

## Your Comments and Questions

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

### Bible College Update

We now have many students applying for the *Pacific Bible Institute* correspondence Certificate/Diploma course. There are 8 subjects in the Certificate and 8 more subjects in the Diploma. Each subject has between 5 and 10 lectures. The Certificate subjects are: Bible Introduction; Bible Study Methods; Intro to Bible Doctrine; Spiritual Life; Evangelism; OT Survey; NT Survey; Church History. For each subject students receive a text book, lectures on CD and Powerpoint notes. The cost is approximately \$50 per subject.

### Masters Course at Pacific Bible Institute 2013

Many applications have been received for the new Masters degree course planned to begin in August this year. We are hoping for 20 students minimum. This 4 year course involves two weeks lectures in Hervey Bay each August (this year 12th August - 23rd August). Costs are administration costs only and accommodation. A free information pack can be sent on request.

### Prayer/Praise Points

- Praise the Lord, the interstate itinerary was very fruitful with a lot of good feedback from the saints. Terry was able to preach the Gospel to various ethnic groups in several meetings in NSW. Some salvations have been evident. Pray for these and more souls to be won in follow up!
- Pray for the new Masters course at *Pacific Bible Institute* this year. We need 20 students minimum to secure the accommodation.

### Subscription Form

I am interested in receiving the *free* monthly TA Ministries newsletter '*Diakrisis*' by Send this form to:  
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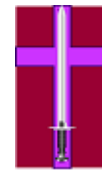
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I enclose \$----- as a donation for costs and postage.

For transfer deposits: National Bank, Hervey Bay, BSB 084 705 Account No. 02737 1856



# *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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**Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol.3, No. 33 May/June 2013**

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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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### Masters Course

*Pacific Bible Institute* commences a Masters program this year. Several applications have been received and there is still time to enrol. This is a rare opportunity to obtain an accredited Masters degree with training, mostly by correspondence and at cost (administration, text books only). Successful applicants attend lectures two weeks each August in Hervey Bay and complete assignments by correspondence. Information can be sent on request.

## Editor's Comment

To publicly preach or teach the word of God is an honourable task, but also a grave responsibility. The thought of mishandling this Word should strike terror into the hearts of any who are engaged in this work. The Bible warns of '*wresting*' the word of God - to mishandle, twist or distort it (2Pet.3:16).

Even to discuss the word of God in every day life should engender a desire to be precise and scriptural in presenting that which God has already spoken through His written Word. Yet today there are many pulpiteers who express their own experiences and opinions as if they were also the 'Word' of God?

Questions thus need to be asked today 'What is the word of God? Where is it? Who was it written for? How do we hear it?'

So many multimedia 'preachers' today freely speak of the things they believe 'God has spoken' to them - and go so far as to portray a 'god' that is busy conversing with them as *they* speak!

Did God not reveal sufficient information already? Do we need additions today to that already revealed? Are the 66 books in the canon of '*the scripture*' (2Pet.1:20) not quite enough for this generation? Is it not '*once delivered unto the saints*' (Jude 3) and do we need a '*private interpretation*' (2Pet.1:20) for our modern age? Did this '*prophecy of the scripture*' (vs.20) come '*not in old time by the will of man but by holy men of God as moved by the Holy Spirit*' (vs.20)? It would seem that this '*more sure word*' (vs.19) is just not sufficient if you listen to many who are prophesying things as if received directly from God.

Many proclamations being 'prophesied' today are already in the Word of God! Why not let the Bible do the talking, and preach it in exposition rather than some supposedly new and private revelation? There are many who are now teaching that certain recent and upcoming calamities in the USA are signs of divine judgement. In doing so they often hang their statements on the prophecies relating directly to national Israel. The latest is the Isaiah 9:10 based publication '*The Harbinger*' by a Rabbi Cahn. To be sure, there are similarities between the ancient apostasies of Israel and those today of America and the west at large. Yet to directly impose God's admonition of the Jews upon the situation in western countries in this day and age is an enormous stretch at best and at worst unsound hermeneutics which ultimately wrongly divides the word of God. Much of this replacement theology is also often a disregard for a future Israel and God's dealings with this nation. Far too many Old Testament scriptures are ripped from their moorings and applied to the church or other nations. It is at this point that one of the most important points of the Biblical art of hermeneutics (interpretation of scripture) is sidelined - a most important question - '*who is the passage speaking to?*'

This above question is today being totally ignored by many Bible teachers, and thus Christians who listen to them. Similar errors in this are with verses

## Terry's Itinerary

### Victoria

**May 5th** (Sun) 10am East Keilor Evangelical church Ph.93315821

**May 5th** (Sun) 7pm East Keilor Evangelical church Ph.93315821

### Queensland

**May 26th** (Sun) 9.30am & 6.30pm Hervey Bay Bible Church Ph.0411489472

**June 2nd** (Sun) 10.45am Biggenden Gospel Chapel, Qld. Ph.0408074743

**June 9th** (Sun) 9.30am & 6.30pm Hervey Bay Bible Church Ph.0411489472

## **Your Comments and Questions**

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### **From a Roman Catholic lady...her response to the Gospel...**

*Hi Terry...it was a great pleasure in meeting you in Sydney where you clarified so much more for me; and most of all my brother is on borderline to also being saved at the moment.*

*I'm very excited in receiving the booklets you and your team have organised to send to me. So please thank them for me.*

*My heart is so full of thank-you for your prays as this is becoming a battle for me and I'm getting ear bashed left & right from all my Catholic Family!..but with the Lords strength my faith will not break!*

*I cannot wait to attend and learn more when you get back to me about a church for me...Meeting the people on Sunday was a real shock as I have never felt such warmth and love from everyone under the same roof and they gave us Bible's for FREE!*

*Anyway, thank-you for your friendship as I do have many questions but I know I can ask you to help me see things clearly, since we both came from the same religion. May The Lord Bless You.*

**(Name withheld at editor's discretion)**

### **Two weeks later...**

*Hi Terry, ...Thank-you for finding the...Church for me...I feel very welcomed and loved there, so I thank the Lord for you and your team...My husband has also now been saved as well as my brother who you met last time with me and now my Mum also. It has been somewhat of a joyful battle but my husband...read your book 'To Catholics whom I love'. He's slowly now been convinced that the system of Catholicism is run by Satan himself! ...The Lord Jesus is helping his faith grow more and more each day...Thanks also to you and your team for sending me the reading materials...much appreciate it...*

*...Take care and God Bless Always...*

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### Website Questions/Comments

Terry, I had read your teaching on 'Women in the Church' and agree. But can you tell me your thoughts on women leading corporate worship in music...

**Editor's Reply:** I receive many questions like this as to whether women can do things in church, such as hand out the communion elements, lead worship, etc. The simple answer to all these questions is to answer this vital question: Is the woman 'usurping authority over the man' (or the husband)? (1Tim.2:12). If that question is answered then you have your answer. This is how I have addressed any such issues in our own church. Personally, I prefer to have elders 'lead' because they, being 'apt to teach' (1Tim.3:2; 2Tim.2:24), often like to teach and expand and comment on songs, which is their gifting to do so. If a woman was to lead then it would need to be without obviously 'teaching' men (vs.11) or 'usurping authority over' men (vs.12).

The issue behind this 'authority' is rarely understood today - it is the 'headship' issue which is found in the following verses (vs.13-15).

I would also take into account any church attendees who might have definitive views on this. Their view on whether they felt it was or was not usurping authority would need to be considered also.

I personally have preached in churches where a woman 'leads' the songs and it did not appear to me to be 'teaching men' or 'usurping authority'. However, it would be an area of ministry that would need to be monitored carefully by the elders for anything unbiblical.

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In Ex.7:22 the Egyptian magicians copied the miracle of turning the river into blood. How could they do this if there was no water as the text says? How could they turn the river into blood if it was already blood?

**Editor's reply:** The text does not give a full answer to this. But the magicians did their counterfeits 'by enchantments'. This word literally means 'secrecy; private'. It is elsewhere translated 'softly' and 'secretly' (Ruth 3:7; 1 Sam.18:22). The magicians copied many of the miracles but *not openly* like God did. But verse 24 says the Egyptians dug round about the river for water to drink. It appears that this water was not bloody like the water in the river. The magicians could have used this water or some other water they already had. The commission by Moses was to turn the waters of the river (Nile) into blood, and this would affect their streams, rivers, ponds, and pools. Verse 20 mentions only the river turning to blood.

Nevertheless, like the magicians of today they could have copied the miracles by trickery, giving the appearance only, of water turned to blood.

such as Revelation 3:20 '*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him...*'; and 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*'. Both these scriptures are speaking specifically and directly to the 'church' (Rev.3:20 - the Laodicean church) and the 'brethren' (2Pet.3:9 - the 'usward'; 'brethren' is mentioned *many times* in this passage).

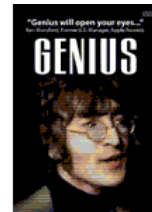
Similarly, such 'prophecies' and misinterpretations of Old Testament scriptures for current calamities have people chasing after every latest 'word' and 'prophetic utterance', leading into wider and wider speculation about the days ahead. Much of what is declared is already mentioned in scripture - nothing new there - to misapply it to the present time is to line-up the increasingly gullible Christian populace for deep disappointment.

Even here in Australia we have so-called 'prophets' roaming the countryside claiming that God has spoken to them personally regarding the weather, earthquake geology, politics and the condition of society generally. Nothing they have pronounced has thus far come to pass - no one holds them to account - their meetings remain well attended - and the tax free money keeps flowing in.

It is one thing to hold a private opinion in these matters - it may even be right and discerning to do so. But to claim that these 'feelings', 'promptings' and 'visions' are from God is a step too far - and the lack of any genuine fulfilment is proof of this.

A stark warning is needed here. If we do not rightly divide the Word of God and ascertain just *who* certain texts and prophecies were directed, we run a serious risk - the end result could well be the shipwreck of the faith of many?

**Terry Arnold**



### 'Genius' (Evangelism) Movie

'Genius' is a new and chilling movie based partly on the life and tragic murder of John Lennon by a crazed gunman. Evangelist, Ray Comfort, goes into the streets and hears some chilling answers to questions. It's chilling because it reveals what people will do for money. There are ordinary people out there who would kill you. All they need is the right amount of money and *the belief that they won't get caught*. You will hear with your own ears the conviction of such from sinful hearts.

What is important in this documentary is the truth of the 'depraved' heart of man. Ray Comfort has a clever way of showing *what is in everyone's heart*. This is a short but fast paced, thought provoking and fascinating DVD. This compelling movie will shock some. But it will also show how to ask the questions to show the unsaved what is in their hearts and thus why they need to be saved! Only \$9.90 (this includes postage). Limited stocks.

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### 'Gay Dating' Site?

*Dear owner of Diakrisis, Hi, I am...webmaster and editor of the Gay Dating [blog]...As the Supreme Court hears arguments on gay marriage rights laws this week, we decided to compile a list of our favourite 100 marriage equality blogs. I thought you and your site's readers might be interested...If you find this resource of interest...you could link to it from Diakrisis and let readers know...*

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

**Editor's reply:** Dear...I have no idea why you would want to have your 'marriage equality' links attached to our site. My view on marriage is clear from our website and in articles in *Diakrisis Australia*...But I will summarise here and you are welcome to put this unedited on your site:

### 'Same Sex Marriage'

The word 'marriage' *by history and definition* refers to a male and female relationship. It has always been so. Furthermore, matrimonium is an institution involving a mother, mater.

Marriage, Biblical or otherwise, has been defined the same way in every culture since the beginning of time. It is originally a Christian institution. The book of Christianity is the Bible. The original Greek word for 'marriage' is '*gamisko*'. In every instance it refers to male and female. It is a male and female coming together as one (Matt.19:4-6). The Scriptures consistently speak of men marrying women, not men with men or women with women (Lk.17:27; Rom.7:3; 1Cor.7:10,33-39). Biblical marriage is outlined by Ephesians 5:21-32, as between a 'husband' and 'wife' and the model for this is shown to be Christ and His church. (Jesus is the Bridegroom and the Church is the Bride). God and Israel are also referred to as a husband and wife.

The first historical mention of same sex marriage was during the reign of Emperor Nero. But even during Roman times, it was not considered a 'real' marriage. Emperor Nero is reported to have engaged in a ceremony with one of his male slaves. But a 'marriage' between two Roman males (or with a slave) would have no legal standing in Roman law (apart, presumably, from the arbitrary will of the emperor). The Roman Emperors Constantius and Constans made same-sex marriage a capital offence.

The secular world, just because it doesn't like the definition and meaning of 'marriage' to be male and female - this does not mean it can redefine it. I say let 'same sex couples' have their unions, partnerships or relationships, or whatever people choose to call it. But it will never be 'marriage' by definition, nor by history, nor will it be 'Christian' or Biblical.

I don't hate same sex couples. I love them the same as I might love any non Christian. But I hate what the Bible calls sin and an abomination. Call it whatever people want to call it, but 'marriage' it is not.

Terry Arnold

## Hillsong and a False Prophet with a False Prophecy

In a recent brochure by Hillsong advertising a Hillsong conference, was a statement that surely should show the lack of discernment by Hillsong leaders. The beginning of the brochure has a past prophesy by a Smith Wigglesworth. But amazingly, Hillsong must be unaware that the prophesy has already been outdated and proven false! The prophesy is said to have been given by 'Smith Wigglesworth at the beginning of the 20th Century': 'Australia you have been chosen by God for a great move of the Holy Spirit. This move of God will be the greatest move of God ever known in mankind's history and will start towards the end of the 20th Century and move into the 21st century. This move of God will start a great revival in Australia and spread throughout the whole world'.

The prophesy, given in 1909, clearly states that this 'revival' would take place 'at the end of the 20th Century'. Does not Hillsong realise we are now in the 21st Century? The prophesy has already failed on several counts. There has not been 'the greatest move of God ever known in mankind's history'. It has not started 'towards the end of the 20th Century'. It has not started 'in Australia' and 'spread throughout the whole world'.

There was more to this prophesy that Hillsong did *not* include in their advertisement. The prophesy is reputed to have continued thus: '*...and usher in the second coming of Jesus. This will be the final revival before the coming of the Lord...God will raise up a man in Australia who will lead this move of God under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. This man will bow down to no one other than God. He will have tremendous favour in the nation of Australia*'.

What ever happened to this 'man in Australia'? A pastor, Daniel Nalliah, of 'Catch the Fire Ministries', claims it is him. But he proved to be a false prophet. On August 11, 2007, Danny Nalliah announced the Lord had spoken to him and that he could now 'boldly declare that Prime Minister John Howard will be re-elected in the November election'. As the prophet Samuel, according to Nalliah, was sent to anoint David as the future king of Israel, so the Lord directed him 'to spend time with Prime Minister John Howard and [Treasurer] Peter Costello'. The Lord God, as Nalliah records it, 'gave me a clear prophetic word for both of them...I'm not at liberty to share the details of these private encounters', however, 'John Howard will be elected and pass the leadership on to Peter Costello sometime after'. (The American Kenneth Copeland also prophesied the same - Oct.26th, 2007). But not only did John Howard's government lose the election in a landslide of historic proportions - he also forfeited his electoral seat of Bennelong in Northern Sydney that he had held for over thirty years! (1)



Who was this Smith Wigglesworth who made the false prophesy which Hillsong advertises? Here are just some of the teachings of Wigglesworth (1859-1947): He believed God promises perfect physical wholeness and that healing was guaranteed in the atonement; that Christians can command (speak) things into being; and that signs and wonders should

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*Dear Terry, I did a study on election. The following notes may be of use...*

*All should hear, not all are chosen. God started election (choosing) in the Old Testament. He called the children of Israel, but not all of them were elect (Rom.11:45; Is.45:4). Other nations were not chosen.*

*Jesus talks of God's elect (Matt.24:24,31; Mk.13:20,22). Paul talks of God's elect (Rom.8:33, Col.3:12, Tit.1:1-2). Peter talks of God's elect (1Pet.1:2; 5:13). John talks of God's elect (2Jn.1:13). Paul talks of this election as God's purpose (Rom.9:11; 11:5,7). God elected some, 'blinded' others (2Cor.4:4; 3:14; Jn.12:40; Rom.11:7). Paul knew that the Thessalonians were elected by God (1Thess.1:4). Peter says they were called and elected (2Pet.1:10). God does things for His elect's sake, the children born to Him by His choice (as children are born to their parents by the parent's choice). He does it for His name's sake - they are called by His name (Matt.24:22,24; Mk.13:20,22).*

*Election was from before the foundation of the world (Eph.1:45, 9,11; Tit.1:2).*

*Jesus was foreordained for this purpose (1Pet.1:20); the elect were chosen to show forth Jesus praises (1Pet.2:9).*

*This is not exhaustive - more could be shown (Jude 4; Rom.9:22; 2Tim.1:9; 2Thess.2:13-15, etc).*

*Jesus said a man must be born again (begotten) from above, from the beginning. Why? Because man is 'dead in sin', therefore needs to be given life; he cannot give himself life; only God can put life into him. (A dead person is dead). They are born again of the will of God, not of the will of man, blood or flesh (Jn.1:13). God re-creates man, breathes into him the Holy Spirit and man becomes a living soul (Gen. 2:7). Man is dead, he must be re-created (2Cor.5:17). Man is dead, bound in sin by Satan. (Man was sent out of the Garden of Eden...he could not achieve new life by decision or works).*

*If God the Father, Jesus, Paul, Peter and John are all mistaken in their ideas on this, may they not also be mistaken in other matters? Would we take notice of anything they say?...*

*...When God destroyed all the animals in the flood, only saving those in the ark, was it the animals fault? Had they sinned? When God destroyed the first born of the Egyptians was it the boys fault that they had been born the eldest son? Was it the Egyptian army's fault that they had to chase the Hebrews and therefore be drowned - especially as God had hardened Pharaoh's heart? (Ex.4:21; 7:3,13; 9:12-16; 10:27; 11:9; Rom.9:11-21). Is there unrighteousness with God? (Rom.9:14).*

*Man is a created being owned by God. Adam chose in the Garden of Eden while he still had life and a free will. But then he sinned and lost such freedom. Because of sin, man thinks he can chose to do what he likes, to be saved or not - he decides. This makes man sovereign. God chooses whom He wills (He had chosen by the end of the sixth day). And He is sovereign.*

**(P.B., Brisbane)**

always follow the preaching of the Gospel. He is reported to have raised as many as 24 people from the dead. He taught against the use of all medicine and believed sickness was of the devil. He taught that handkerchiefs prayed over would bring life if carried to the sick. He claimed that Jesus Christ increased in the fullness of God and in the power of the Spirit (a subtle departure from the doctrine of the deity of Christ). He taught a form of sinless perfection. (2)

Most Pentecostals would be shocked if they did an unbiased investigation into the forerunners and heroes of the Pentecostal movement. Names such as Charles Parham, A.A. Allen, Maria Woodworth-Etter, Aimee-Semple McPherson, Kathryn Kulman, William Branham and Smith Wigglesworth - many of them were false teachers, false prophets and lived tragic lives with tragic deaths. (3)

The stories of Wigglesworth's feats in healing and raising the dead are an amazing trail of unsubstantiated, unscriptural stories handed down and embellished each decade. For example, Wigglesworth is supposed to have got on a train and before he got off at the end of the journey, all on the train were 'convinced of sin' by the presence of Wigglesworth without any words spoken.

Most of the stories were propagated by a Lester Summeral who recounted stories of Wigglesworth punching corpses until restored to life or repeatedly punching cancer tumour victims until they died and then raising them from the dead. Not one single account of the raising's from the dead was ever authentically documented. Summeral himself falsely prophesied that he would see the return of Jesus before the end of 1999 and that Jesus spoke this to him in an apparition. When Summeral died he instantly became a false prophet! (Summeral was also the subject of a national TV expose for fraud with his 'Feed The Hungry' operation).

Despite all the wild unsubstantiated healing claims, Wigglesworth's daughter, who assisted at his meetings, was never healed of deafness and Wigglesworth suffered for years with gallstones and later with Sciatica. Mary Boddy, the woman who laid hands on Wigglesworth in 1907 when he was allegedly 'baptized in the Spirit', spent the last sixteen years of her life as an invalid. According to Wigglesworth's doctrine on the atonement, his wife should have been healed of her sickness that took her life six years after Wigglesworth became a Pentecostal and when she was but a young woman. His son, who died two years after that, should have been healed of the sickness that took him away in childhood.

The stories of the feats of Wigglesworth are myths that have deluded many saints. The legend of Smith Wigglesworth is one of the greatest lies and fabrications ever developed within the Pentecostal movement. But for Hillsong to repeat a prophesy by such a man who produced a now proven false prophesy, shows the desperate need to continue to hanker after a 'world revival' that will never come! The word of God is expressly clear that there will be no worldwide end time revival but rather an apostasy in the faith. (4) The last days will be evil

like the days of Noah and Lot (Lk.17:26,28). They will be characterised by a ‘*departing from the faith*’ and ‘*doctrines of devils*’ (1Tim.4:1). The Bible calls this apostasy the ‘*falling away*’ (2Thess.2:3). There will be false Christs and signs and wonders (2Thess.2:9,10) and ever increasing deception and iniquity (2Tim.3:13; Matt.24:11,12,24).

In line with this apostasy the Hillsong brochure has a list of keynote speakers, some who have taught outright heresies. There is Unitarian Pentecostal ‘Bishop’ TD Jakes; ‘*Your Best Life Now!*’ pastor/teacher Joel Osteen; CFR ecumenical globalist Rick Warren; Quasi-prosperity teacher Judah Smith; and ‘Resurgent’ Craig Groeschel. There is a section for ‘*Kidsong*’ where children ‘*3 years...toilet trained and up to Grade 6*’ can ‘*run, play and go crazy*’. Then there is the ‘*Jam*’ section for Grades 7-12 ‘*Jam is exponential - thrilling - God drenched - awesome - extraordinary - time of your life packed into a week of time with your mates, catching up with friends you haven’t seen in a year, hearing from the worlds best speakers, never - to - be - missed week you’ve been waiting for your whole life...we can’t guarantee what will happen, but we know God’s going to show up like never before!*’

The fees for this conference are: Adult \$259; ‘*Jam Fuel*’ \$79.

...Perhaps someone could tell Brian Houston that this is not the 20th century and that the prophesy has already proven to be false.

### **Terry Arnold**

(1) See *Diakrisis* article Jan/Feb, 2008, P.2 (2) These teachings are exposed in the article ‘*Smith Wigglesworth*’: <http://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Smith-Wigglesworth-The-Facts-v3.5.pdf> (3) See our article on website: ‘*The History-Foundation of Pentecostal Movement*’: <http://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/The-Foundation-History-of-Pentecostalism-v1.5.pdf> (4) See article: ‘*Will there be a world revival?*’ <http://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Will-there-be-a-World-Revival-v1.5.pdf>

### **Benny and Suzanne Hinn Remarry**

‘*Benny Hinn...and Suzanne Hinn who were divorced in 2010, celebrated the restoration of their marriage on March 3...conducted by Dr. Jack Hayford...Suzanne Hinn separated...in January 2010 and filed a petition for divorce in a California...citing irreconcilable differences.*

*Hinn claimed that her addiction to prescription drugs led to the breakdown of their marriage. He also admitted his frequent trips away from home also put stress on their relationship and could have led to her abuse of medication. ‘I truly believe that we are entering an unprecedented season where we will see God’s anointing in a way we’ve never experienced before! We believe, as we move forward, that God will not only save souls and heal bodies through our ministry, but will also heal families’.*

(Nicola Menzie *Christian Post* February 26, 2013; *Apostasy Alert*, March/2013)

**Editors Comment:** This charlatan continues to draw in multitudes of professing believers despite his false prophecies, teachings, public lies and not one ‘miracle’ or ‘healing’ being authenticated. (See our website).

## **Your Comments and Questions**

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### **Age of Accountability**

*TA’s article on ‘the age of accountability’ in the latest Diakrisis [March/April/2013, P.14] made very interesting reading. He quite correctly rejects the notion as having any Biblical support, but carefully avoids making any definitive statement as to the eternal destination of the soul of a given child who dies as a toddler. He of course correctly represents the Scriptural position when stating that ‘we are conceived in sin’. Does this then insist that the death of a child becomes both a human and cosmic tragedy? I do think of the statement made by David upon the passing of the baby that came out his adultery with Bathsheba - ‘I shall go to him but he shall not return to me?’ (2 Samuel 12:23b). Such seems to support the hope that the souls of at least the very young are Heaven bound upon their passing - but how then does the atonement operate in such instances? I think on such matters I simply must join with Abraham to say: ‘Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?’ (Genesis 18:25b).*

**(R.P. Darwin)**

*Dear Terry, a well known NSW preacher says that the atonement is not an essential component of the gospel proclamation. He says to see what the Biblical content of the gospel proclamation is you do not look in the Epistles, only in the book of Acts. How would you respond to that?*

**(Name withheld at editor’s discretion)**

**Editor’s reply:** I am shocked that anyone would teach that the atonement is not part of the ‘Gospel proclamation’. *The atonement is the very work of God on the cross. It is the work of redemption, propitiation, etc. If the deity or the atonement are minimised in any way, this is grounds for heresy and is also the hallmark of the cults. All cults change one of these two doctrines.*

The epistles are the various teachings of God through the apostles. They expand many ideas from the Gospels. In the epistles, redemption, propitiation, justification, substitution, etc, are all taught in detail rather than in any narrative, as much of the Gospels are.

The book of Acts is also not the first place to look for the content of the Gospel proclamation. It is firstly a historic book before it is a doctrinal book. It has the history of the spread of the Gospel and the indwelling Holy Spirit to various groups of people and shows the historical order thereof. It is not primarily a doctrinal book. (This is the error that the Charismatic/Pentecostals make in lifting new doctrinal teachings from historic narratives of how the Holy Spirit came to various people groups - Jews to Gentiles).

When anyone messes with the atonement doctrine in this way - it is most serious.

## How To Answer the Man With an ‘Experience’

Pentecostal/Charismatics often say ‘*a man with an experience is no match for one with a theory*’; or ‘*You cannot deny my experience*’.

My answer is ‘*No, I cannot deny your experience; but a man with an experience is no match for one with a scripture and the truth to refute it*’. Another way to answer is to ask the question: ‘*Do you know for certain that the experience is of God?*’ The answer must be ‘*no*’. Then how do we tell the difference between a true experience and a false experience? The answer is obviously by the word of God which is ‘*truth*’. ‘**Sanctify them through your truth: your word is truth**’ (Jn.17:17).

I don’t dispute people’s personal spiritual experiences, *except when they contradict Scripture*. We are living in an age in which ‘postmodern’ thinking and experience are becoming more important than matters of belief. Subjective thinking and experiences and feelings rule the day. But which is infallible - experience or scripture? Which is the ‘**more sure word of prophecy**’ (2Pet.1:19) - experience or Scripture? God answers this in the next verse: ‘**Knowing this first, that no prophecy of THE SCRIPTURE is of any private interpretation**’ (vs.20). Does experience interpret Scripture or Scripture interpret experience?

In addition, you cannot judge an ‘experience’ as valid just because of the subsequent outcome. This has been the ongoing problem of the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement and it is called *spiritual pragmatism* and it has led millions astray in the past few decades. I could write pages on former experiences, dreams and visions I have had and also in ‘tongues’ and ‘prophecies’. Yet I got caught in counterfeits! A book called ‘*The Beautiful Side of Evil*’ by Johanna Michaelson tells of similar dreams, visions and miracles which many were proved counterfeit. The modern Pentecostal movement itself can be traced to an experience in 1901 which the founder later admitted was counterfeit! \*

If the doctrine is not sound, then our experience of God will not be sound.

**Terry Arnold**

\* See our articles on website under Pentecostal/Charismatic; or the book ‘*Tongues & the Baptism With the Spirit*’.

## The Modern Church

*‘The Church of God has gone into the entertainment business! People must be amused, and as the church needs the people’s money, the church must, perform, supply the demand and meet the craving! How else are godless hypocrites to be held together? How otherwise can the throngs of unconverted youths and maidens be attracted to the ‘service’? So the picture show and the entertainment, in the form of musicals (sacred perhaps!) and minstrel shows, take the place of the gospel address and the solemn worship of God. And, thus, Christless souls are lulled to sleep and made to feel ‘religious’ while gratifying every carnal desire under the sanction of the sham called the church! And the end? What an awakening!’*

(H.A. Ironside 1876-1951)

## Abuse Enquiry Deepens

*‘A Ballarat [Victoria - Australia] Catholic bishop repeatedly and knowingly moved a paedophile priest around his diocese and overseas, where he constantly found new targets, the mother of one victim told the Victorian abuse inquiry on Friday, reports The Age.*

*Helen Watson’s explosive testimony to the state inquiry came as the parliamentary committee left Melbourne for the first time and heard from victims in Ballarat, where up to 50 victims are believed to have taken their own lives. One of them was Peter Watson, abused at 15 by Father Paul David Ryan, and dead by his own hand at 24.*

*Before her evidence, her husband Tim at her side, Mrs Watson told Fairfax media: ‘For years I was in shock, and I couldn’t be angry at anyone. Now, I have the anger and can be a strong voice for victims. I’ve got fire in my belly this afternoon.’ She told the inquiry that each time his abuse of children in the Ballarat diocese became known, **Ryan would be sent to the U.S., and when allegations surfaced there, he would be sent back to Australia. He was sent to the U.S. seven times, and in 1993 was considered beyond help by a program in Mexico for clergy sex offenders.***

*Ballarat was home to the **notorious paedophile ring** operating at St Alipius Primary School of Christian Brothers **Robert Best, Stephen Farrell, Edward Dowlan and Gerald Fitzgerald, plus priest Gerald Ridsdale. All were convicted except Fitzgerald, who died while being investigated.***

*Quoting police evidence given at Ryan’s 2006 trial in Warrnambool, Mrs Watson said **the bishop she referred to was well aware of Ryan’s offences in Australia and the U.S. Money was sent from Ballarat to the U.S. for financial settlements for two of Ryan’s victims there - \$25,000 each. Ryan was ordained in Ballarat in 1976, and there was an allegation of child sex abuse in his first week. He was first sent to the U.S. in 1977 and again in 1979, returning after three child sex abuse allegations emerged...***

*(Apostasy Alert, Dec,10th 2013)*

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## ‘Why Were We Called Protestants’

*‘In the minds of many it has become a ‘dirty word’ associated with rebellion against the accepted order, and the destruction of the unity of the church at the Reformation. In former times when the authority and accuracy of the Bible were everywhere accepted, it was regarded as a glorious word.*

*...When the churches that were reformed at the Reformation stood faithfully by the truth of Scripture they glorified in the title of ‘Protestant’. For them it was associated with liberty from the tyranny of Rome, freedom of conscience and worship, it fostered democracy and progress. The Protestant nations were the most vigorous and advanced, the Roman Catholic the most degenerate and backward’.*

*(JC Ryle)*

## The Conscience, the Word and the Spirit

The Christian conscience is one of the most important tools used by the Holy Spirit in the Sanctification of the Christian - that inner work which is to conform a Christian into the image of Christ (Rom.8:29; 2Cor.3:18; Col.3:10). The method the Spirit uses is the Word of God. Ignore or weaken the conscience and one will thwart this very work of God.

Many years ago when I was a new believer, I had a personal conscience that Sunday was the day of corporate worship and not to be missed or replaced with leisurely pursuits. It was a conviction which I once defiled. As a professional squash coach and a retired open tournament player I often took my son and my students away to tournaments. But I would normally attend church wherever I could. One Sunday I was persuaded to come out of retirement and play in a tournament which included having to play Sunday morning, when I would normally attend a church in town. Against my personal conviction I skipped church and played. In the final game of the tournament I was just two points away from a title win when suddenly I snapped an Achilles tendon. The result was hospital and then crutches for many months and never to play competitive sport again. But it was the breaking of a personal conviction at the time that disturbed me most. Whether the conviction was based on sound doctrine or not, is not the issue here. The issue is that it was a personally held conviction at the time and one which I wilfully ignored at the persuasion of non Christians. There were many lessons I learned on that day. One was the importance of the conscience and what it might cost to follow ones convictions.

### **What is the conscience?**

The conscience tells us what is right from wrong. It is the motivation that derives from moral principles that govern a person's thoughts and actions. It is the inner witness, the self awareness. Unlike animals, we *think about thoughts*. *The conscience prompts us to think or to do something and with a moral implication*. A synonym of 'conscience' is the word 'conviction'. The two words are closely related. The conscience is a *warning device*. It gives confirmation and is like a compass of right or wrong. *The conscience is built and determined by how it is fed and what knowledge is put into it*. The conscience is not the law but a warning or indicator of an inner law. It is not the light itself, which is the law (Pr.6:23), but it acts as a 'skylight'. It must be 'pure' to let the light of God's law in.

Everybody has a conscience and thus inbuilt moral senses. Jesus often addressed the conscience of men. When a woman was caught in adultery, Jesus challenged any who had no sin to cast the first stone: ***'And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst'*** (Jn.8:9). The conscience uses the Law written on every

## Spurgeon on Popery

*'We must have no truce, no treaty with Rome. War! War to the knife with her! Peace there cannot be. She cannot have peace with us - we cannot have peace with her. She hates the true Church; and we can only say that the hatred is reciprocated. We would not lay a hand upon her priests; we would not touch a hair of their heads. Let them be free: but their doctrine we would destroy from the face of the earth as the doctrine of devils. So let it perish, O God, and let that evil thing become as the fat of lambs. Into smoke let it consume: yea, into smoke let it consume away.'*

*'We are not praying against Babylon, we are not praying against the Man of Sin, we are not praying against the real foe of Britain: it is time we started to pray again. It is the bounded duty of every Christian to pray against Antichrist, and as to what Antichrist is, no sane man ought to raise an objection. If it be not popery in the Church of Rome, there is nothing in the world that can be called by that name. If there were to be issued a hue and cry for Antichrist, we would certainly take up the Roman Church on suspicion, and it would certainly not be let loose again, for it so exactly answers the description. Popery is contrary to Christ's Gospel. It is the Antichrist. We ought to pray against it. It should be the daily prayer of every believer that Antichrist might be hurled like a millstone into the flood, and for Christ, because it wounds Christ, it robs Christ of His glory, it puts sacramental efficacy in the place of His atonement, it lifts a piece of bread into the place of the Saviour, and a few drops of water into the place of the Holy Ghost, and puts a mere fallible man like ourselves up as the Vicar of Christ on earth. If we pray against it, because it is against God, we shall love the persons though we hate their errors; we shall love their souls though we hate and detest their dogmas; and so the breath of our prayers will be sweetened because we turn our faces to Christ to pray this prayer.'*

(C. H. Spurgeon. Sermon: 'War! War! War!' (Fight the Lord's battles - 1 Samuel 18:17); Sabbath morning, Sunday May 1st, 1859, Royal Surrey Gardens)

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## Exercise Spiritually

*'The Christian life is not a mere 'let go and let God' affair. It is a 'take hold of God' business. It is not a mere rest in God, an existence somewhat like that of a Jelly fish floating in the warm currents of the Gulf Stream. God is not developing jelly fish Christians. God wants to develop heroes, Christian men and women of moral stamina and spiritual power. In the physical realm, no one becomes strong by merely eating wholesome food and resting. Exercise is what is needed to change the energy food into bone and muscle. In like manner the Christian must exercise himself spiritually if he is to grow strong in the Christian life...'*

(*'Wuest Word Studies, Untranslatable Riches'* by Kenneth Wuest)

***'Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth'*** (2Tim.2:15).



## Greek Nugget - 'a triple negative' Assurance!

In English and New Testament Greek there are 'double negatives'. In English we might say '*I do not disagree*'; '*She cannot make friends with nobody*'. To improve these sentences we should only use one negative: '*She cannot make friends with anybody*'. English does not read well with 'double negatives'.

However, in New Testament Greek there are *different words* for the negative 'not': firstly, 'οὐ' = 'absolutely not': '**He that believes on him is not** [οὐ - absolutely not] **condemned**' (Jn.3:18a); and secondly, 'μὲν' = 'conditionally not': '**...but he that believes not** [μὲν] **is condemned already, because he has not** [μὲν] **believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God**' (Jn.3:18b).

In some cases *the two negatives are put together for emphasis*: 'οὐ μὲν'. The second negative intensifies the first. When this ('οὐ μὲν') occurs the meaning is loosely like this: '*No not ever...no possibility it will ever happen*'. Example of this are: '**All that the Father gives me shall come to me; and him that comes to me I will in no wise** [οὐ μὲν] **cast out**' (Jn.6:37).

Another example of a double negative that should give great assurance to the saints is: '**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never** [οὐ μὲν] **perish, neither** [οὐ] **shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one**' (Jn.10:27-30)

The double negative with the word 'perish' is a strong affirmation of an eternal life that is guaranteed to the sheep! In Greek, although there is a double negative here, it is translated by just one English word 'never'.

Other 'double negatives' are: '**For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise** [οὐ μὲν - no, not ever] **pass from the law, till all be fulfilled**' (Matt.5:18); '**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not** [οὐ μὲν - no, not ever] **pass away**' (Matt.24:35).

However, one of the strongest and most unusual examples of the 'double negative' is Heb.13:5,6: '**Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as you have: for he has said, I will never** [οὐ μὲν] **leave you, nor** [οὐδ' οὐ μὲν] **forsake you. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not** [οὐ] **fear what man shall do unto me**'.

Here the double negative occurs twice. There is in fact a total of five negatives in one verse (vs.5)! Possible translations here could be: '*I will (1) never (2) ever leave you, (3) no, I will (4) never (5) ever forsake you*'; or '*I will not, I will not, I will not forsake you*'.

There are two negatives before we get to the word 'leave' and three negatives before the word 'forsake' - this is 'triple assurance'! God has in His original inspired and inerrant word used the double negative to express these assurances to believers. He will never, never leave us! His Word will never, never fail!

When you are next depressed or lacking any kind of assurance, remember the double negatives here!

Terry Arnold

man's heart to testify of conviction: '**Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness** [testimony], **and their thoughts...accusing or else excusing one another**' (Rom.2:15). Note the polarity of 'accusing' or 'excusing'. The conscience is a definitive indicator of the law and morally tells right from wrong. Yet today psychology teaches against the concept of sin and even that a guilty conscience is not healthy.

*That the conscience is an indicator of the law of God is seen even in obeying the laws of the land: 'Wherefore you must needs be subject, not only for wrath* [punishment], *but also for conscience sake*' (Rom.13:5). If the law does not stop us, our conscience should. If we are speeding in our cars, avoiding tax, misusing government payments, etc, there is a conscience to deal with.

### **The Word of God, the Holy Spirit, and the conscience**

The conscience needs to be fed and programmed. The only sure way of having it built with a divine rightness is by the Word of God. Any '*prompting*' that may come from the conscience must be based upon the Word of God as its foundation. The conscience is a vehicle by which the Holy Spirit may witness to us: '**I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in** [*'en*' - resting in] **the Holy Ghost** (Rom.9:1).

*But this Spirit does not speak to us separate to the Word. Any witness or 'prompting' by the Spirit to our conscience should be a result of being 'renewed in the mind'* by the Word of God (Eph.4:23; 2Cor.4:16; Col.3:10).

### **A good conscience; or a weak, defiled conscience**

The more we know and understand the Law of Christ in the Word of God, the more information we have for a solid foundation for the conscience. '**The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes**' (Ps.19:7,8).

Such a good conscience must have a high view of the Word of God. A 'good conscience' was important to the apostle Paul: '**And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God unto this day**' (Acts 23:1). The conscience must be clean in the sight of God and also men. It must not be 'offended' or pricked without dealing with the conviction thereof: '**And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men**' (Acts 24:16). Paul's defenses of the faith were not what people wanted to hear but it was important to him that his own conscience was not offended or violated in any way. It was a '*good conscience*'. '**Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation** [conduct; behaviour] **in Christ**' (1Pet.3:16).

A '*good conscience*' will bring with it a peace and joy: '**For our rejoicing is this, the testimony** [confirming] **of our conscience, that in simplicity and**

*godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward* (2Cor.1:12).

This *'rejoicing'* is the peace and joy of a good conscience which can only come when the heart is being trained by an honest conscience and there is no hypocrisy: *'Now the end of the commandment is charity [love] out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned'* (1Tim.1:5). Paul was here speaking to Timothy and comparing a good conscience built up by the Word of God in comparison to false teachers who do not have a *'faith unfeigned'* [genuine, sincere], but speak and live in hypocrisy. Paul's admonition to Timothy was to that of *'holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck'* (1Tim.1:19).

I can personally testify to the above 'shipwreck' of faith. For some years I was occasionally convicted that what I was teaching and following in the Charismatic/Pentecostal movement was unscriptural or mixed with feelings, emotions and extra biblical leaven. In consistently ignoring these convictions came a conscience which was dulled and at times blind to truth. I have met many similar who having ignored or justified their consciences, who have become 'shipwrecked', sometimes with disastrous consequences to person, mind, family and faith. In my own case I personally justified challenges from the conscience by thinking that 'so many others could not be wrong'. Zeal took pride over knowledge. 'Decisions' and 'signs and wonders' blunted a conscience that would be Berean (Acts 17:11) and one which would *'study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, but rightly dividing the word of truth'* (2Tim.2:15).

Convictions must be acted upon in prayer and study of the word. Whether it be a preference or a command in the word of God, we must never let our conscience become *'weak'*: *'Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled'* (1Cor.8:7) Although the 'weak' conscience here may be because of a lack of knowledge and immaturity, nevertheless we must not act against our conscience and thus *'defile'* it. *'For if any man see you which has knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols'* (vs.10). We must also never cause a person to go against their own conscience by what we say or do: *'But when you sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ'* (vs.12).

This does not mean that we do not speak truth to people who have a different conscience on things. The unsaved have a conscience that, although it can still operate by a moral law of right and wrong which is written on their hearts (Rom.2:15), it is not able to be subject to God's laws of holiness and salvation (Rom.8:5-8) unless the Spirit illuminates the mind and changes the heart (Jn.6:44,65). It is a command that we preach to their consciences and pray that

the Spirit will convict the conscience of truth in God's word and His Gospel.

### **Results of ignoring the conscience**

There once was a pilot of a large commercial jet who not long after take-off from an airport, began to hear warning signals in the cockpit. The cockpit computer was sending out warning voices *'Pull up! Pull up! Pull up!'*. The pilot ignored the warnings as faulty and justified to himself that he was in safe air and on a correct heading. But the warning signal was activated by a low altitude monitor which had been fed into the computer. The warnings continued but the chief pilot was heard to say *'shut up gringo'*. Within minutes the plane slammed into the side of a mountain killing all of hundreds on board.

In the last days many will be like the above pilot and ignore the plain language of, and the sufficiency of, scripture. *'Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron'* (1Tim.4:1,2).

We must keep our conscience clear, pure and undefiled. *'Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled'* (Tit.1:15).

Interestingly the above scripture comes after the list of qualifications for an elder. The passage is urging elders to rebuke the mouths of false teachers and those with a defiled conscience. Today there is an endless list of pastors, elders and key public preachers who have publicly fallen in sins unbecoming of any Christian, having allowed their conscience to be 'defiled'. The end result of sin is serious indeed. Hell is a terrifying demonstration of how much God hates sin and must judge it. Hell is a place of the conscience turning on the sinner and the agony thereof, a place where one cannot silence accusing thoughts.

Why do people sometimes struggle with sin issues? Could it be because they often do not *deal with the conscience and take early action in separation?* Ignoring the conscience or not acting upon its convictions is dangerous indeed. Accountability to friends and elders surely is also a benefit here. There is sometimes a cost to a Christian who will follow his conscience in the midst of a wicked world which will do everything it can to dull the convictions thereof. It may cost us our self righteousness, our pride and the favour of the world. But a religion that cost nothing is worth nothing. A religion without a cross to bear is a religion without a future. But any cost must also be looked at in the light of what it cost our God who had to look upon His only begotten Son on a cruel and bloody cross being sacrificed as the innocent Lamb in slaughter. The blood shed was satisfactory payment to a God greatly offended by the sin of mankind.

The conscience is a holy tool of God. Feed and build it correctly with the Word of God, listen to it and act on its convictions. *It's God's witness in the Holy Spirit* (Rom.9:1).

**Terry Arnold**