

Your Comments and Questions

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

New Courses at Pacific Bible Institute 2013

Certificate/Diploma by correspondence:

We can now offer a *Certificate* of Biblical studies and *Diploma* of Biblical studies *by correspondence*.

Masters Degree Course:

A new correspondence type course is planned (two weeks lectures in Hervey Bay, Qld. each year). A free information pack can be sent on request.

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If you presently receive the newsletter by mail and have e-mail, you might consider receiving the newsletter by e-mail? This will assist us in distribution and alleviate costs. The e-mail version arrives earlier, has graphics and can be printed in colour or black and white. (A booklet version is also available).

Prayer/Praise Points

- Pray for the heavy itinerary Terry and Beth will undertake through two states between February and May. Pray for health, safe travel and Spirit led meetings.
- Pray for the *Pacific Bible Institute*. Pray for students to come and for lasting fruit from the study and training. Pray for enough students to commence the new Masters programme.
- Praise the Lord for the support of many in 2012 which met all the needs of the ministry.

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I am interested in receiving the *free* monthly
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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)

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

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

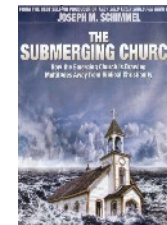
We welcome comments and items contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

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

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

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New DVD

Now in stock: '*The Submerging Church*' by Joseph Schimmel ('Good fight ministries', USA). This is a set of 2 DVD's, the first being over 2 hrs. of clear analysis and exposure of the *Emergent church* movement (history, teachings, connections with 'Purpose Driven' movement and New Age). Is the Emergent Jesus 'another Jesus'? What is the Emergent 'gospel'? (Second DVD is about 'Bono'). \$25.50 + \$4 postage.

Editor's Comment

In the last few years I have been perusing mission publications, tracts and other evangelistic magazines with one purpose - to see what they present as the 'Gospel'. I have been increasingly dismayed at what I have read. Some I have written to and challenged the authors to re-look at their Gospel statements. I have been surprised at some of the excuses made. Many cases could be cited but the most recent will serve as an example of what I believe is now a most serious problem. (I am not naming the publication, as dialogue is continuing and they have agreed to read and consider material sent)...

An Australian missionary organisation that trains and sends missionaries has this at the beginning of their publication under the following headings:

'Our message': *'That Christ alone is the hope of nations. That God in Christ, reconciles the world to himself. That salvation is found in no one else but Jesus. That God's immeasurable love for people everywhere meant that he gave his one and only son in death so that people might live. That there is no other name under heaven by which people must be saved. That Jesus Christ took on human flesh in order to save human beings'.*

'The Gospel': *'The best news and the most important news any human being can ever hear. It is not the religious artifact of the west, the east, the north or the south. The Gospel is good news of Jesus Christ that God addresses to the entire human race. It sets forth Jesus Christ as the Saviour, Master, Life and Hope of all who put their trust in Him. Eternal destinies hinge on whether or not people hear this gospel and what they do with what they hear'.*

At first glance the above might sound reasonable? But let's remember that it is the 'GOSPEL' being described here. Let's look at what is *missing* (my comments in **bold** and brackets) and then the mission director's reply.

'Our message': *That Christ alone is the hope of nations. That God in Christ, reconciles the world to himself. [This is from 2Cor.5:19 which also continues: '...not imputing their trespasses unto them...'] That salvation is found in no one else but Jesus. That God's immeasurable love for people everywhere meant that he gave his one and only son in death so that people might live. [But what was the reason? What was the 'death' for? As a religious (unsaved) person I once believed this and thought it quite 'noble'!] That there is no other name under heaven by which people must be saved. [Saved from WHAT?] That Jesus Christ took on human flesh in order to save human beings. [From what? Many today think they are doing OK and don't need 'jesus'; or they will 'tack' Him onto other 'gods' in their life?]*

'The Gospel': *The best news and the most important news any human being can ever hear. It is not the religious artifact of the west, the east, the north or the south. The Gospel is good news of Jesus Christ that God addresses to the entire human race. It sets forth Jesus Christ as the Saviour, Master, Life and*

Terry's Itinerary

Jan.13th, 20th, 27th (Sundays) 9.30am & 6.30pm Hervey Bay Bible Church, Qld. Ph.0411489472

Feb.3th (Sun) 10.45am Biggenden Gospel Chapel, Qld. Ph. 0408074743

Terry's Interstate Itinerary (updated next newsletter)

NSW - north

Feb.16th (Sat) 6pm Sovereign Church, Lake Macquarie (meeting at Honour Church, Ruins Way, Port Macquarie) Ph.0427227973

Feb.17th (Sun) 10am Bethshan Community Church, Wyee Ph.(02)43571378

Feb.17th (Sun) 6pm Bethshan Community Church, Wyee

Sydney

Feb.21st (Thurs) 7.30pm Yagoona Christian Assembly Ph.(02)88077725

Feb.23rd (Sat) 7pm Church for Everybody (at North Parramatta Gospel Chapel 27 Iron St. North Parramatta) Ph.95534818

Feb.24th (Sun) 11.30am Wentworthville Arabic Baptist Ph.0412767250

Feb.28th (Thurs) 7.30pm Yagoona Christian Assembly Ph.(02)88077725

March 3rd (Sun) 10am Georges River Congregational, Panania, Ph.0408407184

March 3rd (Sun) 6pm Fellowship Baptist church, Moorebank Ph.(02)98213200

March 7th (Thurs) 7.30pm Yagoona Christian Assembly Ph.(02)88077725

March 9th (Sat) 7pm Church for Everybody (at North Parramatta Gospel Chapel 27 Iron St. North Parramatta) Ph.95534818

March 10th (Sun) 10.30am Ryde Congregational Ph.(02)98691453

March 10th (Sun) 1.30pm Ryde Congregational Ph.(02)98691453

March 14th (Thurs) 7.30pm Yagoona Christian Assembly Ph.(02)88077725

March 17th (Sun) 10am Church for Everybody (at West Marrickville Public School Cnr Livingstone Rd and Beauchamp St.) Ph.95534818

March 21st (Thurs) 7.30pm Yagoona Christian Assembly Ph.(02)88077725

NSW - south

March 24th 10am Picton Bible Church (02)46810227

March 31st (Sun) 10am Shellharbour Christian Fellowship (at Barrack Heights School Hall) Ph.0419510863

March 31st (Sun) 6pm Shellharbour Christian Fellowship Ph.0419510863

April 4th (Thurs) 7.30pm Cootamundra Bible Fellowship (at Bimberdeen college)

April 7th (Sun) 10am Cootamundra Bible Fellowship Ph.0407255180

April 7th (Sun) pm Cootamundra Bible Fellowship

April 11th (Thurs) 7.30pm Cootamundra Bible Fellowship (at Bimberdeen college)

Vict

April 14th (Sun) 11am & 7.30pm Numurkah Gospel Fellowship (03)58622341

April 21st (Sun) Golden City Baptist 9.30am (Adult Sunday school) & 11am service & 6pm Ph.54496018

April 28th (Sun) Open Door Baptist, Melton 10am (Adult Sunday school) & 11am service Ph.0414635983

May 5th (Sun) 10am & 6pm East Keilor Evangelical church Ph.93315821

Website Comments:

Hi Terry, I've been through your website and want to thank you for taking the time to write and post all the articles. It is refreshing to have such resources at my fingertips. Having family into the Word Faith movement and all things 'sensational', the combat on this front is wicked. With love and prayer I encourage them to reason while looking at scripture and ask the Lord to open their eyes. Obviously, only He can make them aware of their error but having tools and resources available when the time presents itself is heartwarming. Many believers are so gullible with the propensity for the experiential rather than the logical...I have a long history of exposure to false teachings, outright heresies, merged with mystical practices. I now ask Him for wisdom, understanding and discernment. Praise His Holy name...I simply wanted to say it is refreshing that others understand about false teachings. I often feel I'm a lone voice in the wilderness.

I'm convinced the turn of the 20th century was not a 'revival' of any kind but the beginnings of the great apostasy...and our current times are proof positive of such. Parham, Wigglesworth, amongst others...then came along Cayce with his 'readings'...Hagin...with some other so called 'healers' along the way. Then we enter post WWII and we get Oral Roberts...fast forward a bit to the 70's with the Jim and Tammy, Pat Robertson...then we get Benny Hinn, Copeland...the list is exhaustive. In today's present era, the so called 'faith healers' are more blatant, more bold and speak blasphemes directly...nothing subtle about their speech or their actions. My heart is heavy seeing such 'in God's face' antics. These men will stand before the Lord and Jesus will say, 'Depart from me you evil doers, I never knew you'.

I applaud you Terry for speaking the truth. My prayers are with you as a fellow 'defender'...My prayers are with you as you continue to do the Lord's work. I wanted to let you know how much it is appreciated and encourage you to keep going. Your work is making a difference and certainly has lifted my heart! May Jesus bless you...

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Dear sir, Hell is a Christian Hoax in the church out of the dark ages...

(Pastor J.M.)

Editor's Reply: If Hell is a 'hoax' then God is a liar, the Bible is not inspired and you would need to cut the following out of your Bible: Hell is a place mentioned no less than 20 times in the NT (eg. Mk.9:45,48; Rev.20:14). Hell is called a place of 'torment' (Matt.8:12; 22:13; 25:30; Lk.16:28). It has a reason for existing (Is.66:24; Matt.25:41; Mk.9:44,46,48). And Hell is 'eternal' (Matt.25:46)...You may end up with a useless Bible full of 'holes'?

Hope of all who put their trust in Him. [Saviour from what? Why do I need a 'Master, life and hope'?] Eternal destinies hinge on whether or not people hear this gospel and what they do with what they hear. [But this 'gospel' is missing the very reason why we need Jesus? Religious people will accept this!]

I wrote to the magazine mission director: 'There is simply no mention in either paragraph of what we are saved from and there is no mention of sin. How can one know to be saved if they do not know what they need saving from? The two paragraphs tell the reader what to be saved to quite well. But if I was an unsaved person, I might make a commitment to this but still not know what I am really saved from! When I was once a religious person I well accepted these sort of presentations and yet I was not Born Again then...I pray you will consider my plea here to better and more accurately present the Gospel?'

The reply was as follows: '...The purpose of our magazine is not to present the gospel but to encourage God's people to engage fully in the work of the gospel among unreached peoples of the world. So, our brief comments to which you refer below, are not intended to spell out the gospel in detail, but to encourage more people to participate in God's redemptive plan. Our magazine is not an evangelistic tool'.

I wrote again and stated: '...I don't see why if you have a heading 'Gospel' that it cannot be better presented? Who knows who will read this? What if I read it when I was a religious person? I see no reason why the heart of the gospel would not be there? (It is only a matter of one or two extra lines?)'

The reply was short: 'Thanks brother, point well made. I appreciate your concern and commitment to the things of God!'

Whenever we print the word 'Gospel' surely we must be committed to getting it right! This is one area where we should leave no stone unturned in preciseness and in striving for perfection! The Gospel is in danger of being lost. I am openly pleading for mission organisations and elders/Pastors to re-teach the Gospel and the doctrines that undergird it. Although the Gospel must be stated simply and clearly and without unnecessary 'theology', yet we must understand the doctrines which give the words meaning, understanding and life. Then might we well state the Gospel with accuracy and also be aware of the things that *cannot* be excluded. The Gospel is 'good news', but only because of bad news! It is **man's sin** and his filthy rags under the judgement of God that ever made a necessity for the good news of Jesus Christ. That good news is that there is a **substitute** who came with a **substitutionary sacrifice** and through His shed blood to redeem helpless man if he will understand he is a sinner and **believe** Jesus has paid the perfect price that God demands. Jesus' **death, burial and resurrection** are all part of that salvation plan which God has deemed all sufficient to rescue man from his sin.

Bring the Gospel back!

Terry Arnold

The Deception of ‘The Other Side of Heaven’

Recently my wife and I had time away and a break from ministry. While relaxing one night we watched a DVD we had found in our church library. It was titled ‘The Other Side of Heaven’. The cover said nothing about any church or organisation and was supposedly just a true story about a ‘missionary’ who went to the Tongan islands. I was expecting something interesting and was captivated by the pictures on the cover of a sea story and shipwreck.

Within the first few minutes the story mentioned things that seemed odd to me, one of them being the missionary, John Groberg, training in the American Brigham Young University. As the movie progressed I realised this was a story of a Mormon missionary. I could have switched it off, but knowing I had been deceived by the cover and the promo, I wanted to see enough that I could write about this. The movie was clever propaganda. It promoted the purity of motives of the Mormon missionary. (He once resists attempts to lie with a beautiful woman who is later converted). The movie did not blatantly promote Mormonism and even deceptively had the missionary reading and using a Bible instead of their first book, ‘The Book of Mormon’ (Mormonism teaches that the Bible is unreliable). As the movie progressed, the missionary tells a dying man to go to the ‘light’ - this sounded more occult than Christian. In another scene the missionary raises a dead boy after 24 hours of prayer and reciting a strange mantra ‘good air in, bad air out’. The boy revives and many locals believe the Mormon faith. (The Mormon faith claims many miracles and healings).

The gospel promoted in the film was a subtle mix of morals and works. There was already a Protestant missionary on the island who warns the people not to follow this ‘false gospel’. But the people see the missionary’s ‘good’ life of ‘holiness’ and think therefore that his gospel must be true. In the end he appears to even win the respect of the Protestant missionary.

Satan, as ‘an angel of light’ (2Cor.11:4) is skilled at lying and deceit. The founder of Mormonism, Joseph Smith, had an encounter with a divine ‘light’ which fell on his head and seized his tongue. Two beings spoke and told him to teach another ‘restored’ gospel of Jesus and that all other religions were wrong. Christian friends warned Smith that this was a counterfeit vision. This ‘restored gospel’ in the ‘inspired’ Book of Mormon was supposedly translated by Joseph Smith from ‘golden plates’ hidden by an angel. (Yet this book has chronological, geographical and theological contradictions and errors - see our booklet ‘Errors of Mormonism’ which also details Joseph Smith’s false prophecies).

The Mormon ‘Jesus’ is a created being; was born in Jerusalem (not Bethlehem); had to be exalted to Godhood; was conceived by sex between Mary and God the Father (who lives on a planet called Kolob); is the spirit brother of Satan; and was a polygamist. Together with Joseph Smith this ‘Jesus’ supposedly can ‘save’ us.

All this is hidden in the appealing beauty of the trials of a young ‘missionary’ to Tonga!

Terry Arnold

Your Comments and Questions

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An Amazing ‘Door’

[From an African evangelical Pastor] ...An interdenominational conference had been organized in town and the guest preacher was a ‘Miracle worker’ from Tanzania. The man called at the last minute to say he could not arrive on time (supposedly held up in a meeting with the Tanzanian President). So, there was no international speaker... [But] a man among the organizers had listened to my preaching on CD and insisted to the organizers that I might stand in...They called me an hour before the start of the meeting...About 800 Pentecostals were seated...At such a short notice I spoke on that universal subject which man at every time and every place needs - YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN. Words would fail to capture the reaction...I am still getting news that many went away remarking how ‘we have never been taught the Gospel at all in our churches’. Yesterday on the Lord’s Day six people turned up in our service saying they followed ‘that Gospel’ which they heard in the first day of the conference. It is these people who told us how the third day experienced not an increase but decrease in numbers, since the people came on the second day expecting to find the same kind of preaching they had heard on the first day, only to be disillusioned with ‘the prosperity and healing Gospel’...another kind of Gospel...

Hi Terry...a lot of people believe in the ‘freedom to choose’ and say they believe only the Bible as the Word of God. I think this ‘freedom to choose’ can lead to the belief that a person can lose their salvation. The two are linked because if you have to do something to be saved, it follows that you can possibly do something to be lost again...

...Many take verses out of context these days...It seems we are on the brink of oblivion. The Watchman is crying out his warning and no person seems to be giving any heed to. Am I alone in this or at best in a small minority?

(J.H., Qld)

Dear Terry, Thanks for your very informative newsletters. It is so good to read sound doctrine and know there are others out there who desire to seek the truth and be discerning. The church scene in Australia seems crazier and less biblical each year...I have many ‘Christian’ acquaintances who love the modern worldly ‘Christian’ music today which gets people into frenzies, similar to the ‘Toronto Blessing’ did. I often wonder why so many highly educated intelligent people seem to leave their brains at the door when going to church. They think using their brains and reading their bibles and checking things out against scripture will somehow quench the spirit? Very Sad!

(K.G., Tas.)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Hi Terry...I appreciated your new book 'Calvinism/Arminianism - Out of the Maze'. Your explanations on hyper/Calvinism in the Appendix will be very helpful especially on the lack of the free offer of the Gospel in that system...and the battles Spurgeon had with Hyper-Calvinists. Anyone with an honest heart and a humble spirit could conceivably arrive at the Doctrines of Grace, but we are all 'Arminians' by nature when we are first saved. ..thank you again for your great contribution to the body of Christ. I hope the Lord uses this book to deliver people from the extremes of both camps of Arminianism and Hyper-Calvinism...

(B.S., NSW)

A Demon as 'jesus'?

Dear Terry...Do you think a demon could appear to a woman in a vision disguised as the Lord Jesus? In a book 'A Divine Revelation of Hell' a woman had a vision and went into Hell with the Lord Jesus. He showed her awful sights and told why they were there...In one part of Hell there was a preacher who had taught that the 'Baptism with the Spirit' was not of God and he was tormented day and night. Some of the things were so horribly gruesome that it is my opinion that no human being could think these things up in their imagination...

(J.S., Qld)

Editor's reply: It is possible for a demon to manifest themselves as 'jesus' or anyone else, considering Satan 'transforms himself as an angle of light' (2Cor.11:14). Many believe that the spirit that appeared to Saul at the hands of the spiritist at Endoe was a demon masquerading as Samuel.

We mentioned this book 'A Divine Revelation of Hell' by Mary Baxter in 'Diakrisis' (May/June, 2008, P.2). It has several errors in it that flatly contradict the Bible. This is exactly what the devil would want people to believe - a mixture of truth and error, the same as he did in the Garden of Eden. The notion that someone could be shown Hell also contradicts Luke 16:29-31 where the rich man was denied any warning being given to his family on earth. Baxter's visions also take away from the reason why there is a Hell in the first place - because of sin. The demons would not want that to be known. These books are end time deceptions that take people away from the Word of God as it was already delivered complete to the apostles (Jude 3).

Hi Terry, Thank you for this last year for the knowledge and wisdom you've given me. Your newsletters and articles have shown me so much more about the Word of God. I have grown so much and been truly edified by your dedication to study...May the Holy Spirit be with you in the new year as you travel. Thanks...

(M.H., Sth Aust.)



New 'Gay' 'Queen James Bible'

'The Queen James Bible' resolves long-standing interpretative ambiguity in key Bible passages regarding homosexuality, making the world's first 'Gay Bible'...The Queen James Bible is a new Bible that hopes to...arm Gay Christians and their supporters with a Bible of their own. The Queen James Bible addresses those controversial verses by editing them 'very' slightly for interpretative clarity...The Queen James Bible is based on The King James Version...It is the perfect Bible for ceremony, study, sermon, gift giving, or simply to put on display in the home or Church. The Queen James Bible can be purchased at Amazon.com.'

(PRWEB, San Francisco, Dec.12, 2012; Apostasy Alert, 14th Dec. 2012)

Editors Comment: There is NO 'interpretive ambiguity' in verses like Lev.18:22; Rom.1:26,27; 1Cor.6:9,10. 'Editing' such verses to be pro homosexuality will surely bring a severe judgement (Pr.30:5,6; Eph.5:3-7).

Roman Catholic Betrayal - Horrific Figures!



The statistics coming out before the coming Australian enquiry into sex crimes by Roman Catholic priests are nothing short of horrific! (God knows what will come out after the enquiry?). Below are just some figures:

Victoria, Melbourne (1,000,000 Catholics) **24,840 abused** (16,170 boys; 8,670 girls).

ACT/NSW Diocese South Tuggeranong; Parish South Tuggeranong (17,224 Catholics) **425 abused** (273 boys; 152 girls).

New South Wales Diocese Parramatta; Parish Castle Hill (14,183 Catholics) **350 abused** (225 boys; 125 girls).

Sydney Parish Bonnyrigg (15,127 Catholics) **373 abused** (240 boys; 134 girls).

Queensland, Brisbane, Parish Browns Plains (14,501 Catholics) **358 abused** (230 boys; 128 girls).

Queensland, Brisbane, Parish Burleigh Heads (28,061 Catholics) **693 abused** (445 boys; 248 girls).

Queensland, Brisbane, Parish Maroochydore (19,312 Catholics) **477 abused** (306 boys; 171 girls).

Queensland, Diocese Rockhampton; Parish Bundaberg (14,025 Catholics) **346 abused** (222 boys; 124 girls).

South Australia, Adelaide, Parish Salisbury (17,213 Catholics) **425 abused** (273 boys; 152 girls).

In the U.S. and Canada approximately 1.7% of females and 3.3% of males had been sexually abused in childhood by a priest. The suicide rate is also horrifying (20% of victims are at 'high risk').

More figures for various places in Australia are found at:

<http://www.molestedcatholics.com/Estimating-the-numbers.php>

Mormonism as a 'Cult' Removed From Billy Graham Website



An article describing Mormonism as a 'cult' was removed from the *Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's (BGEA)* website following Republican presidential candidate [Mormon] Mitt Romney's visit with Graham.

The article described The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints [Mormons]...as a group that 'teaches doctrines or beliefs that deviate from the biblical message of the Christian faith'...The article was removed sometime after Romney, a Mormon, visited Graham at his Montreat, N.C., home. Ken Barun, chief of staff for BGEA, said...*'Our primary focus at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has always been promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We removed the information from the website because we do not wish to participate in a theological debate about something that has become politicised during this campaign'...*

...The 93-year-old Graham said he was honoured to have met the candidate, with whom he had the opportunity to pray. *'What impresses me even more than Gov. Romney's successful career are his values and strong moral convictions'*, said Graham...

Franklin Graham, Billy Graham's son and the president and CEO of the BGEA, told The Christian Broadcasting Network in December 2011 that Romney's Mormon faith *'doesn't bother me at all'*...He was also asked in an interview with MSNBC in February if he considers Romney a Christian. *'Most Christians would not recognise Mormonism as part of the Christian faith...Now, of course they believe in Jesus Christ, but they have a lot of other things that they believe in too that we don't accept theologically'* he said.

(Excerpted from Jeff Schapiro, *Christian Post* Oct.16, 2012; *Apostasy Alert*, 20th Oct.)

Editors Comment: Ecumenism is laced with so called 'non confrontation' in doctrine and the Gospel. *'Theological debate'* is frowned upon. BGEA *'promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ'* is admirable, but warning people of cults is also a command in the word of God! And if the focus of BGEA is *'promoting the gospel'* only, then why mention Mormonism on the website in the first place and why remove it because of a visit by any Mormon? Is it OK for them to read it but if they visit in person we 'remove' it? Is there not hypocrisy in this? How can it be that we can confess something true about Mormonism in a website and then remove it when a Mormon comes to 'visit'? Jesus spoke of those not willing to profess openly *'because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God'* (Jn.12:42,43).

Mormons do often have *'values and strong moral convictions'*, but does that get one into the kingdom of Heaven? And why does it not 'bother' the BGEA that anyone is a Mormon? Does it not bother us if anyone is unsaved? The ecumenical movement is full of hypocrisies which dilute the Gospel.

Your Comments and Questions

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Hello Terry, I am really enjoying reading 'Calvinism & Arminianism - out of the Maze' - the history most of which was unknown to me. Most Christians would not be conversant with this information. Many display Arminian traits when quoting 2Peter 3:9...I downloaded the NT Commentary by Wiersbie. concerning 2Pet.3:9 - it says: 'If God is long-suffering toward lost sinners, why did Peter write, 'The Lord...is long-suffering to us-ward'? Who is meant by 'us-ward'? It would appear that God is long-suffering to His own people! Perhaps Peter was using the word 'us' in a general way, meaning 'mankind'. But it is more likely that he was referring to his readers as the elect of God (1Pet.1:2; 2Pet.1:10). God is long-suffering toward lost sinners because some of them will believe and become a part of God's elect people. We do not know who God's elect are among the unsaved people of the world, nor are we supposed to know. Our task is to make our own 'calling and election sure' (2Pet.1:10; cf. Lk.13:23-30). The fact that God has His elect people is an encouragement to us to share the Good News and seek to win others to Christ'. [Wiersbie]

What your book does to me is to make me extremely thankful that God in His grace has chosen me in Christ before the foundation of the world, that He has predestinated me. I feel no pride in any way whatsoever that I chose Christ. I am persuaded that none seeks after God by one's will and power. I just wish that all believers accepted there is nothing in them to choose God but that the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts convicting them of sin and showed them the need of the Savior and as the Jews said of the Gentiles, that He had also 'granted repentance' unto them...

(G.J., Qld)

Editor's comment: I have done a full exegesis of 2Pet.3:9 in the book mentioned. This exegesis can also be sent free by pdf or hardcopy.

From a Bible Teacher in Africa: *...The class discussing Soteriology have been much challenged by the exposition of the Golden Chain (Rom.8:29,30). ...there was real perceptible struggle and a wrestling apparent...It was Okay when we took two days discussing FOREKNOWLEDGE but the matter has been different when we came to PREDESTINATION AND ELECTION. I think people are simply ill disposed to grant God his inherent right as a 'Potter' to make of each vessel whatsoever He will. There is an innate rebellion inside man and a very natural enmity to the absolute sovereignty of God in election...We have been humbled as we came face to face with the multitude of texts which scream these doctrines...the strongholds of traditions quickly crumble at the invasion of divine truth...*

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Terry...I don't see the need to explain predestination, the calling and electing for... 'the lord is not slack...' [2Pet.3:9]...All are to have a proper chance to believe on Him and accept Him... 'He that believes not is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten son of God'...This shows God's mind, desire and will. All have a choice, a decision to make...

(F.W.J., NSW)

Editor's Comment: The 'predestination, calling and electing' are taught and 'explained' in scripture.

The scripture (2Peter 3:9) 'The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance' - this is referring specifically to the 'beloved', the 'USward'. The whole passage is directly addressed to the saints as 'beloved' beginning at vs.1 and it continues to refer to the 'beloved', 'you' - the 'usward' throughout the entire passage.

If all have the 'proper chance' or the same 'choice' to make a 'decision' then what of the Amazonian Indians who for thousands of years never heard of the Gospel or Jesus Christ? (Why does Romans Chapters 1-3 leave all without any excuse). 'He that believes not is condemned already' is true, not because any have had a 'chance' to make a 'decision', but because all were already condemned for their sin.

Dear Terry, I have read and carefully re-read your book 'Calvinism and Arminianism' and consider it to be quite outstanding. I find it hard to believe that any honest inquirer approaching it in a careful and prayerful manner with the Bible at hand could fail to be impressed. The case seems so convincing, not because of your balanced and careful presentation (although I think that is first class) but because of the sheer weight of clear biblical evidence...Warmest Christian greetings...

(M.G., New Zealand)

Terry, I have given away 2 copies of your latest 'Calvinism & Arminianism' to people who love it...I loved the History of it all - very revealing!

(M.H. Sth Aust.)

Terry, your new book 'Calvinism and Arminianism - Out of the Maze' is one of, if not the best book, by a Christian author I have ever read...

(G.O. Qld.)

What Is The Correct Name For 'Jesus'?

The Issue

From time to time I hear and read of preachers and writers admonishing their listeners to have the 'correct' name of our Lord and Saviour. There is wrangling over what words we should use for the name of the one who died on a cross and bore our sins. In some circles there has been an increasing emphasis when writing the name of Jesus or God to use Hebrew forms of God's name such as Yeshua or Yashua, YHWH, etc.

The English speaking world calls Him 'Jesus', an Anglicization of the Greek 'Ἰησοῦς' (pronounced 'yesous'), itself believed to be a transliteration of the Hebrew Yeshu'a, meaning 'YHWH is salvation'. Ἰησοῦς means Saviour (Matt.1:1,16,21). He is commonly referred to as Jesus Christ, where 'Christ' is a title derived from the Greek Χριστός, (pronounced 'Christos') meaning 'Anointed One', which corresponds to the Hebrew-derived 'Messiah'. Thus some prefer the title 'Jeshua Ha Maschiach'.

The Root

Confused? That's what many have become, due to those who could well be called 'judaisers' who wrangle over what name we should be using. Recent Judaistic movements, including what some refer to as the 'Hebrew Roots Movement', rely heavily on finding Jewish meanings and equivalents.

The warning signs of these extremes are often evident when people become very interested in Old Testament feast days and keeping and practising them; obsessive interest in Jewish ways, customs and lifestyles; and studying and reading from Jewish Bibles with Hebrew names inserted. These preferences may not be error in and of themselves (and we are not expressing any form of anti-Semitism here), but it is the obsessiveness with which it is often held that can destroy the unity of a local body of believers.

In some publications and Bibles, Hebrew titles for God are now inserted into the New Testament text. Instead of Jesus, the 'original Hebrew name' of 'Y'shua' is used. At the root of this error is the denial of this fact: God inspired the writers to put the New Testament Scriptures down in *Koine Greek*. It is these original *Greek* manuscripts which are *inspired* and *inerrant*.

The Greek for Jesus is Ἰησοῦς (pronounced Yesous). Although it is said that Ἰησοῦς is a transliteration of the Hebrew Y'shua, nevertheless God *ordained* it to be written as the *Greek* Ἰησοῦς! That word was translated into English Bibles as 'Jesus'. Who will dare say that the original Greek is in error when 'holy men of God were moved by the Holy Ghost' to pen the words (2Pet.1:21)? Does not the Lord know who we are talking about when we say '*Jesus*'? Why the necessity for a Hebrew name when the inspired and infallible New Testament was written in Greek and that Greek has 'Ἰησοῦς', translated into almost all Bibles as 'Jesus'? Did God *fail* to preserve His name in the copies and early translations?

Many scholars and language experts believe that Jesus and the apostles probably spoke Aramaic in every day language, but all spoke and wrote in Koine Greek, the ‘common’ (‘koine’) language of the day. It was this Greek language that God ordained to have the New Testament Word of God written in. So, why confuse people with ‘Yeshua’ or other Hebrew names when everyone knows Him as ‘Jesus’? And why don’t we be more ‘accurate’ and use **Ἰησοῦς** and pronounce it correctly as ‘yesous’? Do we need to have classes to teach people how to pronounce this? I am confident that whatever name I use the Lord knows the thoughts before they come off my tongue (Ps.139:4,23). He also knows which ‘**Ἰησοῦς**’ I speak of by doctrine. The **Ἰησοῦς** or ‘Jesus’ I speak of is the one born in Bethlehem, who claimed to be the creator of the Heavens and the earth, the only begotten son of God who died on a cross at Calvary to atone for men’s sins and to receive those who would believe in Him.

This scramble to find the Lord’s correct name has led to a labyrinth of opinions and pronunciations, but at the root of it is Judaism and Gnosticism! The Devil loves to drive people to extremes! Whether we call him Jesus or some other Hebrew name, we know, and He knows, just who we refer to!

For centuries the English speaking Church has used the term ‘The Lord Jesus Christ’ and translated that into numerous languages around the world. The name of any person will vary depending on where the person is born. A person called ‘Michael’ in England could be Mike, (North America), Michel (France), Mihael (Ireland) or Mikhail (USSR)...but it is still the *same person* being referred to.

People who would get hung up on Hebrew names for the Messiah should consider other names in the Bible. How would they pronounce the Hebrew for the Archangel ‘Michael’ from the book of Daniel?

‘Fables’, ‘questions’ and ‘jangling’...

Scripture warns of Judaizers and those who would come in and confuse the brethren. The Bible mentions ‘*fables*’, including ‘*Jewish fables*’: ‘*For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, especially they of the circumcision...rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth...*’ (Tit.1:10-16). The word ‘*fables*’ refers to a tale or that which is fabricated by the mind in contrast to reality. It is the word from which ‘mythology’ is derived. Such ‘*fables*’ are falsehoods and pretences. In 2 Peter 1:16 they are described as ‘*cunningly devised*’ for the purpose of deceiving others. We are warned of Judaism just as Paul warned Timothy! (The danger is that many Jewish Christian assemblies have ended up more judaistic than of Jesus).

Christians need not get caught up in ‘*foolish questions*’ and contentions about the law (Tit.3:9). The fruit of such ‘*minister questions, rather than godly edifying*’ and those who engaged in such have ‘*turned aside unto vain jangling; desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm*’ (1Tim.1:3-7).

are not in Heaven when they were promised they would by an Arminian preacher’. Why would this concern you or what does it matter when those not in Heaven were not elected no matter they believed or were unable to believe. Are you saying that there is ‘conditional’ election’. If Unconditional Election (or Calvinism) is true then those not in Heaven are there because that was how God planned it before the Creation. You guys need to make up your minds as to what you believe...I doubt you would answer this question in your next newsletter...

[M.J. e-mail]

Editor’s Reply: There are only two short quotes by James White both on one page of the book! I have in fact only read one of James White’s books on this subject and that was just before I finished the book. I have no idea of any ‘mantras’ of James White. (I also have read none of Calvin’s works. Any quotes by him have usually been found from Arminian quotes of him or a word search. I actually do not follow a Calvin’s ‘Calvinism’...)

If you disagree with James White and seem to hate his works so much, do you also disagree with Spurgeon, Newton, Wycliffe, Luther, Knox, Owen, John Bunyan, William Carey, Tyndale, Jonathan Edwards, Whitefield, Matthew Henry, JC Ryle, Martyn Lloyd Jones...and the many martyrs who all held to the doctrines of Grace: Huss, Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, Hooper, Foxe (he wrote the ‘Foxe’s Book of Martyrs’), etc?

I may be guilty of being a ‘*propagandist*’ for Spurgeon, since the quotes by him are extensive. Could you please show me fault in his quotes?

As for people being deceived by ‘Arminian preachers’ and why does it matter if they are ‘not elected’? - It concerns me because there is a warning in Matthew 7. There will be ‘*many*’ who thought they were Christians and yet are barred from Heaven. A wrong presentation and understanding of the Gospel would surely attribute to that? We do not know who are the ‘elect’ and who will ‘*not believe*’. It is Hyper-Calvinistic spin to say that ‘*If Unconditional Election (or Calvinism) is true those not in Heaven are there because that was how God planned it before the Creation*’.

We don’t ‘*need to make up your minds as to what you really believe*’ as this is made clear in the book. Interestingly, the few letters against the book have *all* been *angry* or *emotional* and with not a single reference to *any* doctrinal error. (One letter from a South Australian pastor went so far as to call the book a ‘*vendetta*’, ‘*aggressive*’ and that ‘Calvinists’ have hearts with ‘*a spirit of murder*’, ‘*nasty attitudes*’ and ‘*murderous*’...).

Recently I preached at a funeral of a close friend and to well over 100 people (most non Christians). I asked them all to ‘believe’ as though they could all be the ‘elect’. The gospel is for *everyone* and must be given to *all*. All they have to do is ‘believe’. But I refuse to preach an Arminian easy believism, decisional Gospel. The emphasis must be on Christ - *who* He is, *what* He has done and *why* He has done it; and not what man can do. The latter is not the Gospel but the fruit of Arminian evangelism.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Hello Terry, It may be advisable to check the origins of the story about the whale and the man said to have been swallowed by it [Nov/Dec, P.9]. It is much easier to repeat these stories than it is to verify them. Extraordinary claims need extraordinary evidence, but this story seems to be backed by almost no evidence.

(N.B., Vict.)

Editor's Reply: You are correct. Originally when I researched this story many years ago I felt there was sufficient circumstantial evidence in the following: The fact that the account was on James Bartley's tombstone; that the 'British admiralty' supposedly testified of the account; that at the time there were several newspaper articles mentioning the story; and that there was a ship 'Star of the East' in the Faulkland Islands at that time.

However, many media accounts at the same time wrote of a different ship which had chased a whale and beached it ashore in England. That whale was cut open for all to see. This story featured in the news at the same time as the James Bartley story is supposed to have occurred. Many believe that the Bartley story arose out of this event.

I did some more research and it does appear that some of the accounts in the media of the day of this are confused and mixed. My main point was to prove that scientists once considered it impossible for a whale to swallow a human. Yet Sperm whales are capable of swallowing humans. Some live on squid, which they swallow whole. In 1955 a 405 pound squid was removed intact from the belly of a sperm whale.

But the James Bartley story, with the research I have done since the article, lacks evidence and accounts are sketchy and it could be, as you say, that there is 'almost no evidence'. I will not be using this story again unless I get solid evidence of its veracity. We certainly do not need this story to prove anything in the Bible. Thanks for prompting me to look at this again.

Terry, I am reading your 'unbiased' rehashed James White publication ['Calvinism & Arminianism - Out of the Maze']...You need to think for yourself instead of re-hashing your Czars James Whites words (Mr. Terry White or James Arnold?)...All you have done is re-hash James White who in turn has rehashed the same old Calvinistic Traditions. Gee! you and he make good propagandists and even make good politicians by repeating and repeating...the 'mantra's' of James White. I have all I can stomach from you and James White.

What does it matter how others evangelise as the Calvinistic God has already made his decree of 'unconditionally elected' no matter what?...You are like the kettle calling the pot black...Stop rehashing James White...On P.15 of Nov./Dec. 2012 'Diakrisis' newsletter you state that 'Many will be shocked to discover they

A more serious concern...example: Don Stanton

Don Stanton of 'Maranatha' has written many sound articles and has put forward many challenging ideas in the area of prophecy. However, in recent times there have been several writers who have raised alarm at his increasing emphasis on bringing Christians back under the Law. But it is his teaching on the 'name of the Messiah' and a new Bible version that we are concerned with in this article. In his endtime news booklet Don states he is using a *new version* called 'Clear Preferred Version' (CPV) and instead of Jesus, the 'original Hebrew name of 'Y'shua' is used. But do we not get our New Testament translations from the original Koine Greek, and not from any Hebrew text? Most who would 'correct' the name of Jesus do not believe the original texts were written in the common (Koine) Greek language. They look to a mythical 'Hebrew' original. The question to ask such people is: 'Do you believe in the inspiration, inerrancy of the original Greek texts?'

On Stanton's website there is much written about why we should change the name of 'Jesus'. Below we have copied parts of this with our comments in **bold** and brackets.

'Some will say, 'Jesus' is an English translation of 'Y'shua'. To which I reply, 'Why did His Name ever need to be translated?' You are most welcome to explain the meaning of the Name by way of translation, (Yahweh is salvation), but the Saviour's original, authentic Name must not be eliminated!...'

[The original name in the Greek text, despite whether it is a 'transliteration' or not, was written as inspired Greek and that Greek is Ιησους (pronounced yesous)]

'But actually, 'Jesus' is not a translation. It is a transliteration of 'Y'shua' A transliteration is the carrying of a word over into another language so that it sounds very much the same as in the original, even though written in a different alphabet. The Name Y'shua should have been transliterated into all languages exactly, or very closely to the way it sounds in the original. Some transliterations are close, but some, as in English, sounds far removed from the original...'

[Again, this is still avoiding the fact that the writers wrote 'the original' in Greek and they were inspired to do this]

'Yes, Y'shua and Jesus are really the same name, but I'm sure you will agree that Jesus doesn't sound anything like Y'shua...'

[This statement lacks understanding of Greek and the 'translation' process. English rarely sounds the same as Greek and it is not meant to. The inspired originals for the New Testament are NOT Hebrew but Koine Greek. This is dangerous territory because it is a rejection of the idea that the originals are Greek and that they are inspired!]

'The reason is because 'Jesus' is a poor transliteration - both in spelling and pronunciation. And the reason for that faulty transliteration is because the Name has come into English, not directly from the Hebrew, but through Greek and Roman, and because of English language 'mutation'...Y'shua was brought

over from Hebrew into Greek as *Iesous*'.

[Regardless of whether 'Jesus' is a 'poor translation', it has come from inspired originals and those originals were written in Koine GREEK! Stanton consistently brushes over this point to get to a mythical Hebrew text. There are NO inspired Hebrew 'originals' for the NT. The manuscripts were in Koine Greek and the name Ιησους (not Y'shua) is written in the copies of them]

'The reason for that mutation is because the Greeks have a lazy tongue and do not pronounce ye and shu...'

[On the contrary, Koine Greek was an exacting language. It sometimes has as many as five words for our one English word. Its delineation of tenses enables precision. It is *the language that God chose to use in His originals which are inspired and inerrant*]

'For the Greek it is much easier to pronounce the letters as 'ee' and 'soo'. So Yeshua mutated to Iesous...'

['Mutated'? Did God not know what He was doing when He 'moved' men to write down the scriptures and write Ιησους for 'Jesus' (2Pet.1:20,21)?]

'I know some people today who love the Name of Y'shua, but they pronounce it as Ishua. They can't clearly hear the difference. Iesous became Jesus in Roman (Latin), and it then became Yesus in English...'

[This is a 'strawman'. The inspired Greek is Ιησους and it is pronounced like 'yesous' or 'yairsous'. Forget the Latin - the Greek 'Ιησους' is pronounced when transliterated from Greek to English as 'yesous']

'In the 16th century, Yesus became Jesus when J was added to the English alphabet. In other tongues also, the Name has been brought over from a variety of language Bibles, including Greek, Latin and English, without much consideration of the original Hebrew...'

[What 'original Hebrew'? Again, the original inspired authors wrote the New Testament in Greek]

'But someone will say 'Jesus is the Name in the inspired Greek New Testament'. That's not quite right. The word in the Greek NT is IESOUS. So if we used the Greek name, then we should call the Saviour, Iesous. Why should we call Him Jesus, Yesu, Isu, etc., if Iesous was the most correct form?...'

[The simple answer is that 'Jesus' is the recognised English translation of the Greek Ιησους. Don has not recognised the fact that most people do not read Greek! But if Don wants to keep the original (Greek) name then why does he use a Hebrew name Y'shua instead of the Greek Ιησους?]

'For many years I thought that 'Jesus' was a Hebrew word - the actual name spoken by the apostles. It came as a jolt to realise that the disciples never heard the pronunciation, 'Jesus'. Nor did the Greeks!...'

[Of course they never heard the name 'Jesus' - because they mostly spoke and wrote in Aramaic and Greek, not English!]

'Y'shua was neither an Englishman, nor a Greek! He was a Hebrew!'

Why did the apostles write in Greek? Paul and John wrote in Greek because the Great Commission was to preach the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth. And Greek was the main international language through which it could be accomplished at that time...'

[Correct. This appears to contradict the idea of any Hebrew originals? But it must also be said here that this Greek New Testament was *inspired*]

'Why did they use the word Iesous instead of Y'shua? In writing in Greek, the New Testament apostles used the Greek form of the Name of Y'shua, Iesous, as that Name had already mutated, orally, from the Hebrew, and was in general usage...The exact letters Paul used we do not know, as the original manuscripts are not available, and the earliest Greek scripts available are copies made in the 3rd century and thereafter...it is possible that the Greek spelling or pronunciation of the Saviour's Name changed from the form that Paul and John used, especially as the church soon became predominantly gentile...'

[If the apostles used a 'Greek form' of the Hebrew name of Y'shua, then that 'Greek form' is still *inspired*! The issue here is *inspiration and preservation*! Our copies are faithful to the originals (see our article *Diakrisis* Nov/Dec/2012). Don here appears to cast doubt as to the *inspiration and preservation of the texts*]

'In translating from the Greek and Latin into English, the early translators had three options. 1. To use the spelling Iesous. 2. To use an English form that had developed orally via Latin, even though it was further from the original. 3. To return to the original language from where the Name came, and use that original Name - Y'shua or Yeshua. They chose the middle course. [They] could have [gone]...back to the Hebrew...But they didn't...'

[Any previous Latin copies were *not* considered inspired. The KJV translators translated the NT from the Greek (there was no 'Hebrew'). That Greek had Ιησους; and that Greek they considered *inspired*]

Why is this important?

Many might read this article and conclude it is unprofitable argumentation. Yet this subject has become a matter of contention in many assemblies today. We agree it is a diversion from more important things such as the Gospel.

But at the root of this debate over the name of the Messiah is yet another subtle attack on the inspiration, inerrancy and preservation of the original New Testament Greek texts. If errors have been made in the originals with the name of the Messiah and in the copying thereof, then we do not have the inspired, inerrant and preserved word of God! That notion alone is destructive to faith. We must receive every word as from Him and not judge it, but be judged by it (Jn.12:48).

'In you, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion'
(Ps.70:2).

Terry Arnold