



Diakrisis (Australia)

'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)

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

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Editor: Terry Arnold (MABS; Dip. Bib .& Min., Dip. Teaching)

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Pacific Bible Institute - New Courses!

We are planning to conduct a new accredited *Masters* course in 2013 as well as *correspondence certificate* and *Diploma* courses.

Those who would like to gain a Masters degrees can now undertake this in a unique way - with annual two weeks participation in Hervey Bay, Queensland, and then further correspondence studies at home. Costs are administration fees only. Limited enrolment numbers accepted. For more information see P.19

Editor's Comment

The apostle Paul warned that there is such a thing as receiving '**another jesus**' which was '**not preached**' by the apostles (2Cor.11:4). It therefore behoves us to *know* the real Jesus so that He might truly know us! If we have the wrong 'jesus' then it is likely Jesus does not 'know' us. The scriptures actually teach this frightening scenario as fact: '**Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity**' (Matt.7:21-23).

Today many are fashioning a 'jesus' from their own postmodern thinking or extra biblical traditions. Many want a meek Jesus and would see Him as the '*lamb of God*', yet would deny the Jesus who whipped and threw the money changers out of the temple. In death He was a meek '*lamb of God*' but in judgement and authority He is the '*lion of the tribe of judah*' (Rev.5:5), the one who has '*eyes as a flame of fire*' and a '*sharp sword*' out of His mouth with which He will '*smite the nations and rule them with a rod of iron: and he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God*'. He is the '**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**' who in the end will destroy all armies who oppose Him and His people. *The real Jesus is both loving and an exacting judge who will punish every sinner and every sin not accounted for.*

Emergent church leaders re-invent a 'jesus' who accommodates our culture and postmodern thought. The Bible is 'read' through different lenses. There are no longer absolutes and this 'jesus' accommodates our various opinions.

The gays have a 'jesus' who is all 'love' and who will not judge sodomy.

TV preachers and faith healers have a 'jesus' who has regular armchair like intimate conversations with them and them alone. But is this the same Jesus whose presence caused people to fall '**as if dead**' (Matt.28:4; Rev.1:17)?

The religious have a 'jesus' who minimises sin or has no judgement and Hell. The Babylonian mother of religions, Roman Catholicism, has a jesus who speaks through Mary and uses Mary instead of the Holy Spirit to help draw men to Christ. This 'jesus' is literally in the communion bread after the mediatorial priest has miraculously caused the bread to undergo 'transubstantiation' and become the real body of 'jesus' on the altar. He is thus still on the cross and sacrificed at every 'Mass'. He speaks through an infallible Pope. He has a place called Purgatory to pay for our sins, instead of the '**once for all**' sacrifice on Calvary (Heb.6:6; 9:26-28; 10:10). He anathematizes (curses) the teaching of Justification by grace through faith alone and the imputed righteousness of Christ. Millions of people believe this 'jesus'!

The *Charismatic/Pentecostal movement* has a 'jesus' whose spirit invented

new baptisms and unknown tongues in the 20th Century which overturned 1,900 years of *'the faith once delivered'* (Jude 3). We were told that this 'jesus' was doing a *'new thing'* and so new moves of his spirit came and went. Once demonic manifestations were now Holy Spirit inspired. This 'jesus' thrives on extra-biblical revelations and prophesies which overturn the reformers 'sola scriptura'.

But the most subtle and disarming of all is the *ecumenical jesus*. This 'jesus' focuses on love and unity at the expense of truth. It will not preach on sin and the wrath of God. The Reformation was a mistake; Catholicism is now Christian and although the gospels are so different we can still find 'unity'. This 'jesus' avoids the issue of the necessity for the imputed righteousness, lest we return to the Reformation which demanded it. This 'jesus' openly advocates an 'oikumenikos' (a worldly ecumenical church) in direct opposition to an 'ekklesia' (a called out elect).

It is the church of liberalism and ecumenism that has today created a 'jesus' that bears little resemblance to the one who is to be feared and worshipped in spirit and truth. We too often fashion a 'jesus' like we plan holidays...only the most comfortable and best spots will do.

The real Jesus would have us subservient to His word regardless of the world's culture or thought. He does not speak through Mary or the Pope but through one book made up of a canon of 66 books. He laid His life down in one ultimate sacrifice and is no longer on a cross, but is risen. He teaches that all other religions are false when He says there is salvation only in His name (Acts 4:12). He says to purge any 'leaven' out of mixtures of truth and error (1Cor.5:6-8). He calls for separation and will spew out of His mouth luke-warm professing christians (Rev.3:16). He says there is a Hell and judgement for every sin committed. Either the believer's sins will be judged and satisfied by God in the sacrificial death of Christ; or the sins of the unbeliever will be paid for in Hell.

The real Jesus showed a love that no man has ever been able to match - He gave His only begotten Son to die a death in our place as believers, to satisfy God for every sin ever committed. He rose and went back to Heaven, sending His Spirit to give His *life* to all believers. He will one day burst through the skies and snatch away His beloved.

If we have *'another jesus'* then we likely have *'another gospel'* and *'another spirit'* (2Cor.11:4). The true Jesus must be the one derived from a full orb'd view of His person and character. This Jesus is not to be found anywhere outside of what the apostles and prophets laid down in the 66 books of the Bible, for *'though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed'* (Gal.1:7-9).

The real Jesus will not appeal to all. But *'do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ'* (vs.10).

Terry Arnold



Denominational Chaos

'Let all things be done decently and in order' Paul said (ICor.14:40). 1,900 years later the speaker at this year's Presbyterian Church USA General Assembly had this to say: 'You are creating chaos in the Presbyterian Church USA, and chaos is good'. So said the honoured guest, 'Bishop' Gene Robinson [pictured] famous for being the first sodomite to be ordained a bishop by the Episcopal Church.

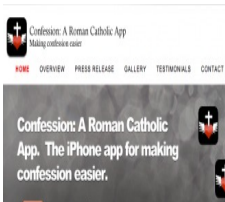
...Chaos they had...Can you believe this was a church assembly?...The opening ceremonies featured dancing girls twirling rainbow ribbons - rainbow being the symbol of the homosexual movement...The moderator at this church assembly, after stripping off his shirt, stood at the podium and sang a profane drinking song. When he wasn't singing, the loudspeakers played...'Dancing Queen' and 'Born This Way'...A Hindu stood before the delegates and prayed to assorted Hindu gods. And the Assembly installed a Muslim as some kind of 'ecumenical adviser'.

But that was just for warm-ups. The Assembly featured a special prayer breakfast for 'Voices of Sophia', a bunch of Wicca Wannabes. Among the Assembly's other achievements were these: Passing one resolution in unqualified support for abortion, and another to abolish spanking. As the *PCUSA* sees it, it's okay to kill a baby, but a sin to spank a child.

...By far the chief concern of the Assembly was to celebrate homosexuality...Last year the *PCUSA* abolished all standards of sexual morality for persons ordained as clergy and elders. Robinson spoke of '*breakthroughs*' for triumphant homosexuality as being '*signs of the coming of God's reign*'.

(Lee Duigon *NewsWithViews.com* Aug.9, 2012; *Apostasy Alert*, 10th Aug. 2012)

Editor's Comment: The ecumenical ship is sinking into lower depths. 'Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues' (Rev.18:4).



Cyber Confessions?

'This website has all the details of the new iPhone application that makes confession easier...Developed for Roman Catholics who frequent the sacrament...With a personalised examination of conscience for each user...and a step-by-step guide to the sacrament, this app. Invites Catholics to...participate in the Rite of Penance'.

(*CathNews* August 02, 2012; *Apostasy Alert* 3 Aug, 2012)

Editor's comment: Public confession of sins was not heard of till about the 3rd century when systems of 'restoring sinners' were instituted. Private confessions to a priest came much later. Pope Innocent III at the Lateran Council (AD 1215) decreed a law of confession of sins at least once per year.

Brian McLaren's Son Marries Same-Sex Partner



The son of 'Christian' author and speaker **Brian McLaren**, who is often identified as part of the controversial **Emergent** church, married his same-sex partner this past weekend.

Trevor McLaren, 28, wed Owen Ryan on Saturday in Washington, according to *The New York Times*.

The marriage ceremony was officiated by a Universal Life minister, and his father, Brian McLaren, who **led a commitment ceremony with 'traditional Christian elements'** afterward. The elder McLaren recently recalled the time his son - one of four sons - **came out to him**. It had just been a couple of years when **McLaren shifted his thinking and abandoned the traditional view of homosexuality being a sin that he grew up with...***'I was a good kid, I believed what I'd been told. And as a pastor, I started having gay people come out to me and what became clearer and clearer to me is that their experience was not explained by the theology I inherited...And that it would be unjust to continue to uphold what I'd been taught...My call to love God and love my neighbour was in conflict with what I'd been taught the Bible required me to say and do'*.

...Decades ago, he [McLaren] and a number of pastors had started what was called the **Emerging church movement to reach young people**. Matthew Schmitz, deputy editor of *First Things*, summed up McLaren's journey in an article Tuesday: **'Brian McLaren started out wanting to reach the unchurched and ended up performing a commitment ceremony that stood outside the church not only physically (at the Woodend Sanctuary of the Audubon Naturalist Society, Chevy Chase, Md) but also doctrinally - in contravention of clearly delineated Christian teaching on the nature of sex and marriage'**.

(Audrey Barrick, *Christian Post*, Sept.25, 2012; *Apostasy Alert* Sept.26th, 2012)



What The Pope Teaches

Pope Benedict XVI has recommended that Christians **'look to the queenship of Mary...[the] queen in the service of God to humanity'** as **'a sure guide towards her son'**...**'Devotion to Our Lady is an important part of spiritual life. In our prayer we should not fail to turn to her, confident that Mary will intercede for us with her Son'...** **'We learn to live from Mary'...** **'To him who rules the world and holds the destinies of the universe we turn with confidence, through the Virgin Mary'...** **'She now participates in God's responsibility for the world and the love of God for the world'**.

(Castel Gandolfo, Italy, August 22 (CNA/EWTN News); *Apostasy Alert*, Aug.24/2012)

Editor's Comments: In the days of Jeremiah people were already calling a pagan mother goddess **Ishtar** by the name **'Queen of Heaven'** (Jer.7:18). **'Queen of Heaven'** was first used by Pope Martin in the 7th. Century. But our **'intercession'** and **'confidence'** is only in Jesus! (Rom.8:34; Heb.7:25).

The Battle for the Bible Has God Preserved His Word?

At the root of the falling away (apostasy) of the church is how church leaders and Christians see the Bible. The once high views of inspiration, inerrancy and preservation which were held down the running centuries are today under attack. With the rise of ‘textual criticism’ some now say that the Scriptures only ‘contain’ the word of God.

Inspiration

‘All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness’ (2Tim.3:16). The phrase *‘inspiration of God’* here is the Greek *‘theópneustos’* (*‘Theós’* - God / *‘pneó’* - to breathe; blow) meaning to breathe out. Inspiration is the means by which revelation is given. Inspiration is not revelation. Revelation is the content; Inspiration is the *vehicle* or method. The doctrine of Inspiration is that God breathed out a *‘more sure word’*, not of *‘any private interpretation’* or *‘by the will of men’* but *‘holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost’* (2Pet.1:19-21). Inspiration is divine not human. We do not fully understand how God inspired humans to write the words. It takes *faith* to believe in the doctrine of inspiration. The carnal mind will not grasp it. What man would write a book about such illogical and unfathomable topics such as the trinity, election or predestination? Who would write a book that damns the entire human race and has a Hell with eternal punishment?

The object of inspiration extends not to the writers but the *words*. Inspiration is verbal (‘plenary’) inspiration - it extends to the very words of scripture. God told Moses and Joshua exactly what to write and the prophets had *words* put into their mouths to speak. *‘... I will be with your mouth, and teach you what you shall say’* (Ex.4:10-12). Forty years later, Moses warned Israel, *‘You shall not add unto the word I command you, neither shall you diminish anything from it’*. (Deut.4:2). God gave *words* for Balaam to speak despite Balaam’s reluctance (Nu.22). Saul spoke *words* given by God (1Sam.10:10; 19:20-24). David said *‘The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was in my tongue’* (2Sam.23:1,2). God said to Jeremiah *‘I have put My word in your mouth’* (Jer.1:6-9). Caiaphas prophesied and *‘spoke he not of himself’* (Jn.11:49-52). The disciples were promised that the Spirit would give them *words* to speak (Matt.10:19,20). On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4-11) the disciples spoke *‘as the Spirit gave them utterance’*. Did not this inspiration include the *exact words* that God wanted spoken? Jesus spoke much about ‘words’. He said *‘He that rejects me, and receives not my words, has one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day’* (Jn.12:48). Did Jesus mean *words* when He said *‘Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled’* (Matt.5:18)? The *‘jot’* is the

‘yod’, the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet; the ‘*tittle*’ is the ‘horn’, a small projection in some letters, not easily noticed by any unaccustomed to Hebrew writing. Yet Christ speaks of these items, which are smaller than any ‘word’!

This does not mean the writers who wrote the Word of God were like robots in any dictation. Inspiration simply means God guided their minds to write what He wanted. And He moulded His thoughts through various personalities as is seen in the different styles of writing.

This verbal inspiration extends to all the autographs, the original copies of the scriptures in Hebrew and Greek. This was once the standard Protestant view. The great Puritan, John Owen, wrote much about *Verbal Plenary Inspiration* and *Verbal Plenary Preservation* in the original languages. He not only believed in full inspiration and preservation of the autographa (originals) but also in the apographa (copies) of the Hebrew and Greek texts. ‘*It is true, we have not the autographa of Moses and the prophets, of the apostles and the evangelists; but the apographa or ‘copies’ which we have contain every iota that was in them.*’ (*The Works of John Owen* Vol.16, P.387 *Ages Library*). If the autographs are not pure then how can the apographs be trusted? The Reformers had no time for rationalistic textual wranglings that disputed as to whether the apographs were not accurate to the autographs. Owen rebuked those who would demand that we prove inspiration and preservation: ‘*By saying that the scripture is the word of God, and then commanding us to prove it so to be, they render themselves obnoxious unto every testimony that we produce from it that so it is, and that it is to be received on its own testimony*’ (P.404). Many other church leaders and Confessions of Faith down the running centuries could be quoted in the same fashion. Yet such views which were once common have now been largely eroded.

Other views of Inspiration

Roman Catholicism added traditions to the word of God and taught that the Bible is interpreted by the church, not by the Holy Spirit to the individual believer’s mind. Their Bible also added extra books other than what the Jews originally set down as the ‘canon’ of scripture in the second century.

The authority of Scripture was not tested in Protestant circles until ‘Rationalism’ swept Europe in the 18th. Century and reason became more the arbitrator of truth. Three new views of ‘inspiration’ were developed, other than the Plenary verbal inspiration (as we argue for in this article). 1. The Neo-orthodox view. 2. The Dictation method. 3. Limited inspiration.

The neo-orthodox view of inspiration says the way we know God is through His ‘revelation’ to us. This view denies that the Bible is the Word of God, but rather says it is a ‘witness’ to the Word of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit it becomes revelation to us. God can use the words in the Bible to speak to individuals, but they are still fallible words by fallible men. However, this view is no inspiration at all and we might as well get ‘revelation’ from God from any other writing. The neo-orthodox Karl Barth (1886-1968) was typical of the

Continued next page >

doublespeak of such a view. Barth would state that the Bible was ‘inspired’ and even the ‘word of God’, yet he would also insist the Bible was full of ‘contradictions’ and fallible. *‘Nowhere do we find a rule...and evade the contradictions as such. We are led now one way, now another...whoever is the author, we are always confronted with the question of faith...they are all vulnerable and therefore capable of error even in respect of religion and theology...’* (Karl Barth, Church Dogmatics, 1/2:509-510). *‘The Bible must from time to time become His Word to us’* (P.123-124). However, this view leaves us in uncertainty or to pick and choose what we want. It is simply devastating to faith.

The *‘Dictation’ method* says God is the author of Scripture and individuals wrote the words like secretaries taking dictation. Although God did sometimes say *‘write...all the words’* (Jer.30:2), not all Scripture was written this way.

‘Limited inspiration’ sees Scripture as the work of man with ‘limited’ inspiration from God. This is similar to *‘partial inspiration’* which says that only the spiritual and moral parts are inspired, not the scientific or other parts. *‘Dynamic Inspiration’* similarly says doctrinally the Bible is inspired but historically it is not. These various ‘limited’ views tolerate that there may be factual and historical errors in the Bible, yet the Holy Spirit might have guided the authors so that no doctrinal errors resulted from their works. But how can one trust the Bible in doctrinal concerns if it could have historical or scientific errors? This is especially so when doctrine is often written as interwoven within the history of the times.

Contrary to the above views, *Plenary Verbal Inspiration* declares that every word in the original Greek and Hebrew scriptures is ‘God-breathed’ (2Pet.1:21; 2Tim.3:16).

Proofs of Inspiration

Many of the above views allow for possible errors which destroy the Bible’s infallibility and authority. When the Bible says *‘all scripture’* is *‘inspired’*, it means *‘all’*, not *‘parts’*! In Acts 15:23-29, James says *‘for it seemed good to the Holy Ghost and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things’*. *The real writer here was shown to be the Holy Spirit* who used James as His instrument. That inspiration extends to every word is also shown in 1 Corinthians 2:13 where Paul says *‘Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual’*. In 1 Thessalonians 2:13 Paul says: *‘...when you received the word of God which you heard of us, you received it not as the word of man, but as it is in truth the word of God’*.

Over 1,600 years 40 writers wrote 66 books that make up the ‘canon’ of scripture we call the Bible. They came from different parts of the earth and wrote at different times yet they agreed without any contradictions. After 2,000 years no expert has ever disproved the Bible. The very unity of its doctrine and the completeness of all its parts show its divine origin. Compare this book with other

books of other faiths and I would argue for its *uniqueness*!

The Bible itself has several ‘proofs’ which point to its inspiration. Many times the prophets wrote ‘*thus saith the Lord*’ and this or its equivalents are used over 2,000 times. Jesus simply said ‘*it is written*’. He confirmed Genesis and other Old Testament books, quoting from them over 100 times as inspired words from God.

The new views of partial inspiration have proved embarrassing for some. If God cannot be trusted in science, history and creation, then why trust Him in spiritual matters? The Bible stated the stars in the heavens could not be numbered except by God (Jer.33:22; Ps.147:4), contrary to early Scientists who thought they already had the stars counted. The Bible stated the earth was a sphere long before men discovered this (Is.40:22; Pr.8:27). The Bible stated there were fountains and springs beneath the sea (Job 38:16; Pr.8:28); that light is parted into the spectrum of the colours of the rainbow (Job 38:24); and that the wind travels in circuits (Ecc.1:6) - all long before men discovered these things!

The scientist Galileo was sent to a dungeon and publicly flogged because he believed the earth moved around the sun. This view contradicted 1,500 years of *science*. On the 22nd of June, 1633, Galileo was obliged to fall on his knees to escape the cruel death ordered by the Pope. He signed with his own hand the following retraction: ‘*I abjure, curse, and detest, the error and heresy of the motion of the earth...*’ A decree against the motion of the earth was signed by the ‘infallible’ Pope, Urban the VIII and his Cardinals. But Galileo’s science was eventually to prove how the Pope and his infallible church were in error. Yet the Bible already stated what Galileo discovered (Is.40:22; Ps.19:4).

Matthew Maury was reading Psalm 8:8 and that there were ‘*paths of the seas*’. This led him to produce maps of sea lanes and currents. A statue of him exists in Virginia with charts of the sea in one hand and a Bible in the other.

For centuries men scoffed at Jonah being swallowed by a whale. (The Hebrew has ‘*large fish*’). But new species of fish and whales capable of swallowing a man were later found. In February 1891 the whaling ship Star of the East was near the Falkland Islands, where they sighted a large sperm whale. Two boats were sent out after the whale. One boat harpooned the whale but the other boat was turned over. One man drowned and another disappeared without a trace. When the whale was killed and cut open two days later, James Bartley was found unconscious and doubled up inside the whale. He had lost his senses through fright and his skin was bleached white from the stomach acids of the whale, but he fully recovered.

In 1912, the ‘Piltdown Man’ was ‘discovered’ which supposedly proved the link between man and apes, being over ‘500,000 years old’. Scientists used this as evidence against the Bible. However, in 1953, a new dating process proved this to be less than 50 years old and also to be a deliberate fraud.

Numerous prophecies have also been fulfilled to the minutest detail. There are many Messianic prophecies: The Messiah born of a virgin (Is.7:13,14) and

born in Bethlehem (Mic.5:2); He would be rejected by Jews (Is.53:3); be silent when accused (Is.53:7,8); would be buried with the rich (Is.53:9); betrayed by a friend (Ps.41:9); sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech.11:12); and would have His hands and feet pierced (Ps.22:16-18).

Numerous prophecies concerning Jerusalem have and are being fulfilled exactly. Writers predicted Israel would become a great nation (Gen.12:1-3); would split into two groups of ten tribes and two tribes (1Kgs.11:31); would be taken captive in Babylon (Jer.25:11-14); and would reject and kill her Messiah, (Is.53:3; Dan.9:26). The destruction of Tyre was foretold in Ezekiel 26. In Daniel chapter 2, four kingdoms are described in the interpretation of the dream of king Nebuchadnezzar (Dan.2:39-43). These four kingdoms came into being just as prophesied.

Archaeology has also more than once proved Bible ‘critics’ wrong. It has consistently supported the history recorded in Scripture.

An interesting discovery found in the Bible that may well show its divine nature is the studies done on the numerical order found within the words. One man, a former atheist, Dr. Ivan Panin, was the first to discover this in depth and spent 50 years dedicated to this work. Every Greek and Hebrew letter carries a numerical value (letters are used for figures) and the result is a set pattern running through the Bible in the Greek and Hebrew texts. The pattern of the number 7 was significant. Whole words, words beginning with a vowel or a consonant, the numbers of letters in a vocabulary, male and female names and many more aspects, were all divisible by 7. Every book of the Bible has the same features. The chance of this occurring has been estimated to be 1 in billions. The patterns discovered were not found in other books or in the seven apocryphal books added to the Bible by the Roman Catholic religion. Many believe this numerical pattern discovered by Panin shows the divine authorship and divine order of the 66 books of the Bible.

The ‘inerrancy’ of the Bible follows if the Bible is ‘inspired’. The Bible itself claims to be perfect. ***‘The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times’*** (Ps.12:6); ***‘The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple’*** (Ps.19:7); ***‘Every word of God is pure’*** (Pr.30:5). Are these not clear and absolute statements? Where do these scriptures speak of any *partial* inspiration or *partial* inerrancy?

Preservation

Liberal theologians and many modern ‘textual critics’ make much of the fact that because we do not have the originals they say we no longer have an accurate Word of God. However, what little faith would we have if we think the creator of the universe cannot manage to keep faithful Hebrew and Greek copies of the originals! Similarly, would we consider God to be imperfect because we no longer have His incarnate self (Jesus Christ) amongst us? *How can we believe in*

the resurrection by faith and not believe in the inspiration and preservation of the Word of God by the same faith?

I do not denounce scholarship. I love the study of Greek and the exacting science of exegeting texts, but that study must be predicated on *faith in the fully inspired and inerrant and preserved Word of God*. To question God on whether He has inspired and preserved His word is to question the very author of the writings and His ability to preserve His own word! Did He ever say it was lost or evolving, or did He say it was '*once delivered unto the saints*' (Jude 3)?

Can God inspire His words and yet not preserve them? If the revelation is to be preserved precisely as originally received, the same supernatural power is required in the one case as in the other! It is irrational and arguably hypocritical to believe that God inspired His words and yet could fail in His ability to preserve those same words. The testimony of the successive copying of the originals is one of a meticulousness not found in any other literature. The Hebrew scholar, Lightfoot, speaks of the faithfulness of tiny 'yods' ('jots') in the Hebrew language being faithfully copied many times over many years. Copies of the Bible dating to the 14th century A.D. are nearly identical in content to copies from the 3rd century A.D. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, many scholars were surprised to find that although they were older copies, they were very similar to more recent copies of the Old Testament. There is no major doctrine of the Bible that is questionable as a result of the *minor* differences that exist between the *majority* of manuscripts used for nearly 1,800 years. Textually only 1 part in 1,000 passages in the Bible has any textual 'variation' in the copies. Almost 99% of the copies of the texts are the same. There are as many as 5,700 manuscripts and plenty enough to ensure that the Bible is consistent and accurate. This quantity, quality and preservation is not found in any other secular works. The copying errors are actually astonishingly minor, being mostly found in numbers, spelling and some punctuation. Most scholars agree that the 'variant readings' in the New Testament manuscripts do not affect the faith and practise of the Christian faith. This fact is rarely highlighted by textual critics who do not believe in verbal inspiration or preservation. *We have every assurance and evidence that a good translation is a faithful rendition of the original manuscripts.*

There are two texts which form the basis of most Bible versions - the '*Majority* (or '*Byzantine*') *Text*' (*MT*) and the more recent '*Westcott and Hort Text*'. From the Majority Text (*MT*) came a Greek Text called the '*Textus Receptus*' ('*TR*'). The various King James version translations (KJV, KJV21, KJV2000, etc) and arguably the early translations of the New King James (NKJV) were translated from this '*TR*'. There are also a variety of other versions (eg. J.P. Green's Translations) taken from these 'majority texts'.

The more recent '*Westcott and Hort Text*' is based on a much *smaller* number of older manuscripts and underlies most of the modern versions such as NIV, NASB, RSV, etc. (There are also other versions springing from this above Greek Text such as the *Living, Good News* and *The Message* which sadly have been

accepted as ‘translations’ when they too often are barely poor ‘paraphrases’).

I personally prefer to use interlinears and translations based on the majority texts as used by the early church for many centuries. For the New Testament I prefer a combination of a *Greek TR*, a *Greek interlinear* (based on the TR) in conjunction with a translation derived from such. I favour the ‘Majority Text’ as a foundation because I have become convinced that they contain a *large amount of manuscripts* with a *high level of consistency* and agreement. The Greek TR accurately represents these majority texts. The translations from this are also usually more literal (‘formal equivalent’) and thus more objective and superior for expositional or exegetical work.

These Hebrew and Greek texts derived from the majority texts were the accepted source of the Word of God for much of the church age. Are we to say that for 1,800 years Christians did not have the full inspired and preserved word of God and that in the last 200 years with the discovery of new texts and the resultant textual or ‘higher criticism’, that the former received texts are now inferior?

Many so called ‘contradictions’ or textual ‘errors’ or ‘additions’ have been cited by modern critics. One textual critic defined ‘textual errors’ as ‘*where the readings found in the translation is not in agreement with that of the autographs*’ (Combs: ‘*Errors in the KJV*’, P.154). But how can this make sense when we do not have the original autographs? Many of these critics *assume* that there has to be copyist errors. Many times I have had people bring to me a so called ‘difficulty’ or ‘contradiction’ with which they desire for me to ‘please explain’. Without boasting, in every instance after investigation, the difficulty has been explained, particularly with help from the original languages. I do not propose to detail some of these so called contradictions in this article, as the subject I plead for is not to prove God, but to plead for *faith* in God as the One who inspires and preserves the Scriptures! One wonders where is the *faith* in God’s desire and ability to preserve His word, when modern critics raise and even *search for* issues that question this? The intellectualism of some of the arguments from modern textual critics also smacks of an underlying bias to dishonour God’s sovereignty and omnipotence. And if I be wrong in this, then what of the resultant apostasy in modern Christianity? We live in an age when the Bible is hardly esteemed as inerrant amongst scholars. Surely this must reflect on the Christian’s view of the person of God? Is God not His own textual critic and does He not know how to keep His word as inspired and pure? Ultimately, the doctrine of preservation must be hedged by Scripture alone. Should I doubt these words?: ***‘The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. You shall keep them, O Lord, You shall preserve them from this generation forever’*** (Ps.12:6,7)?

Conclusion

The 20th Century saw Churches and many Bible colleges decimated by the

Continued next page >

battles fought for and against Bible inerrancy. Few of the major colleges in the west are now firm on the doctrine of inspiration and inerrancy, much less preservation. The culture of the postmodern world has no doubt crippled the church and left it vulnerable to attack. How can we defend the church against attacks from the likes of Dan Brown (author of *'The DaVinci Code'*) and Brian McLaren (Emergent Church) and other ecumenical and neo-evangelical leaders who diminish the word of God or take us closer to the Romish religion? I lay the blame firmly at the feet of Bible colleges and seminaries who have wavered and shifted on these doctrines. They have dramatically influenced denominations. Yet the life and the faith of the church depends on these doctrines of Inspiration and Preservation. If we discredit the writings of the Bible or diminish them in any way, we surely discredit the author! The issue is not does the Bible have errors, but can God allow errors into His word! *If God created the universe in a perfect order, is He not capable of inspiring and keeping a perfect word?* If the Bible contains errors and is not preserved inerrant, then God is not completely omnipotent and omniscient. Why would God say ***'For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart'*** (Heb.4:12)? Why would He say this if that word is not perfect? Why would the Psalmist say ***'Forever, O Lord, your word is settled in heaven'*** (Ps.119:89)?

The Bible is not primarily inspired, inerrant and preserved because of any of the proofs detailed in this article. It is firstly inerrant because of *who God is and what He says*. And this is where *humanistic wranglings about the accuracy of the word of God, no matter how scholarly, must give way to faith*. But that faith is not blind; it is faith which comes from the mind of Christ in the believer who has had his heart effectually changed. The 66 books of the Bible have had more impact on changing lives than any other book or any other writings. *The danger of a low view of Inspiration and Preservation is in the effect it will have on the Christian mind, the heart and ultimately the level of faith*. We cannot expect the word of God to ***'divide asunder soul and spirit'*** and to ***'discern [critique] the thoughts and intents of our hearts'*** (Heb.4:12) if we do not believe the Word of God is 100% God breathed and accurate. The issue here is Sanctification! How can we be fully surrendered to the sanctifying work of the Spirit within when *that work is done by the word of God* (Jn.17:17) and yet we have diminished that very word in our minds and thus our hearts? Many years ago after much study I settled on one premise - the Bible is fully the *Inspired, Inerrant and Preserved* word of God. That word alone is all sufficient and everything that I need to believe God and to live a spiritual life. *I must receive every word as from Him and not judge it but be judged by it, because that is the very standard by which I will one day be judged!* ***'He that rejects me, and receives not my words, has one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day'*** (Jn.12:48).

Terry Arnold

The Reward

‘The pure motive of any man who serves his generation well is generally misrepresented. As a rule the loungee looks on at the laborer not to praise but to blame him: not to cheer him but to chide him. The less he does, the less he will be open to rebuke, and the more he does oftentimes, and the more vigorously, the more he shall be upbraided.

Look not for your reward here. Suppose men praise you, what is their praise worth? It would not fill your nostrils if you were about to die. The approbation of those who have neither skill nor taste - what pleasure can it afford the artist? Should one stoop for it, or, having it, lift his head the higher? Our reward is the approbation of God, which he will give of his abundant grace. He first gives us good works, as one observes, and then rewards us for those good works, as if they were altogether our own. He gives rewards though they are not a debt, but altogether of grace.

Look for the reward hereafter. Wait a bit, man, wait a bit; your reward is not yet. Wait till the week is over, and then shall come the wage. Wait until the sun is gone down, and then there will be the penny for every laborer in the vineyard. Not yet, not yet, not yet. The husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth. This is what we wait for’.

(From a sermon by Charles Haddon Spurgeon entitled ‘A Visit to the Harvest’)

Your Comments and Questions

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

It appears to me that this year [your newsletter] has been centred on the Calvinism/Arminian debate. Time for a change of direction, perhaps? Time to get off Dave Hunt’s back? Sure, he’s not perfect. Are you? This Calvinism vs Arminianism ‘debate’ is a man-made, almost devilish, a distraction from the real and urgent issues which face the Church, in the last of the last days. I would much prefer writing on the need for more labourers to be thrust out into the harvest...It matters not one iota, to me, who is right or wrong in the Calvinism/Arminianism arena. The LORD saved me in His wondrous grace and that’s it! I care not whether it was by Calvinism or Arminianism. Knowing but a little of John Calvin, I am happy to remain aloof from his team and thinking...Your new book is said to have a ‘fair’ outlook on the Calvinism/Arminianism subject. How can that be possible?

(Name withheld by request)

Editor’s reply: I admit that this has been a much written about topic of late. However, this is currently a HUGE topic in the U.S. and Australia. There are *many* who have written to me with questions and arguments from both sides. Our ministry is to *deal with the issues that are raised* and what many are struggling with at the time. I have tried to reflect this in the newsletter by clarifying issues as well as exposing the horrible lack of

integrity and scholarship that is out there on this issue. There are too many people being deceived by various writings, particularly in the last decade.

Yes, it is time to *'get off Dave's back'* considering I have exposed him more fully in my book. He is *'not perfect'* as you say and neither am I. But I would add that I would never want to be seen writing the blatant mistruths and misquotes that Hunt and others have written! And if I did misquote I would want to retract it *immediately!* The issue is not which of us is *'perfect'* or not, but one of Christian integrity and sound doctrine. I also do not believe that dead men, especially one as great as Spurgeon, should be misquoted and maligned as Hunt and others have done! This is something new in Christian literature that I have never seen before.

The debate between Calvinism and Arminianism is about *GRACE* and *how a man is made right with God*. Much of it may be *'devilish'* as you say, but it is one we had better enter into being Biblically based. You say *'I would much prefer writing on the need for more labourers to be thrust out into the harvest.'* But do you want those labourers to be rightly informed about the doctrines of *GRACE*? Did not Spurgeon labour diligently in this area? - He got into far more serious debate than I have, as did Whitefield and Edwards. Do you want labourers to go into the field using heretical Arminian theology and thereby increase the already serious problem of an 85-95% rate of declension found amongst today's 'converts'? The debate is very much about this! It *does matter* a whole lot *'who is right or wrong in this debate..'* It's about salvation! It's about Grace. It's about the very essence of what an evangelist must know about the doctrine of salvation which undergirds the Gospel! It does not get much more serious than this?

I also know little about John Calvin and have purposed it that way. He is not the founder of 'Calvinism', a term sadly and wrongly attached to him. My book explains this carefully using history and doctrine. I also do not agree with everything Calvin wrote on this topic.

The Biblical doctrines of the sovereignty of God in the salvation of mankind (under which *all* the great revivals have occurred) are now largely lost to history. For the last century the Church has been invaded by millions who have *'made decisions for Christ'* under Arminian preaching. For a large majority, it becomes palpably obvious that God has not *'decided'* for them? In an effort to avoid this occurring I have recently concentrated on these doctrines in several issues. Many will be shocked to discover they are not in Heaven when they were promised they would be by an Arminian preacher?

My new book is *'fair'*. It puts forward an unbiased account of church history and tests everything through the sieve of scripture. Those who have read it so far have testified to that. If you doubt whether this is *'possible'* as you say, then how can you judge when you have not read the book? After reading it I think you will probably re-consider things you have said here? For your information we have left the 'Calvinism/Arminianism' issue behind as you will see in the articles in this edition.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Terry, Thank you for your past persistence in debating with me on the issue of Calvinism/Arminianism, for your insistence on the authority and consistency of the Word, and for your clarity of presentation in your arguments. My correspondence with you in this area stopped because I eventually realized that you were right, and the more I read in the Word, the more firmly I am convinced, building on the foundation you have laid. It has become clear enough for me to take a strong stand on it in the Bible studies that I lead in our church home group. Thank you also for continuing to make it clear in 'Diakrisis', every issue of which I read avidly. It is a valuable resource and a continuing support of right doctrine. May God bless you, your family, and your ministry...

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Editor's comment: We have recently published a booklet '*Debates on the Doctrines of Grace*' which features transcripts of e-mail debates between the author and various people. Two of these were won over to the Biblical view of these doctrines. Copies of this are available (\$1.90 + postage)

Dear Terry, I was thrilled to see your new book is addressing the dreaded topic of Calvinism and Arminianism. Our Church teaches against 'Calvinism' yet they showed a DVD on Spurgeon which mentioned his 'Calvinistic' theology?

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Editor's comment: This common contradiction is something that seems to escape the attention of many. The very arguments which are today put against so called 'Calvinism' were refuted by Spurgeon *but against hyper-Calvinism*. The 'Calvinism' exposed by many today is mostly hyper-Calvinism but *wrongly called and classified as 'Calvinism'*. I address this in the book and with many quotes by Spurgeon.

Hi Terry, I have found your new book ['Calvinism/Arminianism'] excellent. It's a blessing and I read it with relish. I have no option but to accept the contents as it merely quotes what the Bible quotes. In my own case, I thought I chose God, but in fact I wasn't even thinking of much else other than what sin I was about to commit next...I was not thinking of salvation, neither did I know what that was. I had never heard of John 3:16; 3:36 or 5:24...So I have to say that it was all of God and nothing of me. I do not understand how anybody could deny the plain words of God 'There is none that seeks after God'...I also wholeheartedly stand with Spurgeon on His view of 'Calvinism'. I really like this book and hope it helps a lot of God's people...I remember once when you debated me and urged me to read Eph. Ch.1 over and over, and that did it for me...

(J.H. Qld)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Hi Terry, Excellent job on latest newsletter. Regarding the 'free will' issue - I am often amazed how people's practices contradict beliefs. All 'free willers' I know diligently pray to God for the lost asking Him to 'change' or 'soften' their hearts so they might come to repentance and faith in Christ. But if in salvation we make the choice rather than God, then all our efforts in evangelism should go into manipulating the 'free will' of sinners so they can 'choose' Christ, rather than praying for God to intervene in their hearts and minds.

(L.T. Vict)

Terry, just finished reading your book 'Foundations For Evangelism'. To new believers, put it on your 'must read' list. To believers of some years, put it on your 'must read' list. To mature believers, put it on your 'must read' list. It was very clear and solidified things needful. Praise God for His timing. After reading your book, I had opportunity to share the gospel with two young people from work and about 15 people from my craft group - many non-Christians...We need to be faithful in preaching the word. In Acts 15:35 Paul and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord...entrusting the outcome to God because He gives the increase. 1Cor.3:6 'I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase'. 1Cor.3:7 'So then neither is he that plants any thing, neither he that waters; but God that gives the increase'...

(K.L., Brisbane)

From a missionary in Africa: *'This evening...we were looking at the doctrine of man and sin...I was exhorting on the natural rebellion of man manifested in His innate hostility to the Law of God...when the Lord was pleased to send his Spirit amongst us in a way I could not imagine...there was a definable moment...with a very unusual atmosphere. Some wept as we saw the true state of man without God, how low our view of sin has sunk and how the corresponding presentation of the Gospel aims too low, and many we have comforted as saved who perhaps have never come to grips with the rigorous demands of the Law and our natural hopelessness in the face of total depravity and total inability.*

A woman especially, who has been a pastor and struggling with what Paul teaches on male leadership seemed to throw in the towel in tears and said to the whole class that she now sees her obstinacy, in the face of rather clear texts, springs from the fact that in her there is a natural rebellion towards the law of God - it is the basic instinct of man in his fallen nature...What protracted theological arguments cannot achieve, He will in a flash of revelatory encounter make real what has hitherto been mere theological opinions...

Your Comments and Questions

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

Terry, in the Tongan tsunami...those who experienced the waves coming mentioned the sound as 'roaring'. In Luke 21:25 the sea and waves 'roar' prior to the second coming. Could this 'roar' point to the tsunamis in the last days?

(G.C., Cook Islands)

Editor's reply: The word '*roaring*' is the Greek '*echouse*'. We get '*echo*' from this. It literally means to sound or '*resound*'. The same word is used in 1Cor.13:1 - as '*sounding*'. In Lk.21 the Greek word for '*waves*' is '*sálos*' meaning a literal rocking or motion to and fro. But the word is translated '*waves*' with the context of the '*sea*'. The word '*perplexity*' (KJV) refers to an '*uncertainty*'. The whole context is to do with waves and the sea. Because it is in the end times, the idea of tidal waves, storms and uncertain events at sea is I believe a fair comment.

The waves and the sea '*roaring*' are also mentioned in Is.5:30; Ps.46:3.

Dear Terry, Thankyou for the information presented in the 'Diakrisis' magazines. It is most rewarding and uplifting to one who has been deceived by the fraudulent gospels of this day and age...Thanks...

(L.H., Sth.A.)

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 edition 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 kept in 2 big folders, all in date order...They are an excellent source of reference material...Thanks again for everything.

(K.L., Brisbane)

Terry, we support your wonderful ministry, the travelling ministry and the 'Diakrisis' newsletter. Reading the newsletter is such a blessing every time. Please keep them coming. They are a real treasure from Heaven. And your recorded sermons - I listen to them over and over in my car as I drive to work every day. May the Lord continually bless you in all your hard work for Him.

(T.G., NSW)

Dear Terry and team, Thankyou for all your hard work to help me have greater understanding of the Lord's Word, which is the only thing I am able to believe. May the Lord grant you the wisdom, courage, good health and strength to continue in His work

(F.S., Vict)

Terry's Itinerary

Nov.10th (Sat) 7am Highfields Baptist Family Breakfast, **Toowoomba** Ph. (07)46987907

Nov.10th (Sat) Harristown Assembly, **Toowoomba** Ph.46309991 or 46966020 4-5pm '*Tongues*'; 5-6pm tea break; 6-7pm *Terry's Testimony 'From Pentecost/Charismatism'*

Nov.11th (Sun) 9.30am Harristown Assembly (contact as above) '*What is the Baptism/Filling with the Spirit?*'

Nov.11th (Sun); 6pm Harristown Assembly '*Hells Best Kept Secret*'

Interstate Itinerary 2013

God willing, Terry and Beth will be travelling through 4 states between February to May 2013. A full itinerary will be published next (Feb/March) newsletter. To be added to this itinerary, please contact Terry: taministries@bigpond.com or ring 0411489472. There is a wide range of sermons and seminars now available which can be sent to those interested.

Tentative Schedule (full details next newsletter)

Queensland - February

NSW - March/April

Victoria - April

Tasmania - April/May

Sth. Aust. - May

NSW - May

**** New Courses at Pacific Bible Institute ****

Certificate/Diploma by correspondence

We can now offer a *Certificate* of Biblical studies and *Diploma* of Biblical studies *by correspondence*. The Certificate course has 8 subjects: *Bible Introduction; Bible Study Methods; Intro to Bible Doctrine; Spiritual Life; Evangelism; OT Survey; NT Survey; and Church History*. The package includes lecture CD's, Powerpoint notes, etc. The costs are approximately \$35 per subject.

The **Diploma course** is the above subjects with 8 extra subjects (16 in total). More details can be sent on enquiry. A **Bachelors** course is also being planned.

New Masters Degree

This is a unique way to gain a higher degree! Successful applicants will train and study for two weeks each year in August/September in Hervey Bay, Qld, and then by correspondence finish assignments at home. The Masters (U.S. accredited) course is 4 years in duration. The lecturers will include doctors specially chosen from the USA who will lecture for two weeks each year. Accommodation and food are provided. The costs include text books, food, accommodation and administration costs only. This is a unique way pastors and Christians can obtain a degree at cost only and still work in their jobs and ministries. A maximum of 20 students is expected. If you are interested contact Terry: taministries@bigpond.com or Phone 0411489472

Your Comments and Questions

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

Greetings Terry, there is much I would like to say in praise of your newsletters... (the work you do). But all I need to day is THANKYOU to all involved in the ministry...from a dedicated reader...

(J.G., Vict.)

Prayer/Praise Points

- Praise the Lord for more bookshops selling Terry's books. *Koorong* bookshops, *Reformers bookshop* (Stanmore, Sydney) and *Grace To You* (New Zealand) are now selling our books. We are hoping for future distributors in the USA.

- Please pray as we are hoping to introduce new courses into the Bible College (*Pacific Bible Institute*) in 2013. There are still some details to be finalised. Please pray that we have open doors to proceed.

- Please pray as we prepare Terry's itinerary for Feb-May 2013. Pray that churches will choose topics that will equip their flocks.

- At the end of each year the ministry bus needs to be serviced, maintained and ready for the next year's trips. Pray as we look to the Lord for funds to have the bus ready to travel in 2013.

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