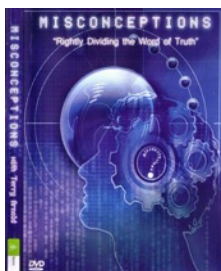


Your Comments and Questions

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



TV Interview Recommended

In 2011 Terry did 8 TV interviews in Sydney on *Life TV Media* channel. The second of those was titled 'What is a Christian?' This 30 minute interview has recently had some success as an evangelistic and discipleship tool. It answers questions asked by non christians and presents the Gospel clearly. The set of two DVD's also contain other interviews: *God's Will For You; Music; Marriage; Depression; Natural Disasters...and more.* Price: \$19.90 (postage included)

Terry, you are correct in asking the question - 'where is the Gospel today'? Yes, even salaried ministers and pastors are ashamed of the Gospel nowadays. Just back from a couple of days in Sydney - and I noticed all the spurious messages on church billboards in the city - innocuous sayings that look more like they came out of the Buddhist Book of Wisdom than anything else.

(M.C., NSW)

Prayer/Praise Points

- There has been an excellent reception to Terry's book 'Foundations For Evangelism'. Several bookstores are now stocking this book (including Koorong).
- Praise the Lord for an encouraging time for Terry recently as he ministered in Perth. His six Easter messages are available on CD.

Subscription Form

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Newsletter of **TA Ministries** Vol .3, No. 27 May/ June 2012

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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DVD '180' Recommended



Recently this ministry has discovered a challenging 33 minute documentary. In this DVD titled '180', people on the street are challenged with hard questions concerning the Jewish holocaust and abortion. Watch the amazing answers and some who do a complete '180'. A must DVD and a good outreach resource! (Caution: Some holocaust scenes may not be suitable for children).

Price: \$9.90 (postage included)

Editor's Comment

I fear for the 'church' generation that is arising if the Lord does not come back as soon as I expect. There is a generation arising that simply does not know what 'church' is. They are unaware that most denominations are now openly teaching the opposite to what was taught on various issues just some decades ago.

I regularly meet 'Christians' who reject the teaching that we are to be distinct from the world and its ways. To them it seems right to bring in worldly methods and use them to get people into 'church'. But the result is that it then is no longer 'church' ('*ekklesia*') - the 'called out ones' in holiness. It rather becomes a gathering of those who have one foot in the world and one foot in 'church'. They are as much at home in the world as they are in the church. *The world has well succeeded in coming into the church to take the church into the world.*

At the heart of the apostasy within the modern church is *the way people see the world* in comparison to the church. There is a blindness as to what the Bible actually says about the world. In scripture, the world is never mentioned as a good system! The Devil is the prince and '**god**' of it (Jn.14:27; 16:11;2Cor.4:4); it is '**evil**', '**corrupt**', '**polluted**', '**in darkness**' and it wholly '**lies in wickedness**' (Gal.1:4; 2Pet.1:4; 2Pet.2:20; Eph.6:12; 1Jn.5:19). The world can never know God (Jn.17:25) because God's kingdom is not of the world (Jn.18:36); and the world's wisdom is '**foolishness**' to God (1Cor.1:20; 3:19). In scripture, we are not to be conformed to the fashions of this world (Rom.12:2; 1Cor.7:31). If this is not enough warning, then the apostle John is blunt!: '**Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world**' (1Jn.2:15,16). James says we are to be '**unspotted from the world**' (James 1:27). Christians are supposed to '**have received not the spirit of the world but the spirit which is of God**' (1Cor.2:12). With all this in mind, which '**way**' do we walk - the '**narrow**' way to life or the '**broad**' way of the world to death? (Matt.7:13,14). Should it not be: '**In times past you walked according to the course of the world**' (Eph.2:2)?

Recently I viewed the 'Facebook' pages of various young Christians I have known and taught in years past, to see what testimony they might now have. I was shocked by the '**likes**' in movies, books and entertainment as well as photos that seemed drastically at odds with their own statements and images of the Bible stating that they were 'Christian' - *all presented on the same page*. 'Facebook' did nothing to show that many of these people are Born Again by a Holy Saviour. If I was a non christian I could have easily assumed 'there is no difference between these 'christians' and me'. I would have become a 'Christian' by name if all I had to do was agree with their *mixture* of philosophies on these sites!

What testimony do we portray? Are we ambassadors for a *holy* Savior who demands separation from the ways of the world?

Terry Arnold

Terry's Itinerary

June 3th (Sun) 10.45am **Biggenden** Gospel Chapel, **Qld.** Ph.41271959
0408074743

July 14,15th (Sat/Sun) **Corinda** Brethren Assembly, **Brisbane** Ph.(07)37256458

****New - Sermons on Website****

Our website now has sermons on major topics which can be listened to, or downloaded free.

Website Comments (www.taministries.net)

Re: Healing: *What about people who were raised from the dead by Smith Wigglesworth?... He was only a vessel and God was the Person who did all those miracles. He was a humble man of God who is with Jesus right now. He has done God's will while he was on this planet, therefore I am honoring him because he had honored God in all the things he had done for God and people...*

Editor's Reply: **Go to the website again and look in the section 'Pentecostal/Charismatism' and the article 'Smith Wigglesworth - The Facts'** (<http://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Smith-Wigglesworth-The-Facts-v3.5.pdf>). **The stories written about him have been grossly exaggerated and mostly from a Lester Sumneral who was once exposed on TV '60 Minutes' for fraud. Sumneral became a false prophet on his death because he prophesied he would see the return of Jesus before 1999. Wigglesworth also became a false prophet prophesying 'the greatest move of God ever known in mankind's history' which would start 'towards the end of the 20th century'.**

Wigglesworth never raised anyone from the dead. The stories about Wigglesworth are wild and untrue. Of all the research I have done into false healers and prophets, Wigglesworth is one of the most amazing - amazing that a folklore and history was built up from fabricated and second and thirdhand reports by those who were proven dishonest. Sadly today stories of Wigglesworth are still sold to people with 'itching ears' (2Tim.4:3).

Dear brother Terry, Thankyou so much for your wonderful newsletter 'Diakrisis'. I really look forward to each issue. It's real good information that is a blessing to us...

(R.B., NSW)

I would like to thank you for the 'Diakrisis' newsletter that I have been receiving for a few years now...I must admit that some of what I read is beyond me but then I'm sure that God opens my eyes to what I need to understand at the right moment...Thank you for your ministry.

(D.C., Qld)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Terry, Thankyou for the sending 'Diakrisis'. I read it with interest. I commend you on the Editor's Comment [March/April]...At a funeral of a dear old brother whom I had known for many years...there was little to no Gospel preached. Yet it was a Brethren gathering. It's sad that those who have over the years been great stalwarts for the Gospel appear to have traded it for worldly orientated concepts. At funerals the great opportunity to present the Gospel is being lost. I recall folks who came to funerals...and even though they did not know the deceased, they came along because they knew they would hear a stirring message from the Bible. It is not the case now. So keep up the good work...

I did not realise the Herald of Hope held to the 'falling away' as the rapture...

I also noted your article on 2Cor.7:1 and endorse what you have written...Separation may involve some difficult decisions regarding those that we may have depended upon in life, but the Lord Almighty will not suffer those who are obedient to His word to lack any good thing. Separation from the ecumenism and denominationalism of our day is little taught or practiced and those who do, often suffer ridicule or rejection.

The article on re-marriage is also much needed...

Then finally there was the article on women deacons. I do see that Romans 16:1 teaches that Pheobe was a deacon (servant) of the church in Cenchrea. However I do not believe that this involved any public speaking in the gatherings of the saints, rather she ministered to the needs of the congregation in a way that was befitting and suited. There are many areas of need in congregations for godly servants, especially in their responsibility to teach the younger woman to love their husbands etc. I am sure that even the apostle Paul enjoyed the ministry of Pheobe, as she would have cared for him. Paul does mention elsewhere a list of women who served with him in the gospel. I take it that they again provided a care ministry, tending to his and others physical needs, not heralding forth the Gospel as some might suggest.

(G.E., Qld)

Dear Terry, Thank you so much for your continual encouragement through the 'Diakrisis' newsletter. A blessing indeed. I try to spread out the reading of each newsletter to make it last longer, but the last issue [March/April 2012] lasted two days! So, I re-read it, it was really good. Thankfully I have plenty of back issues that my husband has kept in 2 nice big folders, all in date order, with plenty of articles highlighted. They are an excellent source of reference material.

We are praying specifically for your family and health, as mentioned in the last newsletter and that you would be able to do more bus ministry as God allows. Thanks again for everything. With much love and prayers for you all.

(J.&K. L., Brisbane)

Rick Warren Builds Bridge to Muslims



[Left] Rick Warren with his new best friend, Christ rejecting, Muslim convert Cat Stevens, (1960's folk singer, who then changed his name to Yusef Islam).

Muslims and evangelical Christians in December gathered at a dinner at Saddleback attended by 300 Muslims and members of Saddleback's congregation. At the dinner, Abraham Meulenberg, a Saddleback pastor in charge of interfaith outreach, and Jihad Turk, director of religious affairs at a mosque in Los Angeles, introduced 'King's Way' as 'a path to end the 1,400 years of misunderstanding between Muslims and Christians'. The men presented a document they co-authored outlining points of agreement between Islam and Christianity. The document affirms that Christians and Muslims believe in 'one God' and share two central commandments: 'love of God' and 'love of neighbour'. [Editor: Unless that neighbour is Jewish?] The document quotes side-by-side verses from the Bible and the Koran to illustrate its claims. 'We agreed we wouldn't try to evangelise each other', said Turk...

The outreach to Muslims is part of Saddleback's '**Peace Plan**', a wide-ranging effort to solve major world problems by mobilising governments, businesses and faith communities...

Warren wrote at Pastors.com: 'My life and ministry are built on the truth that Jesus is the only way, and our inerrant Bible is our only true authority'.

For 12 years Warren has lived next door to Yasser Barakat, a Muslim from Syria who worships at a Mission Viejo mosque...Warren travelled with Barakat to Syria in 2006, and Warren and his wife, Kay, **began attending Iftar meals at the Mission Viejo mosque**. (Iftar is the evening meal Muslims eat after fasting all day during the holy month of Ramadan)...'*He calls me his Muslim brother*', Barakat said. '*It all started with a friendship*'.

(Apostasy Alert, Feb.29th, 2012)

Editors comment: The divisions between Christians and Muslims are spiritual and cannot be reconciled. They do not worship the same God. One has Jesus as deity, the other has him as a prophet only. The ecumenical error is to find points of agreement and ignore the differences which are set by God Himself! Warren is a very clever ecumenist. He can speak to whatever audience there is and gain agreement. He has signed documents (eg. 'A Common Word Between Us and You' <http://www.yale.edu/faith/acw/...>) which speak of a merciful Allah. But the Koran never speaks of the love of Allah toward mankind. We can love Muslims without lying about Islam!

Warren has said 'our church has never had any partnership with a mosque' but his actions speak louder than his words? Rick Warren needs to be watched for what he does, not for what he says! His 'P.E.A.C.E. plan' is not Biblical.

More of Dave Hunt's 'Calvinism'

The following is a rebuttal of recent writings by well known American author Dave Hunt. In his recent March edition of *'Berean Call'* (<http://www.thebereancall.org/content/who-can-understand-gospel>) he yet again incorrectly describes 'Calvinism'. For years Hunt has continued to print assertions on this subject and revealed that he is actually portraying '*hyper-Calvinism*'. His books and articles contain selective 'cut and pasted' quotations from various authors including Spurgeon. In doing so he has blatantly misrepresented what they are saying. When one reads the original quotes it comes as a shock to find them dishonestly used. To date none of these errors have been corrected in spite of Mr. Hunt being challenged by recognised biblical scholars. Although we in this ministry do not see ourselves as 'Calvinists' we believe it necessary to again refute the claims made against the doctrines of 'Calvinism' in the article in question. There is already widespread confusion over the differences between 'Calvinism' and '*hyper-Calvinism*' and Mr. Hunt has done nothing but add to that.

Our comments follow and are in bold and bracketed:

Hunt: '...I have been advised to keep silent [on Calvinism] on the basis that only those with special qualifications are competent to check Calvinism against the Bible, an idea that in itself contradicts Scripture...leading Calvinists insist that it requires special (and apparently lengthy) preparation for anyone to become qualified to examine that peculiar doctrine in light of the Bible...[In many years of reading the writings of those who claim to be 'Calvinists', including extensive research into Charles Spurgeon's writings, the Reformers and the Puritans, I have never heard this espoused by any 'Calvinist', (although some hyper-Calvinists have hinted at such). This is a strawman argumentation. The Doctrines of Grace do not need 'special qualifications...[or]...lengthy preparation for anyone to become qualified to examine that peculiar doctrine'].

Many friends...have told me that in spite of my quoting John Calvin directly from his writings, along with quoting leading Calvinists of today, I was still likely to misrepresent Calvinism. Even after many hours of detailed discussions with Calvinist friends, they still told me, 'You just don't understand Calvinism'. [It's not that Dave cannot understand 'Calvinism' - it is his misrepresentation of the doctrine that is the problem. Quoting John Calvin will NOT give a balanced or accurate view of historic 'Calvinism' as espoused by Spurgeon, Whitefield, Edwards and most of the Reformers and Puritans. Calvin's quotes can be, and are commonly used, for and against 'Calvinism'. Spurgeon himself said 'Calvinism' is a 'nickname' for the Doctrines of Grace which were espoused before and after Calvin. Hunt does not present what historic 'Calvinism' teaches, which does not teach a 'double predestination' or that the gospel is only for the elect, which Hunt consistently puts forward,

Your Comments and Questions

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

The Editor's 'Infant' Article - Please Note!

Re: March/April 'What of Infants': *Terry, I read with sadness and real disappointment your article on infants...that infants do not go to heaven...*

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Editor's comment: Some subscribers may have misunderstood this article. Nowhere did I say that infants do not go to Heaven. This was not the purpose of the article, but rather to show that *all are born in iniquity*, that there is *original sin*, and that I do not agree with the '*age of reason*' doctrine. I expressed no doctrine of infants 'not going to heaven'! Please forgive me if this article gave an impression that I never intended.

Dear Terry, I have concerns regarding your comment in last 'Diakrisis' re: 'What of Infants' P.16,17. Your comment 'if the unborn dead are automatically saved from Hell then is the local abortionist an evangelist?' I find distasteful and quite unnecessary. Scripture does not indicate either way and we can safely commit our little ones into the hands of almighty God knowing that 'the judge of all the earth shall do right'. This is not emotion, this is reality. You would do well to stick to 'sola scriptura' rather than added comments that do nothing to encourage the saints on this issue. Many thanks for the 'good' information.

(G.W. Sth Aust.)

Editor's Reply: I appreciate the comments concerning the mention of the 'abortionist'. In hindsight I realise it might be offensive to some. My apologies for any offence caused...

The article was not about infants being saved but about children being born in iniquity which was under attack in the original article. It is explicit that we are shapen in iniquity - sin is in the heart of a child. We are born sinners in need of a saviour. I agree scripture does not state all babies are necessarily saved. But my disagreement is with people who make a case *from silence* that infants are saved automatically. If they are automatically saved then the question must be asked - when do they become unsaved? There is no scripture for this or the popular '*age of reason*'.

Rather than use the 'abortionist' throw away line, I should have explained it as above. Apologies again. I do agree as you say, that all we can do is '*commit our infants into the hands of almighty God*'...

Terry, in your article on infants you did not mention Mk.10:14; Lk.18:16.

(E.W., Sydney)

Editor's reply: I don't see these verses as teaching that all infants are automatically saved. I see the context as about allowing children to come to him, be blessed, and receiving the things of God *like a child*?

Roman Works

Pope Benedict recently reflected on what happens spiritually during the ‘sacrament’ of ‘confession’ [confessing sins to a priest]. The repentant sinner is ‘justified, forgiven and sanctified’ thanks to the divine mercy, which is the ‘only adequate response’ to humankind’s need for the infinite, he said.

The forgiveness of sins has a direct impact on efforts to spread the Gospel, he explained, pointing out that only those ‘who allow themselves to be profoundly renewed by divine grace can internalise and therefore announce the novelty of the Gospel’.

(Excerpted from *Apostasy Alert* 14th March, 2012)

Editor’s comment: Nowhere in scripture are we to confess sins to a priest or for salvation. This was a Roman invention (Lateran Council AD 1215 Pope Innocent III). Only God can forgive sins (Mk.2:5-11; 1Jn.1:9; Matt.9:60). The apostles never heard confessions (Acts 10:43) or forgave sins (Acts 10 & 16).

Fred Nile



‘This is where Ecumenism is finally leading those who portray themselves as pillars of the Australian Christian Community. Today the Reverend Fred Nile, parliamentary leader of the Christian Democratic Party issued the following media release declaring that the Coptic Pope Shenouda III who died yesterday has - ‘passed into Glory’.

Here are the Coptic doctrines: Salvation: ‘Baptism is a Holy Sacrament by which we are born again by being immersed in water three times in the name of the Holy Trinity; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit’. Eucharist: ‘Communion gives a person immunity against sin. Material food gives health and immunity against bacteria and viruses that attack him. Likewise, partaking of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ gives spirit immunity and inaccessibility against the viruses of sins, Satanic warfare and bodily lusts, so the person lives in victory in his spiritual struggle’.

Yet Fred Nile said ‘For over 40 years his Holiness has faithfully served the Coptic community and provided charismatic spiritual leadership...we too will continue to honour the legacy of his Holiness Pope Shenouda III and do all we can to assist the Coptic community both here and abroad’.

Apostasy Alert [Australia] 19 March 2012

Your Comments and Questions

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

Terry, ...How do you explain a genuine experience of the presence of God...

(K.W., Mareeba, Nth Qld)

Editor’s reply: This is the same question asked by you and answered in Nov/Dec/2010. These scriptures may also help: Acts 3:19; 1Thess.2:17.

despite having been corrected by leading ‘Calvinists’!...Should Calvinism remain a mystery for the common Christian?...Could Calvinism really be the biblical gospel and biblical Christianity and yet be so difficult for the ordinary Christian to understand? Why should Calvinism be such a complex and apparently esoteric subject that it would require years to comprehend? [The Doctrines of Grace are actually not ‘complex and...esoteric’] Such an attitude could very well intimidate many into accepting this belief simply because such a vast array of highly respected theologians and evangelical leaders espouse it...[Most of the great leaders of the past and many today who espouse historic ‘Calvinism’ do NOT teach the errors that Hunt claims they do!]

...God’s foreknowledge, predestination/election, human choice, God’s sovereignty, and man’s responsibility are widely alleged to be mysteries beyond our ability to reconcile. Therefore, some insist that these concepts should be accepted without any attempt at understanding or reconciling apparent conflicts. ...Peter acknowledged that there are ‘things hard to be understood’ and warned that Scripture is sometimes twisted by some, resulting in destruction to those who do so (2Pet.3:16). [And this is exactly what Hunt does - he uses his own understanding to twist the scriptures that speak of the responsibility of man and God’s sovereign election. The Bible does teach both but it does NOT reconcile them! And neither should we. And there are ‘mysteries’ in the Bible. Who understands the Trinity? Do we attempt to reconcile the obvious logical difficulty of this? No! ‘Calvinists’ believe in both the responsibility of man (including his will - ‘free agency’) and God’s sovereign election. But they do not, and the Bible does not, reconcile the two positions. God predestinates and elects some and it is the responsibility of man to repent. Both are truths which Spurgeon said cannot be reconciled: ‘That God predestines, and that man is responsible, are two things that few can see. They are believed to be inconsistent and contradictory; but they are not. It is just the fault of our weak judgment. Two truths cannot be contradictory to each other. If, then, I find taught in one place that everything is fore-ordained, that is true; and if I find in another place that man is responsible for all his actions, that is true; and it is my folly that leads me to imagine that two truths can ever contradict each other. These two truths, I do not believe, can ever be welded into one upon any human anvil, but one they shall be in eternity: they are two lines that are so nearly parallel, that the mind that shall pursue them farthest, will never discover that they converge; but they do converge, and they will meet somewhere in eternity, close to the throne of God, whence all truth doth spring’ (New Park Street Pulpit, 1858; Vol. 4, P.337).]...

It is a general assumption that, whatever other disagreements we may have, when it comes to the gospel of our salvation both Calvinists and non-Calvinists are in full agreement. [And the ‘Calvinists’ of old were in full agreement with Arminians of their day on the Gospel! The Gospel is not about ‘Calvinism’ or ‘Arminianism’; its about who Christ is and what He did!].

Some Calvinists, however, disagree, claiming...that the biblical gospel is Calvinism...Others insist that 'if you do not know the Five Points of Calvinism, you do not know the gospel, but some perversion of it...' [No reference is given here]. Such claims that the Five Points alone constitute the gospel raise concerns about Calvinism to an entirely new level! [This is NOT what most, if not all, historic 'Calvinists' believed]. If much special study is required to understand Calvinism, and if years of Bible study still leave one ignorant on this subject, and if Calvinism is the gospel of our salvation - then where does that leave the multitudes who think they are saved but are ignorant of Calvinism? [It leaves them as Arminians like John Wesley...and many saved! This is another strawmen argumentation by Hunt].

...Calvinists insist that their doctrine does not diminish the zeal with which the gospel is to be preached...they name some of the great preachers and missionaries who were staunch Calvinists, such as George Whitefield, Adoniram Judson, William Carey, and others. [Add to the list: Spurgeon, Newton, Wycliffe, Luther, Knox, Owen, Bunyan, Tyndale, Jonathan Edwards, Strong, Matthew Henry, JC Ryle, Martyn Lloyd Jones...and the martyrs: Huss, Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, Hooper, Foxe (wrote the Foxe's Book of Martyrs). And this is a short list!] And it is true that, although they know that many to whom they preach are not among the elect, some Calvinists nevertheless preach earnestly so that the elect may hear and believe. Certainly, however, the zeal of such men and women in bringing the gospel to the world could not be because of their Calvinism but only in spite of it. [This is contradictory and erroneous. Spurgeon and others did not preach to the unsaved 'because of their Calvinism' OR 'in spite of it'! They preached because they are commanded to do so! They preached to 'all' and had a love and a desire to see people won to Jesus! Hunt needs to read some of Spurgeon's sermons and see the heartfelt pleadings to the lost!] To believe that those who will be saved have been predestined to salvation by God's decree, that no others can be saved, and that the elect must be regenerated by God's sovereign act without the gospel or any persuasion by any preacher, or by any faith in God on their part, could hardly provide motivation for earnestly preaching the gospel. [This is another misrepresentation. The historic 'Calvinists' did not believe people can be won 'without the Gospel or any persuasion by any preacher'! This is an insult to their doctrines, teaching and testimonies! It may be the stuff of 'hyper-Calvinism' but it is not historic 'Calvinism'. There are many quotes by Spurgeon I could give here but for lack of space. The book 'Spurgeon vs. Hyper-Calvinism' by Iain Murray soundly refutes this erroneous statement by Hunt]. No matter how the Calvinist tries to argue to the contrary, such a belief can only lessen the zeal that a reasonable person might otherwise have to reach the lost with the gospel...[Then why did this 'Calvinism' not lessen the zeal of Spurgeon, Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, et al? These men saw millions of souls won and under their preaching witnessed some of the

The real issue:

The danger of the modern 'spiritual warfare' teaching is that it takes the emphasis off personal responsibility for sin. The real issue is sin.

One writer sums up: 'As a former teacher and supporter of modern warfare methods...for me fighting demonic forces was a daily routine. I don't recall many meetings which did not include casting out devils, pulling down strongholds...I truly believed my efforts were Biblical. But...I began to re-evaluate these tactics and questioned the Biblical accuracy of my ministry...I began to ask 'what happens when we war after the flesh and call it spiritual?' Are we pulling down strongholds that are not Biblical or casting out demons that have been fabricated by men?'

I began to intensely study Jesus earthly ministry. I discovered that Jesus regularly cast out devils. But I also discovered that we in the modern church were regularly casting out demons that Jesus never heard of. I took extra effort to notice when Jesus did not cast out devils...Jesus did not cast out demons of deception or religious spirits out of Pharisees. I would have attempted it. Jesus confronted their teachings and their religious ideas...It is now common for us to believe that people are not responsible for their own deceptions. Today we credit spiritual blindness to powerful demonic forces which are assigned against individuals, churches or cities...We seem to forget that Jesus came as the light of the world but was rejected by men because 'men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil' (Jn.3:19).

I also discovered that Jesus did not cast out the spirits of murder or alcoholism as we do today. We have invented new extra-Biblical demons. How convenient! We can now credit our fleshly lusts to demons of pornography. We can blame our anger on spirits of rage that come and go as they please...We can now attribute our abusive tendencies to family spirits and generational curses. All kinds of emotional problems can now be assigned to familiar spirits. Our Adamic nature is no longer at fault. Our unhappiness can now be attributed to spirits of oppression. We can blame our addictions on spirits of alcoholism or demons of nicotine.

In defence of our modern deliverance ministries we claim, 'We are doing what Jesus did'. But in reality we are not doing what Jesus did, we are doing what He did not do...We no longer understand the Gospel of crucifixion...Our deliverance ministries belittle Jesus earthly ministry. We are more anti-christ than we dare admit...we need to once again exalt Christ as the ultimate minister. His ministry was complete...all the works that are of God can be found in His ministry...The miracles He performed are all the miracles we need...Christ is sufficient'.

Nowhere in scripture are we told to speak to Satan or his demons. We read in Jude 9 the archangel Michael did not dare rebuke the Devil, but rather said: '**The Lord rebuke you**'! When Satan came to tempt Jesus, He simply and effectively quoted the Word of God! This coupled with holy living will make the devil flee!

Terry Arnold

exalts itself refers to any proud thoughts or reasonings against God. This pulling down of ‘strongholds’ in 2Cor.10:3-6 has nothing to do with territorial demonic strongholds, but rather refers to *the mind*! The context is clear - we are to resist and captivate *thoughts* (vs.5) that oppose ‘*the knowledge of God*’. The battle here is not with ‘spirits’ without or within, but in the *thoughts of the mind*.

The phrase ‘*principalities...powers*’ in Ephesians 6:10-18, is also taught by some to refer to us making war with demons. However, the passage is almost all *defensive*. We are told to ‘*stand*’ our ground. The only weapons of ‘attack’ here are the ‘*Word of God*’ and ‘*prayer*’. This passage clearly tells us how to do ‘spiritual warfare’ and deal with Satan and demons: ‘*Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit...*’

This scripture gives us a list of armour by which we can live in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is *sufficient* for us. *When we preach the Gospel demons must leave people of any possession.*

I once had an interesting discussion with missionaries who had gone into lost tribes and had encountered witchdoctors, shamans and healers who were empowered by spirits. Demon possession was common. These missionaries did not attempt to deliver the demons but were intent on preaching the Gospel to the people, even with opposition from the Shaman. They told me how it appeared that demonic power would come on and off the Shaman in intervals. However, the missionaries did not waste time with any Shamans, but concentrated on winning the people *with the Gospel*. (4)

As we disciple people they will learn to resist any *oppression* from demons in the mind. In all the letters to the seven churches in the book of Revelation there is not one mention of binding demons or commanding them to leave an area, despite several mentions of Satan and evil! Yet today thousands of books, tapes and ‘deliverance ministries’ have been spawned in an attempt to solve what is really man’s age old problem - the flesh or *sin* nature! The modern ‘deliverance ministries’ are simply not found in Scripture. The modern church has truly gone ‘*beyond the Word of the Lord*’ in this area (Nu.22:18)! Continued next page >



(4) A similar story is told in a DVD ‘*Delivered From The Power of Darkness - A True Story*’. This highly recommended DVD tells of the struggle and victory of a tribal people over demonic forces before and after conversion. The story has much to teach about ‘spiritual warfare’ and answers many questions such as: Can Christians be demon possessed? Do territorial demons hinder the work of the Gospel? Can spirits possess houses? This DVD puts all these questions in a real life situation and testifies to the truth of Scripture.

greatest revivals in church history!]

The gospel that Peter and Paul and the other apostles preached was for everyone in the audiences they faced, wherever they went. [But this is exactly what Historic Calvinists believed (as opposed to ‘hyper-Calvinism’)! It was not a message that only the elect could believe. [Ultimately it is a message that only the elect WILL believe! The ‘elect’ are the believers! The rest simply will not believe, are not the elect and will not be in Heaven. This is not simple logic, it is to be found in Scripture!]

In contrast, Calvin’s gospel says that Christ died, and His blood atones, for only the elect. Could this be the same gospel Paul preached? Paul proclaimed to audiences, ‘We declare unto [all of] you glad tidings...’ (Acts 13:32)...Calvin’s gospel, however, says that Christ is not the Savior of the world, but only of the elect. [Hunt confuses the preaching (‘declare’) to all with the reception of that Gospel. The blood of Jesus is sufficient for all to be saved; but it will in the end be effective for only some, considering ‘few’ will ultimately be saved (Jn.10:11-15; Heb. 10:14; Matt.20:28; Matt.1:21). If this is not true then we have the heresy of ‘universal atonement’]. How could that message be ‘tidings of great joy’ to those whom the Savior did not come to save and for whose sins He refused to die? [‘Calvinists’ do not teach that Christ ‘refused to die’ for any. This is an absurd statement and another strawman]

*The Bible declares that He is ‘not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance’ (2Pet.3:9)...[Here Mr.Hunt has conveniently left out half of the verse: ‘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’. This passage is specifically written to the ‘beloved’ who are mentioned several times in this passage: ‘beloved, I now write unto you’ (vs.1; see also vs.8, 14, 17). The vs.9, which Hunt uses, is speaking to ‘USward’! The subject is about the end of this age and the sureness of the Lord’s coming for His ‘beloved’! The apostle speaks to the ‘beloved’ in the verses *before and after*. The rules of grammar and Greek show that the ‘any’ and the ‘all’ cannot refer to any other pronoun but to the ‘us’ previously used in the same verse. The ‘us’ is the ‘beloved’ throughout the entire passage!*

Editor’s final note: Again, although we in this ministry do not see ourselves as ‘Calvinists’, yet we do teach Biblical predestination, Election, the responsibility of man in that process, and that the Gospel must be preached to *all*. We refute hyper-Calvinism. However, it is, we believe, deeply dishonest to willfully misrepresent and/or misquote any person or their doctrine. Hunt continues to put forth misrepresentations of what the ‘Doctrines of Grace’ teach. His misquotes of Spurgeon and others are well documented and nothing short of shameful. Several examples of these are detailed in *The Detroit Baptist Seminary Journal* (Vol.8 Fall/2003): <http://www.dbts.edu/journals/index.asp#table> (*What Love Is This? A Review Article* by David M. Doran).

The Catholic 'Woman Clothed With The Sun'



Revelation ch.12 describes *'...a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars'* (vs.1). On December 8th, 2011, Pope Benedict XVI reflected on the biblical description of this 'woman clothed with the sun' at the 2011 Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Pope addressed a crowd assembled before a nearby statue commemorating the 1854 definition of Mary's Immaculate Conception. He said *'What is the meaning of this image? It represents the Church and Our Lady at the same time'. 'Before all, the 'woman' of the apocalypse is Mary herself.*

Pope Benedict, in his traditional yearly act of Marian veneration, gave listeners his insight into the connection between the Virgin Mary and the Church. *'She appears 'clothed in sunlight, that is, clothed in God'. 'The Virgin Mary is in fact completely surrounded by the light of God and lives in God...The 'Immaculate One' reflects with all of her person the light of the 'sun' which is God...Besides representing Our Lady, this sign personifies the Church, the Christian community of all times'. He said the church is 'pregnant, in the sense that she carries Christ' and 'must give birth to him to the world'. 'This is the labour of the pilgrim Church on earth, that in the midst of the consolations of God and the persecutions of the world, she must bring Christ to men'. Pope Benedict said the 'dragon' has 'tried in vain to devour Jesus' and now 'directs his attacks against the woman - the Church - in the desert of the world...the Church is...nurtured in the desert with the bread of his word and the Holy Eucharist [Mass]...He stressed the world's need 'for the hope brought by the 'woman clothed with the sun'...we never cease to ask with filial trust for her help: 'O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you'.*

(Excerpted from *Israel Report* 12th Dec, 2011).

Editor's comment: The duplicity of Roman Catholic commentary is sometimes clever! In early editions of *'The Catholic Bible'* (P.228) there is a footnote which reads, *'This woman is not the Blessed Virgin, for the details of the prophecy do not fit her...by accommodation the church applies this verse to the Blessed Virgin'*. The Pope well knows that hermeneutics do not allow for this woman to be Mary and therefore there is no real or honest 'accommodation' of this passage that fits Mary.

The word **'wonder'** is from the Greek word **'semeion'** meaning 'sign'. This means the **'woman'** cannot be taken literally. This **'woman'** is a sign representing Israel. In Genesis 37 Joseph dreams that **'the sun and the moon and the eleven stars bowed down to me'** (Gen.37:9). Later the 12 sons of that family were to become the twelve tribes of Israel. In Revelation the **'child'** (vs.2) is revealed as Jesus Christ who rules **'with a rod of iron'**

that Christians can still have 'curses' hanging over them from something in the past. **'You shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me'**.

This is part of the second commandment of the ten given to Israel. The passage does not actually use the word 'curse' but if this is a 'curse' then it was upon Israel only and was conditional. Verse 6 continues **'And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments'**. This 'curse' was lifted in the book of Ezekiel for the lawful ones: **'Yet say you, Why? does not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son has done that which is lawful and right, and has kept all my statutes, and has done them, he shall surely live. The soul that sins, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him'** (Ezek.18:19,20).

The New Testament then demolishes any idea of residing 'curses' on a Christian. When a person is Born Again any 'curses' are gone: **'Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation'** (2Cor.5:17). To say that the New Birth does not rid a Christian of demonic judgements and curses is to limit the very salvation and power of God in the New Birth!

Can any Bible believing Christian say that a demon can exist in the same sphere as the Holy Spirit of God - in the temple of the Holy Spirit, in the Holy of Holies? (Would God ever have allowed a demon to exist in the Holy of Holies in the Jewish temple of old?). Those who teach that Christians can be possessed by a demon need to think on this! If Christians can be possessed by demons then it makes the indwelling Spirit of God to be impotent. I can accept that Christians can be *oppressed in the mind*, but to teach that a Born Again Christian can be possessed by a demon strikes at the very heart of who God's Spirit is.

Real Spiritual Warfare:

2Corinthians 10:3-5 is sometimes used to teach the breaking of *'demonic strongholds'* and *'territorial spirits'*: **'For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ'**.

The word **'strongholds'** here does not refer to spirits from without but refers to trusting in strong points or arguments *in the mind*. The word **'imaginations'** (*'logismos'* - used once elsewhere and translated **'thoughts'** in Rom.2:15) further proves the context is to do *with the mind*. The phrase **'high thing that**

Messiah has already come and He has given us a closed canon of scripture with the Gospel that sets people 'free'?

One author sums up: *'In the epistles we find absolutely no expectation or command that Christians should be doing exorcisms. Not a mention. Not even a hint that this is something the apostles expected Christian Churches to be involved in...The apostles...performed 'the signs of a true apostle' as Paul calls them. They did not expect all Christians to do these things or perform these signs - in fact, these signs wouldn't have been signs of an apostle if everyone could do them. The New Testament gives absolutely no encouragement to Christians to directly engage with the devil or demons through such practices as exorcism or deliverance or praying against territorial spirits...Please forgive me for speaking strongly, but love requires that a clear message be heard: These 'ministries' are not Christian ministries in the New Testament sense. They are profoundly misguided, and should be shut down, never to be re-opened. One very important clue that these ministries are not truly Christian ministries is that they reintroduce the fear of the underworld that Jesus died to banish. The ancient world was afraid to step in the wrong spot in case they came across an underworld space...So, why do these ministries scare the life out of people once again? Why are we warned that we could be under a curse, afflicted upon us by some ancestor's involvement in a Masonic order, or through someone else being involved in the occult? Why are we told that we accidentally, imperceptibly 'give the devil a foothold', to misquote Ephesians 4:27, which is taken to mean giving the devil an opportunity to take possession of your body, or to seriously influence your life for the worse? (Instead the verse is saying that anger against a Christian brother harms the life and unity of God's people, which is what the devil is also trying to do - so why help him along in his mission? We should be serving Jesus mission)...if any ministry claims to be Christian and raise the old fear again, then it is seriously misguided and is not being governed by the Gospel of God's grace. And I repeat my strong words: such ministries should be disbanded, for they are doing nothing good for the work of Christ in this world and, in fact, are doing harm. Those involved may be well meaning and wanting to help...but to create fear is not the work of God. It is to unwittingly play into the devils hands, because fear has always been one of his favourite instruments (Hebrews 2:14,15)...Our weapon is the gospel of Christ and our strategy is to remember it, speak it, believe it, cling to it and pray in response to it!...Perhaps the most damaging consequence of focusing on exorcism, deliverance, and other dramatic forms of so called 'spiritual warfare' is that it diverts our attention from the truth that is so clearly observed in the scriptures...'* (3)

'Generational curses':

Many involved in 'deliverance ministries' quote Exodus 20:4,5 for believing

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(3) *'Living With The Underworld'* by Peter Bolt; Matthias Press, P.143-147

(Rev.2:27,19:15). Christ is born of the nation Israel (Heb.7:14). The nation Israel is often characterised as a '*woman*' (Micah 4:9,10 - '*a woman in travail*', and in Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 3:8,14; 4:31; 31:32; also compare Gen.39:9 and Rev.12;1). In Revelation 12:13,14, this same '*woman*' is persecuted and flees into the wilderness. This cannot fit Mary. Much scripture pertains to Israel as being persecuted. Thus this '*woman*' is not the 'Virgin Mary', but Israel, as accepted by almost all commentators.

The Roman Catholic statues of Mary are almost exact replicas of ancient statues of Babylonian goddesses. The Goddess Isis (Egypt) was represented as standing on a crescent moon with stars surrounding her head - exactly as the virgin Mary is represented today! It is reputed that at times archaeologists have had difficulty distinguishing these from the statues of Mary.

As for the '*Immaculate Conception*' (that Mary was sinless): No scripture even hints that Mary was sinless! She brought a sin offering to the temple like all Jewish mothers (Lk.2:21-24 cp. Lev.12:6-8). Only Christ is sinless (1Pet.2:22). Every human born from Adam was, and is, sinful (Rom.3:23; 5:12). The '*Immaculate Conception*' was made official and '*infallible*' in 1854 by Pope Pius IX, who stated '*There is no salvation to those who do not believe this dogma...*' This doctrine was opposed by many Catholic leaders until the 12th century. The Catholic Encyclopedia says: '*No direct and categorical and stringent proof of the dogma can be brought forward from scripture*'. But let Mary herself speak: '*And my spirit has rejoiced in God my saviour*' (Lk.1:47). Why would Mary need a '*saviour*' if she was not a sinner?

Jesus alone is our sinless mediator and high priest. He alone paid the ransom!

Signs and Wonders - a Subtle Example?

As we have repeatedly stated, when signs and wonders are mentioned in scripture to do with the end times they are always 'lying' or false (Matt.24:24; Mk.13:22; 2Thess.2:9; Rev.13:13-15; 16:14, etc.). But those signs and wonders are not just contained to the Charismatic/Pentecostal system as some assume. There are numerous reports of signs and wonders in Hinduism and other religions. But one of the most subtle that Christians often are not aware of is the so called 'mystery' sign and wonder of 'Transubstantiation' as claimed by the Roman Catholic religion.

Catholics are taught that the 'Eucharist' (communion bread) is miraculously changed into the *real* body of Christ by the words of a mediatorial priest. This christ is then consumed or worshipped. This teaching was made doctrine in 1215 AD. Most of the Reformation English martyrs were tortured and burned by the Catholic church because they refused to accept this invention. Today it remains one of the central doctrines of the Roman Catholic religion. At every 'Mass' Jesus is supposedly '*sacrificed again*' contrary to the '*once for all*' sacrifice as stated in scripture (Heb.6:6; 9:26-28; 10:10).

Terry Arnold

Misconceptions in Modern ‘Spiritual Warfare’

‘Deliverance Ministries’:

Much emphasis today is being placed on ‘Spiritual Warfare’. ‘Deliverance ministries’ abound. The Devil is ‘rebuked’ and ‘bound’. Demons are blamed for sinful behaviour and are being ‘driven out’ of Christians. ‘Territorial spirits’ and ‘strongholds’ are supposedly being broken and cast out of areas of the earth. ‘Spirits’ of varying kinds are being named - there are supposedly spirits of Jezebel, control, death and hell, divination, python spirits, insecurity, lying spirits, filthy mind, ego, vanity, forgetfulness, suicide, asthma, allergies, autism, dyslexia, blindness, homosexuality, materialism, greed, egotism. Then there are lists of ‘curses’ - sexual perversion, pride, rebellion, stubbornness, etc. Many of these ‘spirits’ and ‘curses’ are simply never mentioned in scripture as ‘spirits’. *Rather, they are mentioned as sin!* There is simply no objective or Biblical way to tell if any spirits are actually called by many of these names! Added to this, some ‘deliverance ministries’ teach that the way one can tell if a spirit is active or ‘leaving a person’ is when there is yawning, coughing, burping, heat or tingling in various parts of the body. This would mean that at some times I could necessarily have at least one of these ‘spirits’ or ‘curses’ - since I suffer from one or two of these symptoms at least every year!

There are also methods of ‘cleansing’ rooms or houses in which spirits are ‘bound’ and then the ‘blood of Jesus’ is placed around the doors and boundaries. All of this is again totally *outside of scripture*.

These teachings go well beyond the simple Biblical view that demons can oppress individuals in their minds. In the eighties and nineties there was a surge of ‘deliverance ministries’ and seminars on spiritual warfare. I personally know of once sound ministers who were caught up in *new and extra biblical* teaching on demons. In the USA Christians met to ‘*bind Satan from the San Francisco Bay area and bring Godliness to public life through spiritual warfare...and to dethrone the spirit of homosexuality from its capital city, San Francisco...*’ (1) In these meetings Satan was rebuked and ‘bound’ by verbally addressing him publicly and directly. These meetings spent more time talking to Satan than to God. The results spoke for themselves - the city of San Francisco got worse!

Although some believe there is implied Biblical evidence for some territorial spirits (Dan.10:12-13), the practice and methods of trying to expel these spirits are erroneous. The Bible does show Jesus and Paul verbally rebuking demons which physically possessed unsaved individuals. (There is not a single case in the New Testament of a Christian being *possessed* with a demon). However, Jesus, or the disciples, never rebuked or taught anyone else to rebuke geographic or ethnic demons! None of the great evangelists spent time talking to the Devil or delivering spirits!

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(1) *Christian Research Journal*, Summer/1992, P.38.

Theologian and Christian author, R.C. Sproul, writes, ‘*Within Christian circles there has arisen a new concern for ministries of deliverance. Some of these deliverance ministries have developed a bizarre and radically unbiblical view of demon possession and deliverance...Well known deliverance ministries teach the signs of a departure of the demon. A sigh, for example, indicated the departure of the demon of tobacco...There are demons for every conceivable sin. Not only must each one of these demons be exorcised, but there are necessary procedures to keep them from returning on a daily basis. I know of no polite way to respond to this kind of teaching. It is unmitigated nonsense. Nowhere in sacred scripture is there to be found the slightest hint of this kind of demonic diagnosis. These teachings cross the line into the sphere of magic and result in serious harm to believers who are duped by them. Sadly, too much concern with Satan and demons means that we focus less of our attention on Christ. That must please Satan, though it certainly is not pleasing to God...All this emphasis on Satan and demons tends to distract us from another very real menace, our own sin...We cannot pass the blame and responsibility for our sin to a controlling demon...We can say that we are tempted or incited or seduced by Satan, but not that we are controlled or coerced by him*’. (2)

The ‘strongman’:

Much is made of the phrase ‘*strong man*’ and ‘*binding*’ him, quoting Matthew 12 and 18. But these scriptures do not instruct *us* to ‘bind the strong man’ and release people from demons. The context is Jesus using an *illustration* of what *He is doing himself*. It is about His own power and Messianism and *the defeat of Satan at the cross*. Casting out demons was Jesus demonstration that He was the Messiah and that ‘*the kingdom of God had come*’ to them (Matt.12:28).

The purpose of deliverance of demons:

The purpose of casting out demons was to prove who Jesus was - the anointed one, the Messiah. Jesus proved this to John the Baptist who when in prison asked for proof of the Messiah. Jesus answered: ‘*And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things you have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached*’ (Lk.7:21,22). Why these words were so important to John the Baptist was because they fulfilled prophecies and *matched the words in Isaiah* concerning the blind, deaf, dumb and those bound by spirits! (Is.35:5,6; 61:1,2). Jesus also quoted these words from Isaiah in the temple and said it was about *himself*! Added to this are the many scriptures that clearly state that these signs were to prove the *messianism of Jesus* or the ‘*signs of an apostle*’ (Acts 2:43; 5:12; 2Cor.12:12; Heb.2:3,4). Do we need these signs today when the

(2) ‘*Pleasing God*’ by R.C. Sproul, P.90-92

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