



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

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

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

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Homiletics (Preaching) Course

In August 17th-21st this year the Pacific Bible Institute students, as part of their Graduate studies, will be attending a week long Homiletics course.

We are opening this course free of charge to any pastors or those who would like to sit in on a week of morning lectures. Certificates will be issued for those who complete the week. For more information see P.20.

Editor's Comment

Spurgeon said '*A magazine which is not outspoken, and is destitute of principle, is a literary nuisance*'. We have recently received many encouraging letters from Christians who identify with what we are writing. Many see the need to '*earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*' (Jude 3). We admit that some of the editorials and pleas we make are forthright and may seem blunt in language to some. We do live in a post-modern age where such language is equated with 'intolerance' or 'negativity'. But it is our belief that we are living in days when people need to be challenged and awoken from a laxity in doctrine to a need to discern the times.

We live in days when information is immediate at the touch of a keyboard. The smorgasbord of ideas includes truth and half truths. It is the half truths which often concern me the most, considering they are the most deceptive.

I often meet people who pull things 'out of the air' or from dubious sources, to support a doctrine or stance on any one issue. One of the tenets of this ministry is a striving to be accurate and factual. It does require research and sometimes running things past others involved in specialist areas for verification. Scholarship and integrity in writing are non negotiable, especially when it comes to handling and teaching God's word (2Cor.4:2). The judgement for this is severe and to be feared (2Pet.3:16).

The integrity of the church is in serious question. The so called 'revivals' have come and gone and yet the church is still in decline in so many ways. Statistically the western church has fewer percentages of populations attending church. In the UK and other western nations this has dropped by half and the average age of attendees has also doubled. Fewer percentages of Christians believe in the basic tenets of the faith. Bible knowledge is at an all time low.

There is also an epidemic of 'church hopping' occurring with people using the church like a market place for felt needs. This is not made any less with the church growth gurus who teach the church as a market place for people to get what they may selfishly want.

Hardly a year goes past and a prominent church preacher or leader is exposed for corruption or gross immorality. False healings are exposed as fraudulent. Visions and accounts of after death experiences are exposed as lies. The media increasingly mocks the remnant in the church who would take a definite stand on same sex agendas, women in ministry, abortion, or serious moral issues. For the most part religious and church leaders sit on the fence on these issues and sometimes get embarrassed, even impaled on their own fences of compromise. The integrity of ministers and the church is arguably at an all time low.

There is in fact now '*little statistical difference between the ethical practices of the religious and the non-religious. But for the Christian, the most chilling fact is sadly that Christians are almost as likely as non-Christians to: falsify*

*their income tax returns;...illegally copy a computer program; exaggerate a product; tell people what they want to hear; selectively obey the laws**. Again, integrity is one of the greatest needs of the Church today.

Clearly also there is a lack of integrity, truth and real results in much modern evangelism. This is particularly so when there is an 80-90% fall away rate of people professing Christianity.

At the root of all these demises is that the church has lost its moorings in the all sufficiency of Scripture. The questions the church increasingly has difficulty in answering is - are the scriptures all sufficient and satisfactory for doctrine and the spiritual life of believers? Does the Bible contain contradictions? Is it verbally inspired, infallible and inerrant? Do we need to change the commands of the apostles when they contradict modern 'culture'. If any of these questions are answered in the negative or with a wavering, then we are not 'Sola Scriptura' (Scripture alone for doctrine and the spiritual life).

The faith we must follow is the Word of God laid down in the early centuries as the canon of Scripture. Those 66 books are now the '***All Scripture given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works***' (2Tim.3:16,17).

Christianity is awash with new teachings *added to the 'more sure word of prophecy...the prophecy of the scripture'* - '*the faith once delivered*' (2Pet.1:19,20; Jude 3). But there is an orthodoxy and consistency in biblical doctrines that runs with history. Most major doctrines will be found consistently historical. They will not suddenly be new at any time.

We in this ministry not only have a passion for truth and facts but a fierce allegiance to the purity of doctrine and the Gospel. We also have a determination for the integrity of this ministry itself. When the apostle Paul's ministry was attacked he defended it stoutly as well as his own credibility. No doubt he did this for the sake of the Gospel not being hindered in reaching all peoples.

In this ministry we do not look for and enjoy controversy. We do not lightly expose people and doctrines. But in the defense of the faith and for the love of, and protection of God's sheep, our heart is to defend truth, to *inform, teach and equip* God's people.

We in this ministry encourage our critics to ask the question - is it truth? If not, then correct us. More than this, we challenge our readers to test what is written, and '***prove all things; hold fast that which is good***' (1Thess.5:21).

In this issue we take the unusual step of naming names and warning people of something which is growing in Christendom - misrepresentation of truth. To misrepresent doctrine, history or something that someone believes is to us the height of deception and a lack of integrity that the church should have.

We need integrity, the church needs integrity - because this is the character of our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Terry Arnold

* '*Disciplines of a Godly Man*' by R. Kent Hughes, P.125

Shock Approval of Gay Marriage by Presbyterian Church



The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has approved the redefining of marriage...to include a 'commitment between two people'. The new definition...required approval from a majority of the denomination's 171 regional districts, or presbyteries. The critical 86th 'yes' vote came...from the Presbytery of the Palisades in New Jersey...The denomination has nearly 1.8 million members and about 10,000 congregations.

(NTEB News Desk, 19 March 2015; Apostasy Alert, 20th March, 2015)

More 'Evictions' in the Future?

A church that voted last year to officially leave the Presbyterian Church (USA) over the denomination's stance on homosexuality, among other doctrinal disagreements, is battling in court over its multi-million dollar property. Like others...that have faced similar separation scenarios, Bonhomme Presbyterian Church in Chesterfield, Missouri, cited theological differences with Presbyterian Church (USA) in its quest to split, voting 722 to 71 last October to exit the denomination following a two-year period of consideration.

The Presbyterian Church (USA)...lifted a ban on gay clergy and is exploring its stance on same-sex marriage, while also supporting abortion rights... 'The denominational drift away from our biblical, confessional and reformed understanding of Christ's person and work, coupled with the PCUSA's eroding commitment to the inspired authority of Scripture, were the primary reasons for our decision', senior pastor Tom Pfizenmaier told the Christian Post. 'We see these issues manifested in the moral confusion and compromise the church is making in its teaching on such issues as marriage and the sanctity of life'...

Bonhomme Presbyterian Church is now in a legal battle with the Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy, the church body that oversaw it before the split, after the presbytery filed suit over the property, which is worth about \$6.05 million.

The Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy charges that Bonhomme Presbyterian Church changed its rules in March 2014, though, to transfer benefits to the church instead of the congregation...Pfizenmaier believes the denomination is 'becoming more and more hostile toward churches that are trying to leave'...244 churches left the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2013 alone.

(H/T: Christian Post) Feb; <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2015/02/03/church-battles-with-nation...>

Editor's Comments: The editor has experienced this firsthand. It is happening on an increasing scale. Denominations are evicting churches who refuse to change from where *they used to be*. Almost every major denomination has changed its doctrines and moved to a liberal or weaker stance on women in ministry, same sex marriage, etc. It's called 'apostasy'.

Billy Graham Says Vatican Belief and His Belief in Harmony



Billy Graham, especially in his frail old age, is loved and admired by millions. But back when he was young and strong, the gospel he preached got sidetracked...and he fell in league with every manner of apostate churches like the Mormons and the Roman Catholic Church.

In a video...<http://www.nowtheendbegins.com/blog/?p=30279> you will hear, in his own words, about his half century long partnership with the Vatican, and how 'the Pope and I agree on nearly everything'. For more than 50 years, Billy Graham has preached, believed and taught at his crusades that the Roman Catholic Church represents the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Billy Graham says in this video 'I am very comfortable with the Vatican. I believe what they believe'.

Billy Graham has been approached personally by hundreds of concerned Christians over the years in an effort to show him his error and request that he publicly repent of his apostasy - and myriad articles, which he has surely read, have been written alerting Billy and his listeners to his erroneous ways - to no avail.

(NETB News Desk, 27 January 2015; Apostasy Alert, Feb.2nd 2015)

Editor's note: Because of a lack of space and having received many letters on this issue, we will revisit this in a future *Diakrisis*. However, there is an article on Billy Graham on our website which simply lists statements made by him *with no editorial from us*. As a former Charismatic Roman Catholic who had ecumenical sympathies and who was later saved, I became acutely aware of the danger of the ecumenical crusades where people were sent back to a religion with a *different gospel*.

The 'Doctrines of Grace'

'There is a tendency in this age to throw doctrinal truth into the shade. Too many preachers are offended with that stern truth...to which the Puritans testified...We are told that the times have changed; that we are to modify these old (so-called) Calvinistic doctrines...Any man who does this, so far as my judgment goes, does not declare the whole counsel of God. The faithful minister must be plain, simple, pointed, with regard to these doctrines. There must be no dispute about whether he believes them or not. He must so preach them that his hearers will know whether he preaches a scheme of free will, or a covenant of grace - whether he teaches salvation by works, or salvation by the power and grace of God'.

(C.H.Spurgeon: Sermon 'The Minister's Farewell', 1860)

Herald of Hope - a Warning

The Problem: Misrepresentation

Recently several of our subscribers notified us of a series of articles written in the Australian magazine *Herald of Hope* remonstrating against the ‘Doctrines of Grace’. Some have subsequently cancelled their subscriptions to the publication. When we reviewed the articles titled ‘*5 Deadly Points - an Examination of Calvinism Today*’, we were amazed by the lack of understanding, scholarship and the misrepresentation of the history of ‘Calvinistic’ doctrines.

We wrote privately to the author, a Vince Wall, currently pastoring the Baptist Tabernacle in Newcastle NSW. citing the blatant errors in his writings. His response was disappointing. The Herald of Hope has consistently refused, over many years, to correct any of a number of articles where error has been shown to them. The standard of scholarship for such a publication is seriously lacking.

This article may irritate some who would wonder why we would expose a ministry which offers interesting material on geopolitical events pertaining to Biblical prophecy and the Lord’s soon coming. However, we have been spurred on to write of the egregious errors in this and other editions by the editor’s refusal to correct erroneous teaching when scripture has been used to show where they have erred. Worse, they have simply *continued* to publish untruths - especially in the area of the Biblical doctrines of the sovereign grace of God in the salvation of men. To misrepresent history, Biblical doctrines and the writings of men such as Spurgeon naturally raises alarm. To refuse, even when approached privately, to make any corrections, demands that it becomes necessary to refute publicly what has been written and distributed widely amongst the Christian community. It is important for our readers to understand that we have, over a lengthy period of time, written to the authors and editors of this publication in a vain attempt to have them correct their constant misrepresentations. Although we do not apply the label ‘Calvinism’ to ourselves, or adopt the ‘TULIP’ (1) acronym - we have written previously outlining our stand for the Biblical ‘Doctrines of Grace’ (as they are mostly called) as espoused in scripture and by the majority of the church fathers, Reformers, Puritans, revivalists, martyrs, and the great divines down the centuries.

A History of Concerns:

The lack of research for this magazine was first revealed in the August/2000 edition concerning Sydney church leader Phil Pringle, which we quoted in the *Diakrisis* newsletter of March/April, 2001. We later found this article

(1) 1. Total Depravity 2. Unconditional election 3. Limited atonement 4. Irresistible Grace 5. Perseverance of the saints

to be inaccurate and drew our readers attention to that and issued an apology for reprinting it in the *Diakrisis* of July/August 2001.

Then in *Diakrisis* of January/February 2007 we refuted an article by the editor of the Herald of Hope, titled '*Who Are the Elect*'. In this article the history of the Synod of Dort (1618) was *reversed* by stating that '*Arminianism was a reaction to Calvinism*'. It was in fact quite the opposite. The 5 points of the Synod of Dort were actually a reaction (a *refutation*) to the 5 points of Arminianism. And John Calvin had been dead for nearly 50 years at the time the synod was assembled. We tried to correct editor John Ecob privately on some simple points - but to no avail. In a terse reply he harshly and incorrectly labelled us as 'Reformed'. The Herald of Hope has consistently painted with a broad brush when stating that Reformed people are necessarily Calvinistic and vice versa. However, there are many who would be deemed by the Herald of Hope to be 'Reformed' who are not 'Calvinistic' and many 'Calvinists' who are not 'Reformed'. In the same article editor John Ecob horribly confused 'Calvinism' with 'hyper-Calvinism'. Also, in refuting 'Total Depravity', Ecob stated '*Unsaved man can do good works but these obtain no merit for salvation*'. Yet Scripture teaches that all our works are as '*filthy rags*' (Is.64:6). Ecob in attempting to understand sovereign election wrote: '*if God does not elect him, then God is appointing him to hell*'. Yet historic 'Calvinism' teaches no such extrapolated strawman logic. This is the stuff of 'double predestination' and aligns perfectly with erroneous 'hyper'-Calvinism.

Then again in 2007 (*Diakrisis* November/December) we exposed further incorrect exegesis found in this magazine. They were found teaching that a 'Rapture' could be found in the text of 2 Thessalonians 2:3. Our response showed historically that this was a relatively new teaching dating back to a few obscure references from writers in the mid 1850's and then again in the mid 20th Century. The historical view has always been that this refers to an apostasy ('*apostasia*'), a '*falling away from the faith*', and not a 'rapture'. We also showed where their use of the Greek language was in gross error as well as the selective use of earlier Bible translations. (There is an in depth article available on our website titled: '*Apostasia is not the Rapture*')

'TULIP' and Spurgeon Misrepresented

Now in more recent articles, we again became concerned over blatant misrepresentations and a further refusal to receive correction. Let the reader be aware we have written privately to the editor of the Herald of Hope over some years and now privately to Pastor Vince Wall, the author of the recent articles we speak of here. Pastor Wall's replies were abrasive and dismissive. We then regretfully decided to write this article in an effort to correct the errors for those readers confused by the series of articles written by Pastor Wall.

In the articles '*5 Deadly Points*' [*HofH* Dec/2014] concerning 'Calvinism'

Wall claims: *'The Synod of Dort affirmed five basic tenets of Calvinism which is known as TULIP...1. Total Depravity 2. Unconditional election 3. Limited Atonement 4. Irresistible Grace 5. Perseverance of the Saints'*.

What he does not tell the reader is that 'TULIP' was not invented until the 20th century, over 300 years after the Synod of Dort and 350 years after Calvin's death! We challenged him on this in a private e-mail and in his reply *the error was compounded*. He replied: *'Please make sure you have your facts right when accusing others of being in error in what they write. Col 4:6 'Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man'. A little research into TULIP will show you that it is not as recent as the 20th Century as you claim. Spurgeon had TULIP preached on at the inaugural ceremonies of the Tabernacle in London (See Expositions of the Doctrines of Grace, April 1861). Other preachers took TULIP in 1861 and preached individual messages on each doctrine at the Tabernacle. I have listed the preachers below: Total Depravity by Evan Probert; Unconditional Election by John Bloomfield; Limited Atonement by J A[?] Spurgeon; Irresistible Grace by James Smith; Perseverance of the Saints by William O'Neil'*.

The terrible lack of research here is stunning! We replied: *'Spurgeon did NOT preach TULIP in the 'inaugural ceremonies in the Tabernacle'! (11th April 1861) The internet sites have added TULIP for modern day viewers. You obviously have not read the sermons. The points preached by Spurgeon and his co-preachers were: Message 1 'Election' by John Bloomfield (It was NOT titled Unconditional Election); Message 2. 'Human depravity' by Evan Probert (It was NOT titled 'Total Depravity'); Message 3. 'Particular Redemption' by Spurgeon (It was NOT titled 'Limited Atonement'); Message 4. 'Effectual Calling' by James Smith (It was NOT titled 'Irresistible Grace'); Message 5. 'The final perseverance of believers in Christ Jesus' by William O'Neill.*

Spurgeon never used or heard of a 'TULIP'. TULIP was not invented until nearly 300 years after Dort!...There is in fact not a single reference to TULIP until the 20th Century...Do you now acknowledge this error regarding TULIP and its history? And your claims on behalf of Spurgeon?...Are you prepared to look at this seriously and represent historic 'Calvinism' correctly...'

The reply was again disappointing: *'None of my articles set a date whatsoever for TULIP if you read them. Apologies: Spurgeon had the Doctrines of Grace preached which (spurgeon.org) preface with the doctrines of TULIP as Spurgeon wanted other pastors to expand the doctrines of Calvinism'*.

The problem with this reply is that the doctrines Spurgeon preached here are not 'TULIP', nor even taught as the Herald of Hope claim they were!

We also asked Vince Wall: *'Would you have Spurgeon preach in your church if he was alive? Did he preach 'unbiblical error' and in 'conflict with the Word of God' and 'another gospel' as you have stated in your articles?'*

There was a consistent avoiding of these questions in replies, just: *'Calvinism is a threat to the purity of the Gospel'*. Interestingly, as mentioned

previously, Vince Wall is now the pastor of the Newcastle [NSW] Baptist Tabernacle which was modelled after Spurgeon's London Tabernacle. The early pastors of his Newcastle church were 'Calvinists'!

The Misrepresentations: Augustine, Calvin, Catholicism...

The writer began this series of articles on the '5 Deadly Points' by speaking of the Charismatic movement and then confusing 'Calvinism' with 'New Calvinism'. However, 'New Calvinism' is a modern movement with a cultural distinction in music and other modernistic ideas. 'New Calvinism' has different views on the 'gifts' than historic Calvinism. None of this is explained in the article and Wall somehow equates this with modernistic errors. He then goes on a journey to Augustine who is '*responsible for the errors of the Catholic church...the father of a-millennialism*' and believed that '*God had chosen others to hell*'. No source is given for the latter quote. These errors of Augustine are strongly equated with 'Calvinism'. Wall writes: '*Calvin's beliefs on salvation are summarised in what is known as the five points of Calvinism, TULIP. Total depravity; Unconditional election; Limited atonement; Irresistible Grace; Perseverance of the saints*'. Wall says: '*Calvin casts doubt on the sovereignty of God, the salvation of God, the grace of God, the word of God and the character of God. Calvinism's God does not want ALL men to be saved...but the grace of God is freely offered to all...Calvinism often conceals...that God has pleasure in consigning souls to hell...Calvinism...has a history that is rooted in early Catholicism...*'

There is a litany of errors here. Firstly, Calvin and Augustine never had 'five points'. It was Arminius who originally came up with '5 points' which the Synod of Dort (1608) refuted with their own 5 points - and those 5 points were NOT 'TULIP'! Many of the later Reformers, evangelists and historic leaders who taught these 'Doctrines of Grace' (which included Unconditional Election), did not take their teachings on election or predestination from Calvin. Those who attack these doctrines delight in quoting Calvin and Augustine as though historic Calvinists agree with everything they taught on these issues. But this is misrepresentation regurgitated from hand-me-down quotes. Spurgeon who would be considered today a staunch 'Calvinist' did not agree with Calvin's early 'Institutes'. Interestingly, John Calvin has been quoted as 'for' and 'against' the doctrines above. For example, Calvin is quoted for and against 'Limited Atonement'. Advocates on the *same side* use quotes for and against to prove Calvin did or did not believe in this doctrine! The late author Dave Hunt gave quotes by Calvin *against* Limited Atonement! (Calvin's views on the atonement also vary between his early 'Institutes' and later ones). This is contrary to Wall's statements concerning Calvin. Also, Calvin believed in giving *the Gospel to all* as did all the historic 'Calvinists'. Yet Wall would have his readers believe the opposite. The fact is that historic 'Calvinism' does not teach

a positive predestination to Hell nor that ‘*God has pleasure in consigning souls to hell*’, as Wall and the Herald of Hope teach. Many quotes can be given for this. (2) Wall’s articles are couched in sensational language written to incite emotion in his readers. It lacks balance and scholarship. The confusion here between historic ‘Calvinism’ and ‘hyper-Calvinism’ is patently obvious in numerous articles by the Herald of Hope.

The statement that ‘Calvinism’s history is ‘*rooted in early Catholicism*’ also demands definition. The Roman Catholic religion, despite adopting Augustine’s later views in many ecclesiastical areas, is decidedly *non Augustinian* in their doctrine of salvation. Although there are some teachings developed by Rome that can be attributed to Augustine, the Roman Catholic church barely existed in Augustine’s era and definitely not in the form that it is today. The papacy was not in existence, much less its peculiar doctrines. Many of the traditions and dogmas that exist today were simply not in existence in Augustine’s time. *The Roman church is Arminian* and rejects sovereign election, predestination and the final ‘perseverance of the saints’ - all which Augustine affirmed in his defence against Pelagianism and semi-Pelagianism, which the Roman church has adopted today. Augustine’s view on faith opposes the Roman Catholic view today. On confession of sins, the immaculate conception (i.e. Mary as sinless) and many other doctrines, Augustine was opposed to. This is not to say we agree with Augustine’s doctrines in many areas (we are not ‘Augustinian’ in doctrine), but harnessing Augustine to a ‘Calvinism’ as being ‘*rooted in early Catholicism*’, is simply unbalanced and misleading.

Misrepresenting ‘Total Depravity’

The articles continue: ‘*Calvinists...err in believing that man is totally incapable of accepting God’s offer of salvation...*’ Our reply to this is blunt: Man is indeed incapable in and of himself to respond unless the Holy Spirit ‘draws’ such a person! Let the scriptures speak: ‘***Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be***’ (Rom.8:7); ‘***But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned***’ (1Cor.2:14).

The Bible clearly teaches unsaved man is ‘*dead in sins*’ (Col.2:13; Eph.2:1), our ‘*understanding was darkened*’ and we were ‘*alienated from the life of God...because of the blindness of our hearts*’ (Eph.4:18). Jesus said ‘*No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him...*’ (Jn.6:44).

Not one scripture is given by Wall to show that unsaved man is capable in

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(2) Statements made in this article can be backed with evidence and quotes from our book ‘*Calvinism & Arminianism - Out of the Maze*’. This book contains numerous quotes by Spurgeon on these ‘Doctrines of Grace’. The book shows the difference between historic ‘Calvinism’ and hyper-Calvinism - one of the main misrepresentations by the Herald of Hope.

himself of ‘*accepting*’ salvation and that we do ‘*err in believing that man is incapable of accepting God’s offer of salvation*’. Isaiah 45:21,22 is then quoted: ‘*Look unto me and be saved, all the ends of the earth*’. However, the context is idolatry within Israel and the application is that the Gospel is available and free to all. ‘Calvinism’ does not disagree with this. Spurgeon fought the hyper-Calvinists on this very issue and contended for a *Gospel freely available to all*.

Wall also pens cheap throw-away lines such as: ‘*Jesus never taught Reformed Theology that only the elect can respond to God*’. Again, his ‘Calvinism’ is painted with the broad brush of ‘*Reformed Theology*’. But the truth is - those who will be saved *are* the ‘elect’! They are the ones who will ultimately respond to God. Wall also writes that Calvinists do not believe we are Born Again by the Word of God and hearing it. This is utter misrepresentation.

Wall descends further into false teaching: ‘*From the beginning humans have had the capacity to receive or reject the revelation of God. The sinful nature has not rendered mankind totally incapable of responding to God...man has the responsibility and the ability to either except [he means ‘accept’] or reject God’s word*’. This smacks of the semi-Pelagian heresy of the 5th century and Arminian heresy of the 16th Century. The scriptures teach unsaved man is a ‘slave’ to sin (Jn.8:34; Rom.6:16-22; 8:7,8). Unsaved man is corrupted in every part from the sin of Adam and Eve. He is morally bankrupt, ‘*dead*’ in sin. Some call this ‘Total Depravity’, others ‘Total Inability’. Whatever label used mankind remains ‘*dead*’ in sin! Are there degrees of being ‘*dead*’?...are there degrees of how dead a corpse is in a morgue? The unsaved heart ‘*is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked...*’ (Jer.17:9). ‘*Deceitful above all things*’ is not a partial ‘*sickness*’ but a crookedness ‘*above all things*’. There is no room here for any doctrine of human ability or a ‘capacity’ as Wall claims, within an unsaved man that would be pleasing to a holy God! We are *conceived ‘in iniquity’* (Ps.51:5); ‘*all as an unclean thing, all our righteousness’s are as filthy rags*’ (Is.64:6-8); ‘*There is none righteous...none that understands...none seek after God. They are all...become unprofitable; there is none that does good...Their throat is an open sepulchre...*’ (Rom.3:10-20). Unsaved men are ‘*BY NATURE*’ *the children of wrath...*’!

Why, if we have some ‘ability’ as Wall claims, do we have to be ‘*quicken*ed’ (‘*made alive*’) to be saved ‘*when we were dead in sins*’ (Eph.2:2-5)?

But it gets worse. Again, the confusion between Wall’s ‘Calvinism’ and hyper-Calvinism is revealed: ‘*Would a loving God command all men to repent and believe his word knowing he had already chosen the vast majority to spend eternity in hell?*’ But this is *NOT* what historic ‘Calvinism’ teaches but rather hyper-Calvinism. Historic ‘Calvinists’ did not believe a ‘double predestination’.

‘Free Will’ Misrepresented

Wall continues: ‘*From Genesis to Revelation the Bible teaches that every*

person has a free will and can turn to God and believe the Gospel of Christ'. Not one scripture is given for this staggering statement! None of the Reformers, evangelists, revivalists taught 'free will' - Spurgeon, Whitefield, Darby, Mueller, all the martyrs, Reformers, etc. This 'doctrine' is an erroneous modern teaching. Rather, 'Free Agency' was the term used. 'Free agency' means that we have a will that is only free *according to one's nature*. This nature in an unregenerate person is NOT completely 'free' - it is a 'servant' ['*doulos*'- 'slave'] of sin (Jn.8:34). We were '*by nature the children of wrath...*' (Eph.2:3).

How 'free' is an unsaved man's will?...

If unsaved man's will is completely free (in the true sense) to enable a 'choosing' of Christ for salvation, then why is it that '*the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned*'? (1Cor.2:14); '*the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be*' (Rom.8:7,8). Does this sound like a 'will' that is 'free'?

If unsaved man's will is free to choose Christ for salvation then why did Jesus say '*No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him...*' (Jn.6:44)? If man's will is 'free', then why '*no man can come*'?

If unsaved man's will is free to choose Christ for salvation then why is it '*there is none that seeks after God*' (Rom.3:11)? Why is it that it is God seeking and choosing man and not man seeking or choosing God (Lk.19:10; Eph.1:4)?

If unsaved man's will is free to choose Christ for salvation then why has '*the god of this world blinded the minds of them which believe not...*' (2Cor.4:4). How can unsaved man's will be 'free' if his mind is '*blinded*'?

If unsaved man's will is free to choose Christ for salvation then why is there the need for God to 'free' us? '*If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed*' (Jn.8:36). If we have a will entirely 'free' then what does the Son need to set us 'free' from?

There is not one single Scripture that teaches unregenerate man 'wills' to choose God as His personal Lord and Saviour for salvation! Spurgeon and most of the other divines throughout history strongly refuted any notion of a 'free' will. Spurgeon, in '*Free will - a slave*' (Dec.2, 1855), summarised: '*If you had not fallen, you would come to Christ the moment he was preached to you; but you do not come because of your sinfulness and crime*'. Unsaved man is a 'slave' to sin (Eph.2:1,5; Col.2:13; Rom.6:9,14; 7:1). The difference between 'free will' and 'free agency' is not semantics, but a scriptural reality!

This does not deny that man has a will and is responsible for his sin. The two may appear to be contradictory - yet they are both scripturally accurate.

Wall continues in utter confusion over his understanding of 'Calvinism' and hyper-Calvinism. Says he: '*Calvinism unashamedly teaches that all the damned go to the Lake of Fire because God did not elect them to go to Heaven*'. Wall and the Herald of Hope know this is not what most 'Calvinists' teach. Historic 'Calvinism' does not teach that the damned are in Hell '*because God*

did not elect them’, but rather that such are there because of their sin and unbelief. Historic ‘Calvinism’ does not use the former twisted logic. The truth is that all in Hell receive *justice* for their sin. God has chosen the elect and left others just as they always were - ‘*dead in sin*’.

A New Doctrine?

Wall also comes up with a new doctrine to somehow refute ‘Calvinism’ (the connection was lost to us): ‘*Every child born into this world is innocent until it comes to the age of understanding when it must choose God or Satan...*’ Isaiah 7:6 and Ezekiel 33:11 are quoted as proof texts for this new doctrine.

However, Isaiah 7:16 is NOT speaking about salvation - it is speaking of children’s behaviour. The age of accountability was 20 in Israel, which were those numbered for war (Num.14:29). Numbers begins with the numbering of all the tribes from 20 years upward (Num.1:1-3). Because the nation refused to take Canaan, God took 40 years to allow for the death of all these 20+ adults. This age of 20 has nothing to do with eternal life at all. Moses called those under 20 little ones and children, not knowing good or evil (Dt.1:39; Num.14:31), which is a general reference to children before their majority (Jonah 4:11). The ages of 5 or 20 or 60 have as much validity as any other for eternal life, because eternal life is not under consideration here.

Paul taught that sin and death passed on *all* from Adam, even over those between Adam and Moses who did not have the Law, even babies and others without any Law (Rom.5:12-14). *All die* in Adam (1Cor.15:22; Rom.5), including babies in the womb, in infancy or immaturity. *Sin brings death without distinction*. David declared he was ‘*conceived in sin*’ and ‘*shapen in iniquity*’ in his mother’s womb (Ps.51:5), which could be argued indicates an ‘age of accountability’ of nine months before birth or at conception! David further declared that the wicked go astray morally with lies right from birth (Ps.58:3). Nothing born of a woman, except the virgin birth of Jesus, can be ‘*innocent*’ before God (Job.25:4-6; 15:14-16). Children are responsible for their actions and to be judged accordingly (Pr.20:11). God could have saved Sodom for all the ‘innocent’ children, but He did not (Gen.18:32). If children under 13 or 20 are not accountable, then parents must stop reproving or punishing them, for they would not be accountable for their actions (Pr.13:24; 22:6,15; 23:13-14).

Salvation is based entirely on the ‘*good pleasure of His will*’ (Eph.1:5), not on age or any other factor of human character or action, neither of ‘*birth, will or flesh*’ (Jn.1:13) ‘*not of him that wills but of God; that shows mercy*’ (Rom.9:15,16). It is given ‘*according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began*’ (2Tim.1:9). Any scheme allowing sinners into Heaven apart from God’s will is patently false (Jn.1:13; Rom.3:23; 9:15-16; Eph.1:3-12; 2Tim 1:9; Tit.3:3-7).

Unconditional Election - the other side

Pastor Wall writes: *'The doctrine of unconditional election teaches that God has chosen specific individuals for salvation whilst others are chosen by God for damnation'*. And thus *'God has willed the damnation of most of mankind'*. Again, this is a misrepresentation of 'unconditional election'. Historic 'Calvinism' and most who Wall would call 'Calvinists' do NOT teach an election to Hell as a decree. Unconditional election is almost always taught as an election to Heaven, not Hell. The difference between 'Calvinism' and hyper-Calvinism is important here. Hyper-Calvinism expresses a 'double' view where God both positively elects some to salvation and positively elects the many to Hell. But this is not the normal view of most 'Calvinists' in history who did, and do not, see any 'reprobation' to Hell as a decree the same as the decree in election to salvation and Heaven. To be reprobate is to be left in sin, not pushed or forced to sin. George Whitefield, a 'Calvinist', writing to Wesley, gave the typical view and confirmed what was already in the Confessions of the day: *'I believe the doctrine of reprobation, in this view, that God intends to give saving grace, through Jesus Christ, only to a certain number, and that the rest of mankind, after the Fall of Adam, being justly left of God to continue in sin, will at last suffer that eternal death with its proper wages. This is the established doctrine of scripture and acknowledged as such...'* (3) Spurgeon stated: *'Where men perish it is in consequence of their sin'* (4)...*'damnation is the result of justice, not of arbitrary predestination'*. (5)

The Herald of Hope has had this shown to them more than once - yet *they persist in this misrepresentation!* This is nothing short of literary dishonesty - to labour a false view to a point where a 'strawman' has been created.

Again, John Calvin is quoted by Wall as teaching *'some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation...'*. As we have stated before, this is not indicative of the way that 'Calvinists' have expressed election. Calvin is simply not indicative of 'Calvinists', even though the Doctrines of Grace as they were called, now have sadly been given the nickname of 'Calvinism'.

Wall then selectively quotes the Westminster Confession: *'By the decree of God...some men and angels are predestined into everlasting life; and others foreordained to everlasting death...their numbers so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished'*. What Wall does not show is the scriptures originally used in the Confession for this - they refer to election to Heaven (Eph.1:5,6; 2Tim.2:19), *angels* designated to Hell (1Tim.5:21; Matt.25:41) and *Judas* or some *'fitted to destruction'* (Jn.13:18; Rom.9:22,23; Pr.16:4). Wall also omits the following in the Confession: *'God hath appointed the elect unto glory...they who are elected...are effectually called...justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by His power through faith, unto salvation...The*

Continued next page >

(3) George Whitefield's Letter to Wesley on Election (1740), Chapel Library, Pensacola

(4) Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol.7, P.301; (5) Ibid Vol 9, P.VI-II

rest of mankind God...to pass by; and to ordain them to dishonour and wrath for their sin, to the praise of His glorious justice (Ch.III; Art.VI,VII)

This view of historic ‘Calvinism’ with the idea of ‘*passing by*’ and ‘*justice*’ for sin is not portrayed correctly by authors such as Wall. Rather, they consistently attack what is in reality hyper-Calvinism with its attendant view of reprobation, often described as ‘double predestination’. Indeed, the original Canons of Dort themselves, where the 5 points of refutation against the original 5 points of Arminius, stated: ‘...*the non elect are simply left to the just condemnation of their own sins*’ (Heading 1: Article 15).

Proof that Wall confuses ‘Calvinism’ with ‘hyper-Calvinism’ is this statement concerning ‘Calvinism’: ‘*God indiscriminately favours the elect whilst hating the non-elect even before they are born*’. Yet this is *classic* hyper-Calvinism and a misrepresentation of historic ‘Calvinism’ and the Doctrines of Grace!

Wall says: ‘*If we adopt the Calvinist view...then the Gospel message must entirely change...that’s...another gospel*’. We challenge the Herald of Hope and Vince Wall to examine our Gospel in this ministry and find fault in any part of it! Our book ‘*Eternal Questions*’ clearly sets out the same Gospel as the ‘Calvinists’ of old. If Wall’s statement is true then Spurgeon and most of the great divines preached ‘*another gospel*’!

These doctrines are scriptural, historical and were once orthodox. We stand in a long line of those who taught these truths: the Reformers; the martyrs Ridley, Tyndale; the famous missionaries Carey, Judson; the preachers, evangelists, revivalists, theologians - Spurgeon, Whitefield, Bunyan, Ryle, Edwards, Strong (Author of ‘Strong’s Concordance’), Matthew Henry, Newton... Most, if not all of the KJV translators were ‘Calvinists’. (6) We believe the most balanced view of the Doctrines of Grace is to be found in Baptist Spurgeon’s writings on this matter. His writings typify the general and accepted form of ‘Calvinism’ (he was at pains to emphasise it was, as such, merely ‘nicknamed’). Spurgeon was one of the most evangelistic preachers of the last centuries. His teachings on this topic of ‘Calvinism’ are more numerous than most and worthy of study. His fight against hyper-Calvinism was fierce but was also a testimony left for us as to the differences between the two.

Finally, we openly state that the writings of Vince Wall and the Herald of Hope on this issue are not only misrepresenting the historic Doctrines of Grace but opposing the very teachings of the apostle Paul and others in the Gospels. Although we do not accept the label ‘Calvinists’ for ourselves, and do not agree with Calvin or Augustine in every area, we abhor the misrepresentation of these doctrines that Spurgeon and others vigorously taught. We do not expect all our readers to agree with the ‘Doctrines of Grace’ but we urge our readers to be informed, to test and discern those who would confuse and misrepresent these vital issues in an effort to validate their unbiblical teachings.

Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon

(6) There is an extensive list expanded in ‘*Calvinism & Arminianism - Out of the Maze*’.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Future Sins Forgiven?

Are our future sins forgiven? What about 'for by one offering he has perfected forever them that are sanctified...Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin' (Heb.10:14-18). I also hear people using 1Jn.1:9 but never verses 6,7. Rom.3:25 - says past sins are forgiven, not future.

Now please read Heb.10:26-31: 'For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins'. 'If any man defile the temple, him shall God destroy' (1Cor.3:17). This is what God says will happen to those Christians who sin. Yet when I ask Christians if they are sinners they answer 'yes' every time. If you are a 'sinner' you are not Born Again. The new birth is when you do not sin. There are many hymns which state my sins all of them have been nailed to the cross - this is wrong. Past sins only are forgiven. King David's sin was forgiven. But he paid dearly for it the rest of his life...I demand an answer...

(J.T., WA)

Editor's Reply: Most commentators state that Romans 3:25 refers to sins '*aforetime*' (*proginomai*) - before the coming of Christ, the OT saints, etc, not to believers sins now. Before Jesus Christ died, God instructed them to offer an animal sacrifice for their sins. But this blood could never take away sins (Heb.10:4). The forgiveness by God is now permanent because the sacrifice is permanent.

We now ask God for forgiveness for past iniquity for the sake of *fellowship*, not *relationship*. The relationship is established at the new Birth and was '*before the foundation of the world...predestinated*' (Eph.1:4,5).

Knowing we have an '*advocate with the Father*' (1Jn.2:1), been forgiven, we then '*press on toward the mark*' - '**FORGETTING** what lies behind us' (Phil.3:13,14). Why? Because God has! Past sins before or after becoming a Christian were paid for by our Saviour Jesus Christ on the cross and will no longer be held to our account. He has '*made us alive...having forgiven you ALL trespasses*' - '*nailing*' them '*to the cross*' (Col.2:13,14). He has '*sealed*' us '*until the day of redemption*' (Eph.1:13,14) '*For by one offering he has perfected FOREVER them that are sanctified*' (Heb.10:14). The blood of Christ covers '*ALL sin*' (1Jn.1:7) - and He will finish the work in us that He began (Phil.1:6). Scripture promises that we are '*a new creation*' (2Cor.5:17) and our *sin nature* has been changed. Therefore, as John states, spiritually we do not sin because we are Born Again (1Jn.3:6; 5:18)...it is now our body of death that sins (Rom.7) and always will, until the day that it is also redeemed...As for Heb.10:26-31 - this refers to apostasy, apostates.

Your Comments and Questions

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

'Deformers' and 'Auschwitz'?

[Excerpts only for space]: *You say 'who chose who'. [I am] rolling on the floor - learn to speak [English] correctly! You talk of Christian love?...for the elect or not elect?...Stop your patronizing nonsense. When Calvinists and Greek Scholars don't agree how can you say you have a monopoly on truth?*

...At the Synod of Dort the State/Church Deformed crowd outnumbered the Remonstrants, outvoted them and called them heretics. Where was the Christian love shown by the Deformed Slave owners (Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield)?...Yours is a theology that cannot be preached outside the gates of Auschwitz. You Deformers have blood on your hands like the Catholics...if God decreed everything as you claim then why be concerned if non-Calvinists are wrong...as only the 'Elect' will be saved and others don't have snowballs chance in hell...You should stop rehashing and writing rubbish, wasting your time. You were a Catholic, then a Charismatic, and now a confused Calvinist. What next? James White, John MacArthur and many others state that God Decreed the fall. You got to be sick in your head to think like this about God...

(K.H., Tas.)

Editor's comment: This is in response to us asking this writer to stop sending unsavoury e-mails. We do not have a '*monopoly on truth*'. The '*remonstrants*' were outnumbered because of doctrinal concerns from the *majority* of the finest theologians of the day. They were hardly '*deformed*' and Edwards and Whitefield were not '*slave owners*'. You say a theology of '*auschwitz*' and '*blood on hands like the Catholics*'?...God forbid.

Yes, I was a Catholic, a Charismatic, but do not claim to be a '*Calvinist*' nor '*confused*'. White and MacArthur do NOT teach God '*decreed the fall*'. As for me - forgive me - I am imperfect but saved, not '*sick in the head*' but with the '*mind of Christ*', just seeking to know more of Him and His glorious salvation which is '*not of ourselves*' (Eph.2:8) but *all* by His *Grace*.

Is This Sola Scriptura?...

[This letter was approximately 16 pages long. Only small excerpts could be copied for space. Editor's comments in bold and brackets]

Dear Terry...When I began receiving your Newsletter I knew you were opposed to certain Gifts, including speaking in tongues, prophecy...

[I am not 'opposed' to the gifts; but I am opposed to unknown tongues]
...I ignored what you had to say about the Gifts. However, when I read what you

wrote about the prophetic gift, and Rev.3:20, I had to write...We warn against the proponents of teaching such as Benny Hinn, Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Rodney Howard-Browne...We take exception to many spiritual manifestations which are claimed to be the work of the Holy Spirit...We did not accept the 'Toronto Blessing' as manifestations of God's Spirit, having...examined the 'fruits'...they were totally contrary to the work of the Holy Spirit (Gal.5:23).

...But I do not accept that a sovereign God, in, by and through the Holy Spirit, does not use whatever He may deign [ref: Rev.3:20] to use to address the unbeliever. I am living proof of that...[various experiences follow]...

[This is a clear statement that you have at least put experience alongside Scripture as validation for truth and also you accept God will use a scripture (Rev.3:20) other than what it was intended for. But Rev.3:20 CANNOT be used in any other way but to believers. God will NOT use this scripture to save people - that would wrongly be dividing His own word. He saves them by His Spirit not by any misuse of scripture! Can you not see that your argument here is experiential and contradicts God's own context for this Scripture? Your 'but' is important. You are saying extra biblical experiences can be matched with, or override scripture. This is the very genesis of the Pentecostal movement (the 1901 experience of Parham & co.). I too have had spiritual 'experiences'...but can I put them forth as God speaking?]

...I totally accept that much, if not most of what goes on today in so-called Pentecostal circles is not only not of God, but is an abomination in His sight...However, there IS the real thing when it comes to being baptized in the Spirit and speaking in tongues...I am one of those who have experienced it...

...It was still dark at the time, and then a light...began to shine around and about me, only lighting up that part of the room in which I had been kneeling...[This was] the moment when I was filled with the Holy Spirit for the very first time...Another night...we begun to pray when we were strangely conscious of the presence of God. It was awesome!...Suddenly...God moved in upon the scene...awesome...Then I felt - yes, felt - the pressure of a hand in the small of my back. I was being gently, but firmly, pushed forward, still on bended knees...God again spoke into my spirit...'You have been faithful to Me, my child, and you have done what I told you to do'...God had more to tell me. 'I am about to move you into a different sphere, and you are going to see the fruit of your labour. You are going to rejoice, my child, for you will yet reap what you have sown'. 'When, God?' I asked. Back came the answer: 'Though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come; it will not tarry' (Habakkuk 2:3). 'Where, God?' I exclaimed. 'Where are these people of whom You've spoken?' 'Wait, my child and you will know very soon'.

[Are you a 'prophet' that God speaks to you as He did to the prophets? If so, why are not these new words from God added to Scripture?]

...One of our number also had a vision...which tied in with the above...She

saw a tall man standing by the side of a river completely absorbed with fishing. [A story follows of a great catch of fish]...I wept uncontrollably...I could feel again the hand in the small of my back; being pushed gently forward; hearing His tender voice in my ear...Next Sunday night...the upper room was packed to overflowing...the vast majority...Roman Catholics. Many professed to trust the Lord but a number were as yet unsaved...I felt the promptings of the Spirit...I interrupted my message to grasp what He was saying to me...I cried at the top of my voice 'Cling to the rock, and you will be saved! Crash on the rock, and you will be lost!'...I made a formal altar call. 'God has spoken to someone here tonight' [a man comes forward]... I have always considered that young man to be the first-fruits of my ministry in the South of Ireland.

...I am aware believers today hold different views with the gift of tongues. All, however, would agree that the apostle Paul spoke in tongues, as did many, if not most, in the early church **[Are your tongues languages, dialects ('dialektos'), as in Acts 2 - known dialects. Which 'tongues' do you have?]**

...It was shortly after this when I was to experience something - a prophetic word...A woman...began to speak...I always know when someone is real, and I also know when someone is not...She said...'God would say to you, my child, that He knows what you've been through. He heard your sighs...seen your tears, and He has bottled every one'...Her voice then took on a different tone...'Behold, there shall be a lengthening of thy cords...Yea, thou shalt see things which thou wilt not believe; exciting things, unbelievable things. Thy feet will also tread in places that they have never trodden before; unimaginable places, inconceivable places' **[God speaks in Elizabethian English? Your many experiences are almost all extra biblical revelations from God. In one you say: 'God came into that lecture room in quite an awesome manner...a light...began to shine around and about me, only lighting up that part of the room in which I had been kneeling...I lay there, unable to move...I knew that the God whom I had sought had suddenly come to His temple (Malachi 3:1)...To begin with, I began to feel the presence of God as I had never known it before'**

Note the '*I*' here - you are exalting experiences to you personally that others will not have. You have taken many OT Scriptures out of context for your experiences. The scripture (Malachi 3:1) for the 'presence of God' coming into your room, (you say 'to his temple'), is completely out of context. The presence of God is NOT outside of us but *within* us (Jn.14:17).

You say you reject the manifestations of the Toronto and Pensacola, yet you yourself have extra biblical revelations which is what these and other false revivals amounted to, and began with! And the 'test' is not first by the 'fruit' but by *Scripture!* I am sorry if this sounds hard but I urge you to repent of these extra biblical revelations and *be satisfied with the written revelation God has left us and preserved.* We will be judged by His word (Jn.12:48) - the '*more sure word of prophecy*' (1Pet.1:19,20). He has NOT added to that any further revelations.

Homiletics (Preaching) Course

In August 17th-21st this year the Pacific Bible Institute students, as part of their fortnight of Graduate studies, will be attending a week long Homiletics course in Hervey Bay, Queensland.

We are opening this course without cost to any pastors or to those who would like to attend. Certificates will be given for those completing the week. The course includes the theology and practise of preaching; sermon preparation, and much more...Lectures are each morning Monday to Friday. Accommodation (including meals) is available at \$45 per night. Those who are interested should contact this ministry.

Praise/Prayer Points

- We thank the Lord for those who faithfully support this ministry.
- Please pray for the college graduate students who are working on completed assignments due soon. Also pray for the homiletics course in August that the Lord will inspire students to go back to their churches and preach expositions and the Gospel with passion.
- Pray for Hervey Bay Bible Church which is currently in the middle of discipleship courses with many new people in various study groups. Praise the Lord for some professions of salvation recently. Pray for the families of two people in the church who passed away recently.
- Pray for the new *Diakrisis* readers being added each month, that they will discern truth, sound doctrine and thus more diligently seek after the Lord (Heb.11:6).

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