

Your Comments and Questions

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

New E-mail Version of Newsletter

We are commencing a new updated E-mail version of the newsletter. We are experimenting with colours and some graphics that will not be available in the hardcopy edition by mail.

If you wish to receive *Diakrisis* by e-mail please advise us. This will assist us in distribution and alleviate costs. The e-mail newsletter is distributed earlier (up to 1 week) before the hardcopy. (A link to download Acrobat Reader is provided with the e-mail if needed). You can then print in the same format as the previously mailed hardcopy (without the colour if you wish).

Website News

We are continuing to update and develop the website and the resource/booklist. We also have *Paypal* facilities with the purchase of books and DVD's. (After an e-mail to the ministry to have prices confirmed, people then purchase products through *Paypal* and thus use credit cards, etc).

Prayer/Praise Points

- **Pray** for Terry and Beth as they travel to Perth. **Pray** for Holy Spirit guidance in teaching and ministry, as well as safe travel and health.
- **Pray** for the soon successful printing of our new book on evangelism. Pray for suitable artwork to be completed and the proofreading to be accurate.
- **Praise** the Lord for the Lord's provision for this ministry. We appreciate our subscribers who have donated to various projects.

Subscription Form

I am interested in receiving the *free* monthly TA Ministries newsletter '*Diakrisis*' by Send this form to:
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Diakrisis (Australia)

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'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)

Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol .3, No. 23 September/ October 2011

TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry, *teaching, informing and equipping* the church.
Editor: Terry Arnold (MABS; 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 items contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

Articles in this newsletter may be copied or reproduced provided it is in context and proper credit and references are given. We encourage distribution of this newsletter that others might be taught, informed and equipped.

This Newsletter is distributed bi-monthly *free* of charge. The cost to this ministry is approximately \$20.00 per subscriber annually. Any donations to help with these expenses is received with gratitude.

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New TV DVD's

Earlier this year Terry did 8 TV interviews in Sydney on *Life TV media* channel. These 30 minute interviews will be available soon on DVD. This is a professional set of two DVD's. Total Price: \$19 + postage. The topics include:
What is a Christian?
God's Will For You
Music
Marriage
Depression
Natural Disasters
Cults ... and more.

Editors Comment

No book has suffered attack like the Bible. Historians, archaeologists and now 'Bible scholars' diligently attack its divine authorship. Yet, whenever archaeology appears to conflict with the Bible, eventually the Bible has been proven true! Such findings as the burial boxes of New Testament figures and the official seal of Jezebel (1&2 Kings) have put an end to many debates. Not one single archaeological find has conclusively



"Whenever archaeology appears to conflict with the Bible eventually the Bible has been proven true"

disproven Bible facts. But this does not stop the attacks on the Bible. When there is seemingly 'a lack of evidence', the Bible is immediately questioned. For years King David was said to be a myth by Bible 'scholars' because there was no physical evidence. That questioning collapsed in 1993 when archaeologists in northern

Galilee found a rock with an inscription dating to the ninth century BC. It included the words 'House' or 'Dynasty of David'.

Most TV shows on archaeology today question the divine authority of Scripture. I personally do not watch these programmes. They are faith inhibitors. Most of the speakers are liberals or university scholars who do not believe the Bible is inspired.

There are many 'scoffers' today. But this is just another sign of the end times. ***'Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation....But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men...'*** (2Pet.3:3-7).

Often when doctrine or a warning is expounded in Scripture, it is followed by an exhortation or teaching in Sanctification. Despite the scoffers, Peter goes on to exhort us who would see the signs of the end: ***'Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God...'*** (vs.11,12).

It is one thing to believe in sound doctrine and in the soon coming of the Lord but it is another thing to have that doctrine worked out in behaviour towards God and man. It is this area of Sanctification that others will see. That's where the testimony speaks. If we are not immersed in the Word of God and prayer daily, our doctrine will suffer and this will affect our ability to endure and to be a testimony to the Lord. We are living in days when the philosophy of the world is strong and intrusive. The unbelief of the world hammers away at the Bible's authenticity and thus our faith in God. If you are not built up in doctrine then the postmodern unbelief will trip and stumble you! There are a myriad of false teachers and new doctrines out there in pulpits, on stage and on the internet. That is why Peter says that there are ***'some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest [twist, distort], as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction. You therefore, beloved, seeing you know these things before, beware lest you also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness'*** (vs.16,17).

We urge readers to stand firm, to be discerning and to study the Bible as the *first book*, so that you will ***'grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...'*** (vs.18).

Terry Arnold

Terry's Itinerary

Western Australia (Sept.17-25th)

September 18th (Sun) 10am & 6.30pm Free Presbyterian church, Padbury, Perth
Ph.(08)93073812

September 25th (Sun) 10am Faith Presbyterian Church, Dianella, Perth
Ph.0412555677

Special e-mail Articles

We are intending to send out from time to time articles on current issues, or articles we feel are of special interest. (These occasional articles may not be included in the regular issue of *Diakrisis Australia* because of the lack of space). Where possible these e-mail articles would be short timely articles.

These articles of interest will be sent to all our e-mail subscribers. If you would prefer not to receive these one off special articles, please e-mail us: taministries@bigpond.com

CD Sermon List

Many have requested sermons on various topics. This ministry does have a booklet with all of Terry's sermons listed under alphabetical order. Please feel free to request one of these free booklets by mail or e-mail or download from the website.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, I have enjoyed the 'Diakrisis' for many years now. I am without a church and so your teaching is a strength to me. God bless the ministry. The recent article on 'Emergent church' is timely. I've tried to warn people of this but most don't care...the younger generation are not being grounded in the Word...and most will not read anything given...

(J.B, Qld.)

Dear Terry, I thank God for your input into my life, if only by the food I receive in my spirit from 'Diakrisis'....Thanks must also go to another e-mail report 'Apostasy Alert', for keeping me informed with world events and churches...I notice some folk are not kind to you, but take encouragement that there are those of us who are with you in spirit, mind and purpose...In your 'Christian Pacifism' reply...you were like a lid being lifted off a hot kettle; the steam came out. It hinted of your frustration...I do believe you quoted Matt.10:34 out of context...the 'sword' is not literal...we are to be peacemakers (Matt.5:9) and the only sword is the word of God (Eph.6:17).

Editor's Comment: I regret my passion is mistaken for 'frustration'....I never meant the 'sword' to be taken literal. It is the principle of *defense* I was showing. However, it breaks no law of God or of man to defend ones family against physical attack.

Your Comments and Questions

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Dear Terry, Thanks for sending 'Diakrisis'. I enjoy reading the news and the views. I was saddened to hear of Benny Hinn's divorce and his alleged fall from grace. However, I hesitate to judge him. I know that Scripture warns against this attitude (Matt.7:1; Rom.14; 1Cor.10:12). We are all fallible as the word reminds us...Praise God that you and your wife had a blessed trip and a safe return...

(M.M., NSW)

Editors Comment: Thanks for the kind thoughts. But what desperately needs to be taught today with interpretation of Scriptures is *CONTEXT!* Yes, 1Cor.10:12 does say 'Take heed lest you fall' - but the context is *temptation and sin, not 'judgment'*. The passage begins 'I would not that you should be ignorant'.

Benny Hinn has not just now 'fallen from grace'. He fell decades ago when he first became a false prophet and told outrageous lies. My Bible commands me to make a judgement against these false prophets and teachers! We are to 'Reprove' (Eph.5:11; Tit.1:9); 'Try the spirits' (1Jn.4:1); 'Prove all things' (1Thess.5:21); and 'contend earnestly...' (Jude 3). We are not to judge by 'speaking evil' of a 'brother' (James 4:11); but false prophets are never called 'brothers'! If we are not to judge false prophets and false teachers then why did Paul name false teachers and strongly warn of them? (2Tim.2:17 'Hymenaeus and Philetus'; 2Tim.4:14 'Alexander'). Paul said not be tempted by their 'sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may [we] grow up into him in all things...' (Eph.4:14,15).

Matthew 7:1 must also be read *in context*. The context is *hypocritical judgement* (vs.5). The passage is not teaching to *never judge, otherwise this would contradict many passages that tell us to judge!* (Jn.7:24; 1Cor.2:15;5:12).

Romans 14 is commanding not to judge *in food, drink and days* (as is Col.2:16). It has *nothing* to do with not judging false teachers.

There are *many* times when the word of God says to 'judge'. Paul told the Corinthians to 'judge those who are within' the church who sin openly (1Cor.5:12); and 'He that is spiritual judges all things' (1Cor.2:15). Added to this is the command to 'discern', which literally means to 'judge through' ('*dia*'-'through/'*Krisis*'-judge). If you want to 'discern' then you *cannot* do that without *judgment*.

There is another reason why I 'judge' Benny Hinn and warn of him. I am moved to protect the sheep who in their thousands are shipwrecked and fleeced of their money and spiritual senses! This ministry has helped hundreds of people recover after being deceived. Benny Hinn is a false prophet, a false teacher and a charlatan (see website under 'False Teaching'). I have openly challenged Hinn's ministries and *anyone* to refute that he is a false prophet. *I have never had any replies to this challenge*. When I view the photographs of the people (and children) who have *died* as a result of this man's false claims of healing (see DVD series 'Signs and Wonders Exposed' No. 1, 3), then in tears I am urged by the Spirit and the Word to warn God's precious sheep to avoid this man! In the fear of God I wish to '*Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment*' (Jn.7:24).

Biblical Christianity Not Found In This Megachurch

Last Sunday I went to a megachurch. Normally I attend small churches with a gathering of local believers who strive to live according to the Bible...I was eager to see what the average parishioner experienced at one of these stadium-sized complexes.



"Megachurches can have almost nothing to do with Christianity"

It was horrific. Megachurches like this one can have almost nothing to do with biblical Christianity and may actually do violence to the 'Word of God'...

This church boasts over 10,000 members...Once inside I noticed that few people were dressed like they were going to church. The Bible does not say that one must dress exactly such and such way, but neither is it silent when it comes to the matter of attire. Dressing modestly is important to me, but at this church mini skirts and cleavage were everywhere...as an ambassador for Christ I want to dress in a respectable manner...it would bother me if I dressed more nicely for graduation, to meet a politician or went on a date than I did to worship God. People at this place must not have shared my conviction because scores of them wore flip-flops, shorts and t-shirts.

...I found hundreds of cafeteria-style tables where people were in the process of guzzling down coffee and loading up on donuts. Large screens surrounded the room and apparently these people were about to watch the real service on a ten-minute delay. I wanted to watch real preaching so I turned around and followed the lengthy hallway to the live service.

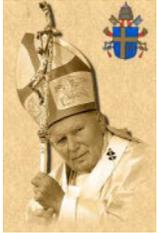
As I entered the main service the lights were dim and a band was playing to a crowd of 3,000 or so. They were playing Michael Jackson...it was absolutely disgusting to see parishioners 'worship' God by rocking out to Michael Jackson.

The guest speaker for the day was a New York Times best-selling author. He found a niche writing Christian books on how to be a good father. Throughout the service I pondered how a single, childless, middle-aged man from a fatherless home became an authority on what it takes to be a good father...Once he finished speaking the lights went dim and the band took the stage. While they were playing I witnessed the most appalling form of the Lord's Supper in my life...The Lord's Supper is a symbolic time of remembrance where you focus your thoughts on Jesus Christ and what He did for you. Well, at this megachurch your thoughts were anywhere but Jesus. They passed around bread and grape juice while a Jessica Simpson look-alike rocked out with her band. And when I say rock out, I mean it.

In its attempt to bring the world into the church these guys must have spent a fortune - two high definition 10-foot wide TVs, half a dozen cameras you would find in the newsroom studios of Fox or CNN, a light show that you would only find at an expensive concert, and speakers so loud that they register on the Richter scale.

After this amazing display of 'worship', a quick prayer was said and everyone promptly filed out...This was my first and last experience with a megachurch. I found it so horrific that it grieved my spirit the entire time I was there. Not one time did the preacher mention sin, Hell, Heaven or Jesus...I try to separate myself from the wickedness of this world, especially the corporate trash that pours out over the TV and airwaves. This church gathered all the entertainment I avoid into one nice little package and overloaded my senses with it. With places like this, I can understand why non-believers are always saying that Christians do not act like Christians!

Chris Dunn, *Collegiate Times*, June 29, 2011; cited in *Apostasy Alert*, 2nd July 2011



"JPII is continuing his evangelisation from heaven?"

Quotes From the Catholic Religion

Vatican spokesman, May 8, 2011: John Paul II's beatification ['sainthood'] was a *'powerful return'...*[he]...*is continuing his work of evangelisation from heaven'*.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi (Director of the Vatican Press Office) Rome, June 26, 2011 cited the Pope's words from his homily: *'The Eucharistic communion [The Mass] is for the good of all, for the good of the world, that in the end everything find its meaning and salvation'*. (Apostasy Alert, 28th June, 2011)

Monsignor Miquel Delgado Galindo, (under secretary for Pontifical Council for the Laity: *'On Sundays Catholics should participate in the Holy Mass, the unbloody renewal of Christ's sacrifice on the cross' and 'the greatest expression of worship and adoration that man can offer to the Lord our God'*.

(CNA/EWTN News, Rome, July 19; Apostasy Alert, July 22)

Editor's Comment: Scripture says *without shedding of blood there is no remission of sin (Heb.9:22) and this sacrifice cannot be 'renewed' but was done 'once' only (Heb.9:26,28; 10:10,11; 6:6).*

The 'Inclusive' Apostasy

'The United Church of Christ, the denomination whose Chicago pastor Jeremiah Wright blasted the United States and white people for years...while Barack Obama sat in his pews, has decided to banish God 'the Father' from its documents...Spokeswoman Barb Powell told WND today that the change was made because the reference to 'heavenly Father' was too restrictive. In the UCC, our language for God, Christ and the Holy Spirit...is preferred to be more open for...the denomination seeks to be 'inclusive' in its language, so therefore we will tend to change language that is more traditional to be more inclusive'. She said some of the denomination's pastors refer to God with terms such as 'Creator' and 'Father and Mother'. (Apostasy Alert, 7th July, 2011)

Editor's Comment: This *'inclusive'* idea is the common language of the modern ecumenical church. It defies Scripture's often *'restrictive'* language.

Campus Crusade For Christ to Drop 'Christ'

'Campus Crusade for Christ announced that the organisation's name was becoming a 'hindrance' and that it was dropping the part about 'Christ' in favour of the cooler sounding 'Cru' - short for Campus Crusade...spokesman Steve Seller said...Cru enables us to have discussions about Christ with people who might initially be turned off by a more overtly Christian name'...

[Bible]: *'Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven'* (Matt.10-32-33).

(Apostasy Alert, July/2011)

Your Comments and Questions

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Dear Terry, I am one whose family painfully survived the false health/wealth gospel of Pentecostalism, as well as the equally twisted teaching of a subsequent Baptism with the Holy Spirit verified by speaking in tongues. God has opened a door of opportunity in Kenya for us where many are trapped in this false destructive soul destroying health/wealth movement, which typically enriches the false money mongers, destroys the faith of the poor and the gullible, and who don't get healed and get rich by these fakes. I want to thank you personally for your ministry which has been so helpful and used by God in setting many of us free from Charismatic chaos. You will be richly rewarded in glory for your sacrificial service to the body of Christ. Thank you also for the wealth of resources you have freely made available, to help our brothers break free in Africa. I'm sure only in eternity will you begin to know how your God gave you teaching ability and humble courage to speak the truth in love and how this has been instrumental in people coming to know the real Jesus Christ and His gospel. In Christ by Grace Alone.

B.S. (Qld)

Editor's comment: Many of these resources are now available on the website: (www.taministries.net) or in CD's (see our list of sermons).

Terry,...A couple of Jehovah witnesses came to our door the other day...I was talking to them for a while ...I told them that I was a Christian which they thought was 'nice'. They gave me some brochures and said they would pop in next time they are in the neighbourhood to see what my thoughts were...I desperately want to be able to share with them what the Bible teaches. It's an awesome opportunity and I don't want to mess it up. Do you have any advice on how to approach them next time they come? I remember you doing a series on witnessing to the cults but I can't remember everything...The whole time they were at my house I was thinking what can I say to these people and my mind was completely blank! So next time they come I really want to be prepared.

(T&A.C., Qld)

Editor's reply: I will send you a CD *'Evangelism to the cults'* (a short version of a past seminar) and some *fact sheets* to use with Jehovah Witnesses.

My favourite technique is to ask questions such as *'Why did Jesus say He was the 'I am' (Jn.8:24); 'Why did Jehovah say this too?' (Ex.3:14); 'Who is the 'Alpha and the Omega' in Rev.1:8'; 'Who 'died and lives' in vs.18?'; 'Who is the 'first and the last' in Is.44:6; 48:12?'; 'How can Jehovah and Jesus both be the 'first and the last?'*. I use a *'wheel chart'* to show them some of these things.

All this and much more is explained on the CD with accompanying notes that teach helpful hints when working with cults. The *'Wheel Chart'* is also on the website. I usually finally challenge them that if they do not accept that Jesus is the *'I am'* as was Jehovah (Ex.3:14) then they will *'die in their sins'* (Jn.8:24).

Haggard (President US National Association of Evangelicals) admitted drug use and visiting male prostitutes. Closer to home, pastor Michael Guglielmucci who claimed to have terminal cancer, preached at Pentecostal churches throughout Australia and even released a CD titled 'Healer', recorded at Hillsong. He was stood down by the AOG when his 'illness' was revealed as a fraud and he had an addiction to pornography for 16 years. (On hearing this story I could not understand how no one in any Pentecostal church such as Planetshakers in Melbourne and Adelaide did not receive any revelation about his false claims while he was preaching to them for over 2 years).

From experience I can certainly confirm that the AOG church promotes 'wealth schemes'. In November 2007 a Hillsong church member Robert Orehek was jailed for 18 months for swindling the church and fellow members out of \$4.6 million. *The Judge said Orehek had been driven by greed and an inability to say no when he accepted offers of investment money when fellow parishioners began to approach him. The Judge said Orehek felt that he was invincible and other people in the church thought they were invincible. He went on to say 'With the power of God they were able to trust each other implicitly'.*

My concern is the influence that the Pentecostal church and particularly Hillsong is having on the Army. I do not think that it is beyond possibility that if their subtle influence continues, in 25 years most Salvos will probably not know 'How Great Thou Art' let alone the Founder's song 'O Boundless Salvation'.

Last Sunday my wife and I were in Sydney and attended Parramatta Corps where my father was the officer 65 years ago. Their morning service was traditional with some modern choruses but at all times reverent. After the Officer's address, the band played 'People Need the Lord' which deeply touched me. Sadly I'm told this style of worship is now fast becoming unique.

I trust you understand where I'm coming from when I know I'm not the only disillusioned 'officers kid'. I find it hard to reconcile how the Army can no longer honour its musical heritage when the secular world would not dare to treat the 'masters' in that manner. I also believe the Army should take a serious look at the beliefs and practices of the Pentecostal movement.

In paying homage to the memory of the previous generations of Army 'servants' I trust you receive this e-mail in the spirit in which it has been written.

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Terry...the word 'Christian' is significantly not in the revelation. Many accept it as if it were... (W.J., NSW)

Editor's Reply: The word 'Christian' ('*Christianós*') **is** 'in the revelation'. 'All Scripture' is the revelation of God (2Tim.3:16). 'Christian' was a name given to the disciples or followers of Christ, first at Antioch. They first became known as 'Christians' as a term of ridicule. '*...The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch*' (Acts 11:26); '*Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost you persuade me to be a Christian*' (Acts 26:28); '*Yet if any man suffer as a Christian...*' (1Pet.4:16).

'Berean Call' Mish Mash

The following is an excerpt from the Berean Call (USA) in a 'Question and Answer' segment, April/2011. Our comment is below their B.C. 'response'.



"What verses point to 'Free Will' in the Bible?"

Question: ...What verses point to free will in the Bible?

B.C. Response: ...The Bible teaches that God elected (predestined) to save all (any) who 'feareth him, and worketh righteousness' (Acts 10:34-35). According to Ephesians 2:10, one must fear God (be saved) before he can work righteousness, the works themselves being foreordained. Long before the creation of man, God predestined that men would be saved 'in Christ' (Eph 1:3-4,7-12). The Lord God 'predestined' His plan for the redemption of man (Eph 3:10-11).

God has also granted that man would have free will, which is simply the ability and responsibility to choose to obey Him (Gn 3:1-6; Josh 24:15; Mt 11:28; Jn 3:16)...if there were no moral response possible on man's part, then '...choose you this day whom ye will serve' (Josh 24:15) would therefore be impossible. James 4:17 instructs us that '...to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin'. This verse recognizes accountability based upon ability to do good or evil. Again, if there were no possibility of making that choice, then this verse is also meaningless.

...The exhausted, drowning man, who hears the voice of those in the boat, cries out, 'save me', and then permits the strong arms of his rescuer to pull him into the boat, has certainly done nothing to contribute to his salvation. Yet we know that some drowning men will push away their rescuers in their unreasoning panic. In each case, both are exercising choice...

Editor's comment: Acts 10:34-35 does **not** teach that 'God elected (predestined) to save all (any) who 'feareth him, and worketh righteousness'! This passage is not about 'predestination' or 'election'. And the word is 'accepted', not 'elected'. The **context** is about the '**Gentiles**' receiving the Holy Spirit as well as the Jews and therefore '**God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that fears him, and works righteousness, is accepted with him**' (vs.34,35). '**All or (any) people are not 'predestined' or 'saved' 'by fearing and working righteousness'!**

Ephesians 2:10 does not teach that 'one must fear God (be saved) before he can work righteousness, the works themselves being foreordained'. The 'for' connects the previous verses and expresses the reason for what has been before affirmed. It shows the effects or result of salvation by Grace - ie. 'works' which 'God has before ordained'. This verse also does not teach that 'one must fear God (be saved) before he can work righteousness'. There is nothing in this passage about 'fearing God'. 'Fearing God' is not the equation for being 'saved' as the writer implies. This is a false Gospel and a mish mash of verses taken out of context!

The writer continues: '*God predestined that men would be saved 'in Christ' (Eph 1:3-4,7-12)*'. This is true. But what is not apparently understood by the writer is that what is being spoken of here is a '**PRE-destination...determined 'before the foundation of the world'**. The same passage also states it is God who has '**chosen**' us (vs.4) and it is '**God's will**' (vs.5), that achieved this, not ours.

The writer then says: '*God has also granted that man would have free will, which is simply the ability and responsibility to choose to obey Him (Gen.3:1-6;*

Josh.24:15; Mt.11:28; Jn.3:16)'. However, not one of these Scriptures is about any 'free will' within sinful man! The first Scripture Genesis 3:1-6 is *before* man fell into sin. Then, Josh.24:15 '*Choose you this day whom you will serve*' is *to the Jewish believers* in Jehovah. And let's complete the rest of the verse!: '*...whether the gods which your fathers served which were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell*'. The context refers to Jewish believers who turned to idolatry. The context is not salvation or 'free will' at all, but *idolatry!* Neither do Matt.11:28 or Jn.3:16 have anything to do with 'free will'. And Jn.3:16 says *nothing* about man's choosing or predestination. It says *nothing* about any process that caused the 'whosoever' to believe. It simply says those that believe will be saved! (The '*whosoever believes*' is literally translated '*all the believing ones*'). There is no mention of 'free will' in John 3:16. Finally, James 4:17 is also quoted out of context considering it is speaking to *Jewish believers* about their sanctification. Again, this is *not* about human 'free will'.

If an unsaved person has any 'ability' within themselves to be saved then we would need to delete the following verses from the Bible!: '*Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God*' (Rom.8:7,8); '*But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned*' (1Cor.2:14); Before we were saved from sin's penalty '*the god of this world blinded the minds of them which believe not...*' (2Cor.4:4). We were *not able* to choose God by any 'will' that was 'free'. Jesus unequivocally said: '*No man CAN COME to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him...*' (Jn.6:44). The Bible clearly says that in our unsaved state we were '*fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were BY NATURE the children of wrath*' (Eph.2:3) - Does this sound like a will that is 'free'? Our unsaved 'wills' were in the '*desires of the flesh*'! We are only 'free' to act *according to our nature!* Unsaved fallen man is not 'free' to seek after God, but rather is a 'slave' to sin (Rom.6:9,14; 7:1).

Unsaved man has 'free agency' but not 'free will'. 'Free will' in its literal sense means to be able to choose one thing from another or one way from another, *without any forces or any influences whatsoever*. But there is a difference between 'Free Will' and 'Free Agency'. 'Free Agency' means we can voluntarily choose, but only *according to our desires or our nature*. Only when the Holy Spirit draws and regenerates is our will freed toward God.

Finally comes the illustration of the '*drowning man*'. This is a terrible analogy for salvation. I spent decades as a phys-ed and swim teacher. I trained many in how to save drowning people and twice have been involved in saving children who got into difficulties. I have yet to see any drowning person who does not want to be saved and who will '*push away their rescuers*'. In contrast they will latch onto a rescuer with a vengeance, sometimes endangering both lives. That's why certain techniques are used in rescuing so as not to cause both people to be drowned. There are not '*two choices*' here! Secondly, the Bible is absolutely clear that unsaved man does not seek or choose God unless the Holy Spirit first draws him (Eph.1:4,5; Jn.15:16; Rom.3:11; Lk.19:10; Rom.8:6,7; Rom.3:10-11; Jer.17:9; Is.64:6,7).

A Letter to the Salvation Army



Dear Commissioner...

I am writing to you to express my deep concern for the future of the Salvation Army. As the son and grandson of officers, and with 2 brothers who were officers and a nephew who is currently Dean of Higher Education at Booth College, I believe my Army heritage gives me a very valid reason to express this concern.

Like many others of my generation the Army would appear to have lost its direction, not knowing whether to stay mainly traditional or embrace the so called 'modern' style of worship and music. The *Hillsong* influence on all churches has I believed been embraced with little or no knowledge of their background, beliefs and teachings. After 40 years in the Army we left to attend one of the largest Assembly of God churches in Australia. Their music in the early 80's included the well known hymns and introduced us to the beautiful Gaither compositions such as 'Jesus, there is something about that Name', 'Because He lives', 'Come Holy Spirit, More of You', 'He touched me' and many more. By the late 90's however, *Hillsong* had started to make its musical impact to the point where it became more like a rock concert. (Recently in the *Brisbane Courier Mail* was an article headed '*Christian rock concerts sparks unholy suburban row*'. The first paragraph read '*New-age churches are fast becoming the scourge of suburbia with residents fed up with booming rock music that has become the hallmark of their services*'). Thankfully we left in 1995. The reason we left was that I began to question the AOG's claim on speaking in tongues and their close association with visiting overseas pastors such as Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Reinhard Bonnke and T.D.Jakes. All of these, including *Hillsong* founder Brian Houston (President *Australian Christian Churches*; formerly known as *Assemblies of God*), strongly believe in a 'prosperity' gospel which I find alien to Scripture and my upbringing in the Army. As for speaking in tongues, Pentecostal churches believe this is a manifestation of receiving the Holy Spirit. Throughout my parents 60+ years as Army Officers their lives were an example of the infilling of the Holy Spirit, yet I'm sure they never spoke in tongues. The history of the 'tongues movement' is unique to the 20th century and how it entered the church would shock those who may be unaware of its history. Even its instigator, Charles Parham, later *rejected it* as did the church at that time.

The Army accepts advertising from *Hillsong*. A recent magazine mentioned that their (Hillsong) worship leader gave 2 sessions at the Brengle Create Institute in September at Collaroy... 'The Salvation Army Ryde City Church' describes its services as '*Spirit-filled, passionate and often raucous worship with healings, deliverances and miracles*'. This sounds like an *Assembly of God* meeting and not the Army I knew. Please understand I am not against change, but not just for the sake of it.

Whatever happened to the 'Holiness Meeting'? I know that God can heal but having had first hand experience, does the Army really know that most Pentecostal churches have a transient congregation who move to wherever the current 'revelation' is happening. As a Canadian you would be no doubt aware of the 'Toronto Blessing' and other *so-called revelations* which have all turned out to be spurious.

The Pentecostal churches in the USA and Australia have been scandal-ridden with the likes of Jim Bakker, Jimmy Swaggart and many others. More recently Ted

Nowhere do the Scriptures promote self edification: *'We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let everyone of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not Himself...'* (Rom.15:1-2). We are to *'edify one another'* (1Thess.4:11).

This *'private tongues'* or *'prayer language'* is an invention mostly from the second half of the 20th Century and popularised by men such as Oral Roberts and other Word-Faith teachers. It had the effect of making unknown tongue speaking more acceptable to mainline churches.

1Corinthians 14:15

'...I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also'

Some Christians use this verse to allow for the practice of speaking in an unknown tongue *without* interpretation. However, the words *'and'* and *'also'* absolutely refute such error. The word *'also'* connects *both* *'spirit'* and *'understanding'* together. (The Greek word *'understanding'* is *'nous'*, literally in many places translated *'mind'*). The command is to pray or sing *with understanding also* and at the *same time*. Paul's main thesis in chapter 14 is his continual plea for *'understanding'* (mentioned no less than 9 times, (vs.2,9,14,16,19; twice in vs.15 & 20). A similar word, *'edification'*, is also mentioned 5 times, (vs.3,4,12,17,26).

The *'spirit'* here is also *not the Holy Spirit but the human spirit*, (vs.14 *'my spirit'*). Whatever *'praying with the spirit'* and *'singing with the spirit'* is, it must be done with *understanding* in the mind, *both to the speaker and any listener!*

Romans 8:26

'Likewise also the Spirit helps our infirmities for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered'.

A new 20th century teaching is that the *'groaning'* refers to speaking in an 'unknown tongue'. However, the words *'cannot be uttered'* refute the idea of anything being *spoken*, since 'tongues' are *'uttered'* or verbalised.

Jesus died on a 'Good Friday'?

It is impossible to get three days and three nights from Friday to Sunday morning. An understanding that there were *two Sabbaths* in the one week that Jesus died, expels this myth of a Friday crucifixion. In the feast of unleavened bread the first and last days of this feast were special Sabbaths regardless of what days they fell on (Lk.6:1). The normal weekly Sabbaths thus often fell in between these special Sabbath days. The Gospel of John alone explains that the Sabbath which began at sunset the day Christ was crucified *'was a high day'* (Jn.19:31) and not an ordinary Sabbath which began Friday at sunset.

Most scholars believe Jesus was crucified on Wednesday or Thursday, depending on how the three days and three night periods are viewed, (ie. whether 24 hr. periods or not). The 'Good Friday' view seems to have come from Romish traditions.

Terry Arnold

Myth Busters

Various dictionaries define 'eisegesis' as a personal interpretation of a Bible text using ones own ideas or bias. The following are the most commonly misused Scriptures in modern times. The two questions that solve most of the errors in the interpretation of these Scriptures are: *What is the larger context?* and *Who is the passage speaking to?*

2Peter 3:9

'The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance'.

The common misconception is that this refers to *all* and *every* person. However, if the reader carefully reads this *in context* and then asks the question: *'WHO* is this speaking to', the CONTEXT of the passage might surprise.

'This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: 2 That you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior: 3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, 4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. 5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering TO USWARD, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance'.

This Epistle is specifically written to the *'beloved'*: *'beloved, I now write unto you'* (vs.1)...*'beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing...'* (vs.8)...*'Wherefore, beloved, seeing that you look for such things, be diligent that you may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless'* (vs.14)...*'You therefore, beloved, seeing you know these things before...'* (vs.17)...

The primary *context* is about the end of this age and the sureness of the Lord's coming for his *'beloved'*. It is a clear exhortation to the *'beloved'* to be patient and not to listen to the false teachers (see previous verses) who were scoffing at the promise of the coming. The rules of grammar and Greek show that the *'any'* and the *'all'* cannot refer to any other pronoun but to the *'us'* previous (the *'beloved'*).

Matthew Henry says of 2Pet.3:9 *'What men count slackness, is long-suffering, and that to us-ward; it is giving more time to his own people, to advance in knowledge and holiness, and in the exercise of faith and patience, to abound in good works, doing and suffering what they are called to, that they may bring glory to God...'*

Verse 9 is too often quoted to teach that God does not want *any human to perish*.

Regardless of whether this premise is true or false, *this particular Scripture* (vs.9) is simply not speaking to or about unsaved men but to the ‘*us-ward*’ - the already saved who are called the ‘*beloved*’ several times (vs.1,8,14,17).

This scripture is in fact promoting the *preservation of the saints in Christ and the sureness of His coming!* The context is, and historically has always been, to *believers* - those who would be saved and come to repentance at some point in time. (The Greek (aorist) tense of ‘*all should come to repentance*’ is a snapshot of something that has or will happen. The ‘*all*’ are the ‘*beloved*’ or ‘*us*’).

Joshua 24:15

‘*Choose you this day whom you will serve*’ (vs.15) is often used by evangelists and modern day writers to show that we in an *unsaved* state must ‘choose’ of our ‘free will’ to accept the Lord in salvation.

However, read the passage in context and ask the questions: *WHO is the passage speaking to and what is the CONTEXT?*:

‘*And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom you will serve whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. 16 And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods; our fathers served.’*

The passage is actually about Joshua addressing *God’s people, Israel*, urging them to serve God only and turn from *idolatry*. Israel was already God’s ‘*elect*’ (Is.45:4; Dt.7:6-8; 10:15; Ps.135:4; Lev.20:23; 1Pet.2:9).

The subject is not salvation but *idolatry!*

Revelation 3:20

‘*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*’

Many tracts and Gospel presentations use this verse as speaking to the unsaved. But *WHO* was this speaking to? Was it to unsaved sinners? No! The words are specifically addressed to *Christians* and more specifically to a *church* at Laodicea that needed correction. This church would be no different to many churches today that need to hear God’s Word. If Christ came and spoke to such churches today why would we wrongly then use this verse and address it to the unsaved?

Revelation 3:5

‘*He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*’

Many quote this Scripture to say that God can blot out names from the Book of Life; that one might lose his salvation; or that election/predestination is not settled as a *prior* decree. Firstly, the previous verses speak to *believers*: ‘*You have a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy*’ (vs.4).

Most importantly, some fail to read the little word ‘*NOT*’. The passage is not

saying God will blot out any name but actually the opposite!: ‘*I will NOT blot out his name out of the book of life*’.

No doubt people can extrapolate the implication that God *could* ‘blot out’ names, but that is *not in the text!* All the text says is this: *The overcomers and those who are clothed in the righteousness of Christ will not have their names blotted out.*

Camels and ‘needles’

‘*And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God*’ (Matt.19:24; Mk.10:25; Lk.18:25).

Many readers may have heard the interpretation of this as being a literal camel going through a ‘gate’ in Jerusalem (the ‘needles eye’) and the camel having to kneel, have its baggage removed and with difficulty fit through a ‘gate’. It is a popular idea taught in some Judaistic groups and at times has been common in Charismatic/Pentecostal groups.

The idea is a myth. Would the architect forget to make a gate big enough for the camel and rider to pass through unhindered? There are no Biblical references to such a gate and no archaeological evidence of such.

The idea came originally from an 11th Century Greek Orthodox leader, Theophylact. No reference to any such idea is found in early years of church history.

The Greek word for ‘*needle*’ literally means ‘*to sew*’. The passage clearly refers to a literal sewing needle and to a literal camel, *the largest native beast in Palestine at that time. The impossibility of a camel going through the eye of a needle was exactly what Jesus meant!* The passage clearly says it is impossible for people who trust in riches to enter heaven; and it is a miracle for a rich man to be saved. Jewish Talmudic literature also uses an aphorism about an elephant passing through the eye of a needle as a figure of speech *implying the impossible* as in Matthew 19:24. And that is precisely why the disciples immediately then asked: ‘*Who then can be saved?*’ (vs.25). Jesus then proved the *impossibility* further to show that in salvation - ‘*with men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible*’ (vs.26).

1Corinthians 14:4

‘*He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself...*’

Many Christians in order to promote self edification by speaking in an unknown tongue, read or concentrate on *one half* of this verse and leave the rest of the verse out - ‘*but he that prophesies edifies the church*’. Paul does not commend this ‘*unknown tongue*’ but rather *contrasts* it with something that edifies the church.

1Corinthians 14 continually contrasts the singular ‘*unknown tongue*’ with ‘*prophesies*’ or with the plural ‘*tongues*’ (see vs.18,19). Paul *never* speaks in favour of the ‘*unknown tongue*’. The ‘*unknown tongue*’ speaker might edify ‘*himself*’, but the ‘*prophesies*’ edify ‘*the church*’. The contrast cannot be avoided. 1Corinthians 14 is *correcting* the church for this very problem - selfishness!

One can certainly edify oneself by various means. However, references to self edification in Scripture are *all negative!* *No gift is for self but rather for the body of Christ!* The gifts were given to ‘*profit all*’ in the body of believers (1Cor.12:7).