no archaeological evidence of such). It was necessary for him to begin a new church because the original church had apostasised completely. The ‘restored gospel’ in the Book of Mormon was translated by Joseph Smith from ‘golden plates’ hidden by an angel. This Book of Mormon has several chronological, geographical and theological errors and contradictions, yet is supposed to be inspired by God.

The Roman Catholic ‘jesus’:

Baptism (usually infant baptism) puts one into the family of God and ‘original sin’ is removed. However, if one commits a (serious) ‘mortal’ sin they are condemned to Hell unless that sin is confessed to a priest before one dies. Thus ones only hope is to take the sacraments continually. This infuses grace into ones soul and produces righteousness which must be renewed, especially by confession of sins to a priest (as a mediator), which gets one back to a state of holiness. After confession one can take communion which adds grace and favour in the sight of God. However, if one continues to have even one wrong thought, word or deed, these sins have to be dealt with again in confession to a priest. If one should die before one gets to confess these ‘venial’ sins, they will suffer in ‘Purgatory’ (invented 1439AD - a place between

Heaven and Hell), where these sins will be ‘purged’. No one can tell how long one might have to suffer in ‘Purgatory’. This ‘purging’ could take hundreds of years. Very few people go straight to Heaven but only special ‘saints’ who are ‘canonised’ by the church, or hypothetically those who have died without sinning immediately after confession. There is no assurance of eternal life with this ‘jesus’. One must build up good works and graces from the sacraments while on earth. Masses, confessions, rosaries, communions, scapulars, medals, indulgences, sufferings, etc., might help while on earth. The church dispenses all these things from its ‘treasury’.

The Roman Catholic ‘jesus’ speaks through a *sinless* Mary, a ‘co-mediator’ and intercessor. This jesus uses Mary to draw sinners to himself. God also speaks through the infallible Pope who is the head of the ‘one true church’ on earth.

This ‘jesus’ is sacrificed again at every ‘Mass’ and is adored in the ‘host’ of bread, which is literally changed into the real body of Jesus by the words of the priest. There are curses (‘anathemas’) placed upon anyone who teaches that Jesus can save by faith alone without works; or that God imputes righteousness to the believer.

The Charismatic/Pentecostal ‘jesus’:

This ‘jesus’ has amalgamated several different models of ‘jesus’. The initial Pentecostal movement had its roots in 1901 with the doctrine of a *subsequent* Baptism with the Spirit and an experience of unknown tongues. Its hallmark is extra Biblical revelation in which this ‘jesus’ speaks new revelations from God in ‘prophecies’ and ‘tongues’. This ‘jesus’ emphasises the power of the Holy spirit and his gifts.

The Word-Faith ‘jesus’: This ‘jesus’ can be manipulated by a ‘force’ of faith contained in words. By using such faith techniques we get healing, prosperity or success. This ‘jesus’ had to ‘born again’ in Hell and was tormented there by demons for 3 days and 3 nights. His blood did not therefore atone completely on the cross but rather, atonement includes his time in Hell. ‘Anointed’ leaders (Copeland, Hagin. Hinn, etc) give new revelations and teachings to teach the faithful how to use the laws of faith.

The Signs & Wonders ‘jesus’: This ‘jesus’ ‘slays’ people into altered states of consciousness and causes them to be drunk and unable to preach, to shake and tremble uncontrollably, and to bark and crow like animals. This ‘jesus’ is doing ‘a new thing’ and is preparing the people for a ‘soon’ world wide end-time revival before his coming. This jesus has made numerous false prophecies concerning these events. This jesus makes thousands of claims of ‘miracles’ and ‘healings’ each year which are never proven or documented (the top ‘healers’ in the world have *all* been proven to be fraudulent).

The Church Growth/Emergent Church ‘jesus’:

The Church Growth jesus: This ‘jesus’ uses whatever methods the world appreciates to get ‘seekers’ into church. Methods may include the worlds marketing techniques, entertainment and music. The ‘felt needs’ of the unsaved are targeted to get an opportunity to give them the Gospel. But sin must be minimised or re-worded so as not to overly offend any ‘seekers’.

The Emergent Church ‘jesus’: This jesus no longer considers the Bible as a final

authority but questions the very Scriptures and their trustworthiness. This Jesus no longer differentiates between sheep and goats, wheat and tares, truth and error, light and darkness, the broad road and the narrow path, but now warmly accepts Roman Catholicism and other diametrically opposed religious traditions and mystical practices. This Jesus adopts the postmodern philosophy in which there are no absolutes, a new tolerance, and so we must not offend, nor judge.

The Arminian Jesus: This Jesus is the stepchild of the Pelagian Jesus of the early centuries (whose proponents were judged heretics by the early church). This Jesus re-entered Christianity in the 17th Century when Arminius and followers raised five points, some of which teach: that Jesus is unable to save those He wants to unless there is human co-operation in the process of justification; that Jesus waits for the person's free will and ability to receive Jesus as saviour; that one who is saved might also fall away and be lost. This Jesus only saves those whom God 'foresees' would choose to obey Him in salvation.

The Ecumenical Jesus: This Jesus focuses on love and diminishes the truth of the wrath of God upon sin and false religion. Unity is declared at the expense of truth. False religions are sifted for their truth and a unity is sought on such common ground. Truth has no boundaries. Absolutes are discouraged. A 'decision' for this 'Jesus' is counted as salvation. The Jesus of the Reformation was a mistake and Roman Catholicism is now a Christian religion. This 'Jesus' is attractive and comfortable and comes as an angel of light. This Jesus adopts the word 'oikoumenikos' (literally: a union of the inhabited world; an earthly thing) as opposed to 'ekklesia' (the called out ones from sin and the world; the elect).

The Bible Jesus!: This Jesus is not a created being, but the *creator* (Col.1:16,17); He has always been (Jn.8:24,58 cp. Ex.3:13,14). He is the 'first and the last' as is Jehovah (Rev.1:8,11,17cp.Is.41:4; 44:6; 48:12). He did not atone for my sins in Hell and did not take on the nature of Satan, but atoned *fully* for sins on the cross (Rom.5:8; 1Jn.1:7). His sacrifice is *once* finished and never to be repeated (Jn.19:30; Heb.10). He is not an angel (Heb.1:4), but better than, and above the angels. He was born of a virgin, (Matt.1:23) in Bethlehem, not Jerusalem (Matt.2:1; Mic.5:2). He does not speak through Mary, statues, or the Pope, but through one mediator (1Tim.2:5) and one book - the Bible, in which He warns not to add to (Rev.22:18; Dt.4:2; 12:32).

This Jesus promised the church would never completely apostasise and need anyone to start a new church (Matt.16:18), because it was built on the foundations of the apostles and prophets (Eph.2:20). This Jesus does not accept mixtures with false religions and commands holiness and separation from sin, false teaching, false teachers and false prophets (Rom.16:17; 2Cor.6:14-18; Eph.5:11; 2Thess.3:6). He does not accept worldly methods to evangelise people (James 4:4; Rom.12:2). His church is not a union in 'oikoumenikos' but a unity of truth in 'ekklesia'.

The real Jesus says all have sinned, including Mary (Rom.3:23; Lk.1:47). Man does not have any ability to save himself (Jn.1:11-13; Rom.3:11; Rom.8:6,7); God predestines and elects of his own determination (Eph.1:4,5; 2Tim.1:9; Jn.6:44,65).

The real Jesus warns of signs and wonders in the end times as always being ‘lying’ or false (Matt.24:24; 2Thess.2:9; Rev.). He warns there will be no world revival but a falling away in the end (2Thess.2:3; 1Tim.4:1; 2Tim.4:3,4). He gives no dates for His coming but He will take His saints to be with Him. He promises to credit our sins to Christ and credit God’s righteousness to every believer by faith alone (Rom.4:1-8; 2Cor.5:21). There is no salvation in any other name but this Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

‘I fear...that your minds should be corrupted...He that comes preaching another jesus, whom we have not preached, or if you received another spirit...or another gospel...’ (2Cor.11:3,4); ***‘Though we or an angel from Heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed’*** (Gal.1:8).

Terry Arnold

‘Chrislam’ - What Next?

‘This past weekend, the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Houston, along with Christian communities in Atlanta, Seattle, and Detroit, initiated a series of sermons that have been designed to produce an ecumenical reconciliation between Christianity and Islam.

In addition to the sermons, the Sunday school lessons centred on the inspired teachings of the Prophet Mohammed. Qurans were placed in the pews next to the Bibles. As a matter of fact, a new term has been coined for this effort between Christians and Jews: Chrislam’.

...Well, hold on! Jesus is mentioned 25 times in the Koran, but belief in the divinity of Jesus is condemned in Islam as shirk (filth)’
(Apostasy Alert, Nov.24/2010)

The Excuse of ‘Hypocrisy’

‘The biggest hypocrite of all is the man or woman who refuses to come to Christ because there are so many hypocrites in the church. Such a person is being inconsistent. Business is full of hypocrites, but that does not stop him from doing business. Society is full of them, but he does not decide to become a hermit. Hell is full of hypocrites, so if a person doesn’t like hypocrites he had better make sure he’s not going there.

If your excuse for not bowing before Christ and accepting Him as your Saviour and Lord is that you don’t like hypocrites, will you let me show you the biggest hypocrite of all?...look in the mirror. Stop pretending...’

(‘Our Daily Bread’ March/April/May 2001)

Editors Comment: The word ‘hypocrite’ has been largely left untranslated (‘hupokrite’). It originally came from the classic Greek idea of actors who wore masks and assumed, spoke or acted under a feigned character. It includes the idea of agreeing with something but not having the real conviction of such.

One of my lecturers at college once said ‘Better to be with a few hypocrites in church than with many of them in Hell’.

Christian Wisdom - The Tact of God

In non Christian circles we speak of ‘tact’, defined as ‘*consideration in dealing with others and avoiding giving offence*’ (Wordweb Dictionary). Christians should have far more ‘tact’ than non Christians, considering they have the indwelling Holy Spirit of God who has promised to lead and guide them (Rom.8:14-16; Jn.16:12-15). But what is this ‘tact’ in Christian terms? It is the ‘wisdom of God’ (Eph.1:8,17; Col.3:16) and ‘the mind of Christ’ (1Cor.2:16). All Christians have the ability given to them to have tact well beyond what the world can muster. **‘But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God’** (1Cor.1:24)...**‘But of him are you in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom...’** (vs.30). Christian wisdom is ours for the asking: **‘If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that gives to all men liberally, and upbraids not; and it shall be given him’** (James 1:5).

Some Christians may have this ‘tact’ more often. But it can certainly be increased by all, with practise and maturity, and as we surrender increasingly to the Holy Spirit from within.

Christian tact is essentially putting ourselves in the other persons place. It is understanding their needs. It is speaking and acting what is proper. *Christian tact is essentially saying and doing the right thing at the right time.* Jesus knew what to say when meeting the Samaritan woman at the well (Jn.4).

This does not mean that there will not be times when we speak out truth and sometimes that truth may offend. But the purpose and the occasion for doing so must have a Godly motive, a loving one and not a selfish one. There are times when things can be said privately and there are times when it needs to be said publicly. But the motive should always be for the sake of the brethren or for the glory of Christ. There are too many in Christian circles today who exhibit fanaticism, a zeal without knowledge or a lack of good timing. Some Christians hear and read something that ‘tickles’ their ears and they are ‘hooked’ on that subject and speak of little else. It is a pathway to legalism; and most legalists lack tact because they are not led by the Spirit but by a ‘law’, (often their own).

‘Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do engender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth’ (2Tim.2:22-25).

Terry Arnold

The Gospel of Oprah

Oprah said: *‘Jesus is not the only way, the truth, and the life and you never know he may not even be a way at all: people can get to the father, or whoever or whatever, in other ways beside just him’*

Jesus said: *‘...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me’* (Jn.14:6).

Seventh Day Adventist Testimony

I was introduced to Adventism at age 14 by a neighbour...It provided all the necessary discipline I needed with rigid standards of abstinence and Sabbath keeping. Later, married with 4 children, it was so self sufficient with church, SDA schools and health principles of vegetarianism, abstinence...The only problem I saw was there was so much intermarriage that it was hard to break into the social scene.

After 13 years an elderly couple who had taken me into their home and hearts when I was younger, left the church...They were sincere and genuine in obedience and love for the Lord. There had to be a good reason for them to leave the church they loved so much. I wanted to know why. There was a blanket of silence in the church. I was deemed a trouble maker for asking questions. No one was talking. This was in the 80's and a huge controversy had broken out over some SDA doctrines. A number of high ranking SDA Pastors in the USA and Australia had exposed E. G. White as a false prophet, who had plagiarised writings of others, yet she said they were given to her under inspiration from God. These Pastors were defrocked and called 'heretics'.

One night I turned on the radio and heard Desmond Ford (one of the 'apostates') teaching about Salvation by Grace through Faith. I was shocked and wondered what was so wrong about that? I heard about some books so I set out to get them, which was almost like an underground experience... 'The White Lie' by Walter Rea and 'The Shaking of Adventism' by G. Paxton. This was the beginning of our exodus from Adventism. What a shock and disappointment to see my beloved church had a false Prophet and taught unscriptural things (eg. 'Investigative Judgement'). What other false doctrines could there be? I sought the Lord in Prayer and asked Him to show me truth and that the Holy Spirit would show me from His Word.

Many times I had read Romans and Galatians, but one day I read it again and like it says in scripture, I had been reading it with a 'veil' over my face. After reading 2Cor.3:7-18 the scales fell off my eyes and it all became so clear that I was no longer under law, but under Grace! I remember the first time we didn't go to church on Saturday - I thought I would be killed, struck by lightning. The fear was incredible, considering all the teaching I had about breaking the Sabbath. But faith prevailed and I was liberated. God's Word says 'the truth will set you free'.

Many times people had previously tried to show us from Scripture about the 'old and new covenants' but we would not listen. We had the 'truth', Ellen White and all the answers. The Word of God was always read with our Adventist glasses on. This is why Adventists and other cult groups are so difficult to reach, until they take off those glasses and through prayer and a desire to really seek the truth (Jn.8:32) and an open heart to the leading of the Holy Spirit (Jn.16.13), a light will shine on God's truth in His Word. SDA'S will tell you they don't put E. G. White's writings on a par with Scripture. This is a lie. Take her out of the church and what do you have? It has been a long and difficult journey. It is easier to get the person out of the cult than to get the cult out of the person. If you are an Adventist reading this, and really want to serve God in Spirit and in Truth, then do what the Scripture says: 'Examine yourselves to see if you are in the Faith' (2Cor.13:5). Do independent research on E.G.White and put her to the test with the word of God (1Jn.4.1) to see if she is indeed a true Prophet...She is a false prophet and has deceived many. There is life after Adventism. God's Word is more precious to me now than ever before! (P.Y. Bris.)

Your Comments and Questions

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

1John 5:7-8?

Dear Terry, I received a letter from the United Church of God (Australia) and it argued that 1John 5:7-8 is a spurious addition to the biblical text; that unscrupulous translators added them to justify the doctrine of the Trinity; and that there are only two Greek texts from the 14th and 15th C. to justify it. (R.M. Qld)

Editors Reply: The passage is often called '*The Johannine Comma*'. This text does not need to be used to support the Trinity - there are several other texts that support the Trinity, beginning in Genesis ch.1! As well there are numerous quotes by church fathers in *each of the first three centuries* for the Trinity. I believe far too much is made of the issue with 1John 5:7,8. The passage does not contradict other passages in the Bible. The passage also is not just about a 'Trinity', but about the deity and incarnation of Jesus Christ (vs.1,5).

Although there is not as much Greek manuscript evidence for this passage as for other passages in the NT, there *is* evidence. It is often said there are only 4 Greek manuscripts (some say 6); but scholars have actually cited 9 (documentation is available for this). The passage is also found in some Eastern manuscripts including the Syriac Peshitto Manuscripts. But the evidence goes further: There are numerous Latin writings containing the passage including those of Tertullian (died 220AD), Cyprian (died 258AD), and many other Latin fathers following.* The question is: how did these people get this passage if it was not somewhere in an earlier original?

The oldest known manuscript with the passage included is a 4th C. Latin treatise entitled '*Liber Apologeticus*'. In that century there are actually 2 citations of this passage by Spanish Bishops. In the 5th C. the passage is quoted by several African writers in apologetic writings. Later in the 5th and 6th centuries more Latin writings can be cited. The fact that it was in Latin writings arguably would demand that it would have been in early Greek manuscripts.

By the 15th C. the passage was *well in use and accepted*. In the 17th C. the Westminster Confession accepted the passage as Scripture. Many early commentators were also not concerned about the evidence for the passage, including Matthew Henry who did not believe it contradicted the context of the passage. He observed that there '*is a variety of reading even in the Greek text...*'. He believed vs.7 was agreeable to the style of John's writing. He also raises the issue of how difficult it would be for a scribe to insert such a lengthy addition without it being detected!

There is also a technical side to the inclusion of the passage. If the passage is excluded, then the Greek genders do not wholly agree from verses 6 with a jump to 8 (spirit, water and blood are neuter; in verse 8 they are treated as masculine). If the verses are included there is harmony in the Greek genders. Also if verse 7 was excluded, verse 6 and 8 would have an awkward repetition of the 'witness' of the spirit. Arguably verse 8 flows on from verse 7 comfortably.

* The *Trinitarian Bible Society* has more detailed evidences in their booklet: '*Why 1Jn.5:7-8 is in the Bible*'

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, I recently went to the post office and was 'encountered' by the Revival Centre. They had a big poster relating to Bible prophecy. They asked me if I was a believer. I said I was, but they then asked me of I spoke in 'tongues' as this was the sure way of knowing I had received the fullness of God. I have sent you their brochures. The section on the 'Pyramid' confused me...

(Ps. G.C, W.A.)

Editors Reply: ...There was a mention of the 'Revival Centres' in our Jan/Feb and March/April 2010 'Diakrisis' newsletters. (There is also a testimony there). The Revival Centres major on 'tongues' as the sign of a Christian. It is a natural progression of the standard Pentecostal teaching. But in scripture not everyone spoke in 'tongues' (1Cor.12:30); Tongues were *known* foreign languages ('*glossais*'), not unknown (1Cor.14:19); Tongues were also a sign to the '*unbeliever*' (1Cor.14:22,23); Salvation is by Grace through faith alone. No conditions such as 'tongues' can therefore be added (Eph.2:8,9; Rom.11:6)!

As for tongues being the '*fullness of God*' - here is the confusion with the filling of the spirit. We are baptised with the Spirit when saved but we may not always be 'filled' with the Spirit (the Corinthian Christians certainly were not always 'filled' with the spirit). The filling ('*pleroo*' - Eph.5:18) is a 'control' by the Holy Spirit *from within*. The 'fullness' is being filled with everything that God wants us to have at any time. It has nothing to do with tongues. (Some of the most carnal people I have known speak in 'tongues').

As for the brochure on '*The Great Pyramid*' and the Gospel being found in the pyramid: Anything can be used to 'picture' the Gospel but the whole scheme of things that is presented in the brochure about the pyramid is baffling to say the least. I think it detracts from the Gospel and what Christ has done, and turns people to a mystical element in the pyramids. I have also found some people who delve into these things end up being obsessed or unsound of mind...

Terry, I have been introduced to your ministry by a good friend from NZ. I have printed off the past 10 years of 'Diakrisis' newsletters and have just about finished reading them all. I have learnt much and wish to thankyou for your commitment to truth, Gods word...and teaching on matters of truth and false doctrine. I have come out from the SDA church many years ago and have recently come to the knowledge of the doctrines of Grace. I haven't been to church for a while. I live northside Brisbane. Could you recommend a church suitable to attend?...I had attended [a certain church] but they believe in Replacement Theology...I could not attend a church that writes off the promises God made to the Jewish nation. I believed this as an Adventist and could not go back to that...I have also been cleaning out my book and music shelves and have thrown away all Philip Yancey's books...and all of Hillsong music. We must continue to be Bereans as time closes in. (P.Y., Qld.)

Editors comment: See this person's testimony on P.10. If anyone can suggest a church Brisbane northside, please contact this ministry.

Your Comments and Questions

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

[Letter from SDA 'K.W.': See last correspondence Nov/Dec/2010, P.7 and previous Jan/Feb 2010 P.6; May/June P.8; July/Aug P.7]

[Editors replies in bold and brackets]

Dear Terry,...Thanks for your reply. You certainly did quote the scriptures extensively as I asked [see Nov/Dec, P.7]...I don't go by what Ellen White says unless she vindicates the scriptures [So, do we listen at all to a false prophet even when they 'vindicate the scriptures'? The Bible commands us not to listen at all to the words of a false prophet (Dt.13)]...she herself said if I don't say what the scriptures say then believe the scriptures. [Then why does the SDA church state she is a 'prophet' and her words are from God as inspired? Their website states: 'Her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction'. Do these 'writings' include the false prophecies and the volumes of stolen works?...] She said her main purpose was to bring people back to the scriptures. That's what she honestly said. I believe she was humble, sincere and certainly not out to deceive people as she has been accused of [Then why did she steal ('plagiarise') many works from other authors and call it her own and from God? Is this 'honest'? These thefts are still being discovered today and the volume is large]...Some have criticised Ellen's predictions which did not come true and she said it was because the people didn't obey God [This is the first time you have admitted she did make false prophecies. Previously you have said the opposite. But I commend you for this admission (although the facts are irrefutable). Why then should she not be 'criticised' for this? In the Old Testament these prophets were stoned! In the New Testament they are to be exposed and avoided. Their end will be a terrible judgement]...I have asked you a few times about Elijah...Jesus said 'Elijah will restore all things'. Where is he? (Matt.17:11,12; Mal.4:6,7; Acts 13:19-26,41; Is.28; 29:14-20) [The subject in Acts 3:19-26 is about the Messiah - Jesus Christ. Many believe the 'restitution' here is referring to judgement at the end. Jesus said Elijah did come in the spirit - as John the Baptist (Matt.17:11-13). His disciples understood clearly He was speaking about John the Baptist having come in the 'spirit' of Elijah. 'And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah...' (Lk.1:17). There are those who also believe Elijah will come back as one of the 'witnesses' in the times of the end (Rev.11:13)]

Thanks so much Terry for taking the time to get back to us with help...We so appreciate what you are doing as we both came out of Pentecostal/Charismatic situations and it is only in the last 4 years (we have been 'Christians' many years) that our eyes have been opened to God's wonderful truth and we are so grateful. Its been a huge turnaround for us and we have lost many 'friends' but we wouldn't have it any other way. You must face many challenges as you preach the Gospel and confront deception. What a privilege Terry to be used in such a way...God bless you...

(E.C, New Zealand)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Greetings Terry, Have you ever done an article on Tithing and NT giving? The Church I attended sometimes spent about 5 minutes before taking up 'tithes' quoting OT scriptures about 'robbing' and 'testing' God, etc. There is a lot of guilt associated with this in many churches to get the money in. How many other believers like me have felt bad because we think we have denied God His tithes?

(P.Y. Bris.)

Editors Reply: Here are some quick notes on 'tithing': The Lord gave Moses approximately 600 ordinances which make up the Mosaic Law. *One* of these laws was tithing. It is Old Covenant and Levitical (Lev.27:30-34; Heb.8.13). (There is one example of a 'tithe' before the Mosaic law - with Melchizedek in Heb.7:2-9. This was probably a one off giving and it is unsound to make this one example a New Testament doctrine for Tithing, when NT scriptures contradict it as a command, eg. 2Cor.9:7; 1Cor.16:1-2). But anyone is free to 'tithe'...Here is the tithing system: There were 3 tithes in the OT: The '*Lords tithe*' (Lev.27:30); the '*Festival tithe*' (Deut.12:10,11), and the tithe for the *poor*, (Dt.14:28,29). The *first* was used to support Levites (Nu.18:21-28), who were forbidden to own property. This provision freed them for civil/religious leadership. A tenth of this went to support the high priest. The *second* - a tithe of the produce of the land and first fruits (Dt.12:5-18), which formed the worship offering given to God on religious festival days. The *third* - every third year an *additional tithe* was gathered to support the state welfare system (Dt.14:22-27). This went to the fatherless, widows and strangers in the land and was kept in a '*storehouse*' for distribution. It was neglect in this that Malachi said Israel was '*robbing God*' (Mal.3).

Tithing in the OT represented about 23.33% of the average annual income. The tithing system was part of the tax system of *National Israel*.

All the tithes of the OT went to the Levites, the priesthood of the day. Once the tithe was given to the Levitical priest he would bring them to the temple.

There are more than 40 uses of the word '*tithe*'. Less than 9 are from the NT and not one of these indicates that tithing was taught or practised in the NT Church. Most mentions of 'tithing' in the NT are in relation to the past or the scribes, Pharisees and hypocrites who missed the '*weightier*' matters of the law and '*strained at gnats and swallowed camels*' (Matt.23:23-25).

New Testament giving is taught in 1Cor.16:1-2; 2Cor.9.7. It mentions nothing about a 'tithe' and actually would contradict 'tithing'. The NT teaching on giving is that everything belongs to God, not 10%. The NT teaches *stewardship and voluntary giving*: '*Every man according as he purposed in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver*' (2Cor.9:7).

Also, the early church did not teach Tithing. They taught a 'free will offering'. Here is an early quote: '*Every man brings some modest coin in once a month, or whenever he wishes, and only if he is willing and able; it is a freewill offering*'. (Tertullian Apology 29:1-18 written about 190AD).

Terry's Itinerary

Sydney

Feb.20th (Sun) 10am Georges River Congregational, Panania, Ph.0408407184

Feb.20th (Sun) 4.30pm Georges River Congregational

Feb.24rd (Thurs) 7.30pm Yagoona Christian Assembly Ph.(02)88077725

Feb.27th (Sun) 11.30am Wentworthville Arabic Baptist Ph.0412767250

Feb.27th (Sun) 7.30pm Soul Salvation (Youth) Assembly, Strathfield Ph.0403374967

NSW

March 3rd (Thurs) 7.30pm Cootamundra Bible Fellowship (at Bimberdeen college)

March 6th (Sun) 10am Cootamundra Bible Fellowship (at Bimberdeen)
Ph.(02)69431677 or (02)69423541

March 6th (Sun) 6.30pm Cootamundra. Venue to be decided.

March 8th (Tues) 7.30pm Cootamundra Presbyterian Hall

Vict

March 13th (Sun) 11am Numurkah Gospel Fellowship (03)5862234111

March 13th (Sun) 7.30pm Numurkah Gospel Fellowship

Sth. Aust.

March 20th (Sun) 10.30am Waipinga Congregational, Victor Harbour (08)85523755

March 25th (Frid) 7.30pm Native Valley Bible Fellowship Ph.(08)83886106

March 27th (Sun) 10.30am Native Valley Bible Fellowship Ph.(08)83886106

March 30th (Wed) Kids Club, Native Valley Bible Fellowship

April 2nd April (Sat) 1pm-5.30pm **Seminar: *The Holy Spirit; Tongues; Healing; Which Gospel?...Church For You***: 3 Kirk Street, Elizabeth Park, Ph(08)82547678 or 0417016160

April 3rd (Sun) 10am Church For You, 3 Kirk Street, Elizabeth Park, Ph(08)82547678 or 0417016160

April 3rd (Sun) 6pm Church For You, 3 Kirk Street, Elizabeth Park, Ph(08)82547678

NSW

April 10th (Sun) 10am Picton Bible Church (02)46810227

April 13th (Wed) 7.30pm Ryde Congregational Ph.(02)98889337

April 17th (Sun) 10.30am Bethshan Community church, Wyee Ph.(02)43571378

April 17th (Sun) 6pm Bethshan Community church, Wyee

'I charge you therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine' (2Tim.4:1,2).

Website News

The website for this ministry continues to be developed. We appreciate any feedback and informing us of any problems with the site. Please contact our web master: Peter Voss: bigpetev@mail.com

There is much material now available, including all the newsletters to date as well as important articles over 17 years of ministry. All these can be downloaded. The address is: www.taministries.net

Website Comments

...I was searching for a dating site when I came across your site. This is no dating site, but this is much more interesting! I will come back here. Thanks for the info, for this lonely dater.

Great work keep it coming...Beneficial info, excellent design you got here! I want to thank you for sharing your ideas and putting the time into the stuff you publish!

Great work!...Great information!...I just stumbled upon your blog and wanted to say that I have really enjoyed browsing your blog posts...I'll be subscribing...

Prayer/Praise Points

- We are attempting to raise funds to buy a heavy duty A4 colour printer to be able to do our own printing of the newsletter, as well as some booklets and the 'Eternal Questions' booklet. We expect in the long term to save printing costs. The cost for such a printer is over \$1,000 dollars. Please pray for guidance in selecting a suitable machine and for provision.
- Please pray as Terry and Beth prepare to travel through three states from February to the end of April. Pray that the meetings will be used by God and many would be informed, taught and equipped. Please pray for safe travel and health.

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