

College News

The Graduate course was again well attended with 16 students attending the Homiletics week-long course in August and then the eschatology course the second week.

2015 will likely be the last of the lectures in Pacific Bible Institute. Government regulations and costs have required the board to complete the existing graduate course this year. We are looking to the Lord to see what might be the future in 2016. It is the editor's constant desire to see pastors and preachers equipped in doctrine, preaching, teaching and pastoring. Many students have testified of the impact upon in the courses attended. It is hoped the material and resources will be used by the pastors and students in several churches around Australia and overseas.

Praise/Prayer Points

- Praise the Lord for the college courses recently conducted. Please pray for the students who attended, that they will take the material presented and use it in preaching and teaching in their local churches.
- Pray for the people who will listen to the sermon and article Terry has distributed on the issue of 'Same-sex Marriage'. Pray that hearts will be convicted of what scripture says on this issue. Pray for the journalists and unsaved people Terry is in conversation with.
- Pray for a growing young peoples group developing within Hervey Bay Bible Church. A husband and wife team have now been appointed to help pastor this group.

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Diakrisis (Australia)

'But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern [diakrisis] both good and evil', (Heb.5:14)

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TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry,
teaching, informing and equipping the church.
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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.

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 donation to help with these expenses is received with gratitude.

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Sermon on Same-Sex Marriage

After some local media attention, Terry became publicly involved in the same sex marriage debate. He has since delivered a publicised sermon on '*Marriage and same sex marriage*' in an effort to equip Christians with concise answers to the common arguments for 'same sex marriage'.

This sermon is offered free of charge (suggested donation for postage). Contact this ministry.

Editor's Comment

In the mid eighties I made a decision to, as a Roman Catholic, seek God and become a 'better person'. About the same time I was challenged by two distant family members, (they later became Assembly of God pastors). They boldly told me I was in a false religion, that the Pope was antichrist and I needed to be 'saved'. It somewhat stirred me enough to attempt to refute the 'born againers' and defend the Roman Catholic religion. To be more 'spiritual' I became a follower of the Charismatic Catholic movement for a time and even spoke in unknown 'tongues'. But in 1988 after two years of seeking to defend the Roman Catholic church, God ran me down and by the Word of God I was saved. The hundreds of pages of notes I had collected in defense of the Catholic religion were turned around to exposing the Catholic faith as 'another gospel'.

I was compelled to study His Word. After Bible college and some years of learning the ropes in church ministries, I trained with a mission organisation before going full time in itinerant Bible teaching. Since then I have been fully active in either eldering or pastoring.

All this I retell to highlight what I have seen regarding the state of the church in nearly 30 years of ministry. The 'church' is just not the same as it was! It is irrefutable that most denominations no longer teach what they used to on many issues. Has the Bible changed its doctrines on current issues that face the church? If not, then what has changed that we now teach *opposite* to that which the church taught for centuries?

The ecumenical movement has captured most denominations. Roman Catholicism is now 'Christian'. Denominations that *two decades ago* were selling our book '*To Catholics Whom I Love*' and using it in evangelism, now consider it to be unnecessary or offensive. The two family members I mentioned above are now supporting an ecumenical organisation and no longer tout views on Roman Catholicism which challenged me to be saved! Churches in every town hold combined services with religions that do not have the same 'gospel'.

In the ecumenical movement 'love' ignores truth. Opposing views can be held up side by side, contrary to so much scripture (Rom.16:17; 2Thess.3:6-15; Jn.17:14-16; Rom.12:2; 1Cor.2:12; Eph.2:2; James 1:27). Holiness is no longer separation. Separation is now a legalistic intolerable word. Yet statistics show all the modern church growth and ecumenical programmes have not produced people who understand the most basic tenets of the faith!

Nearly every denomination has *reversed* their views on women as being pastors/elders. The qualification of '*the husband of one wife*' (1Tim.3:2) apparently no longer has any function in this 'modern world'?

The teaching today on the Holy Spirit has dramatically changed. What was usually considered demonic behaviour when I was saved, became a 'move of the Holy Spirit' in the late nineties with phenomena such as the 'Toronto Blessing' and its wild manifestations. The Pentecostal/Charismatic system

Your Comments and Questions

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

Thankyou for the latest 'Diakrisis' [May/June]. I would like to have your booklet 'The Battle For the Bible'.

Regarding Rev.3:20 with Jesus 'knocking at the door of the church'. My Brethren church and the others in the past all use this verse as Jesus knocking at the door of our heart. They use it in error and they sing it also with this wrong understanding...

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Editor's comment: We have never received a reply from Gideons on this issue [see article Jan/Feb, P.2,3], even though we e-mailed twice. Gideons I have met do not believe this is an important enough issue to resolve, even though there are numerous internet sites exposing this misuse of scripture. Not once have I ever seen or heard of any answer from Gideons on this. How sad that some can *misuse* a scripture for pragmatic purposes. As we said before, so say we again - *is it permissible to take even one Scripture out of context?* God forbid we should be so casual with *His Word and His Gospel!* Can we really misuse a scripture *when presenting the Gospel?* Are the Gideons evangelistic methods and results more important than the Word of God '*rightly divided*' (2Tim.2:15)?

Terry, Thanks - have been reading 'Diakrisis' for over a decade now. I can listen and learn from the writer. Just downloaded all your sermons and will circulated them here in the Southern Highlands, NSW. I attend [church]. Unfortunately I missed your last visits. Have forwarded your site to the Pastor at...I know that God will continue to bless your ministries. I pray you continue in the truth. Your brother in the love of Christ...

(R.H., NSW)

Quotable

'We don't make the Bible relevant is inherently so, simply because it is God's Word. And after all, how can anything God says be irrelevant, (2Tim.3:16,17)?...I do believe we can be innovative and creative in how we present the Gospel, but we have to be careful to harmonise our methods with the profound spiritual truth we are trying to convey. It is too easy to trivialise the sacred message. And we must make the message, not the medium, the heart of what we want to convey to the audience.'

('Ashamed of the Gospel' by John MacArthur, P.82,85)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Hello Terry, I came across a confession in Time magazine from Alex Malarkey who claimed he had gone in his spirit to heaven and saw angels. He now admits it was a hoax. I have published the confession on my web site at www.defenceofthefaiht.org/Perspective.htm

*I have made the point that the Christian faith is not based on subjective experiences unlike the false religions of the world. The article in the 'Time' Magazine reveals: Alex Malarkey confesses, 'I said I went to Heaven because I thought it would get me attention'. Alex Malarkey is a car-accident survivor, who claimed in the best-selling book *The Boy Who Came Back From Heaven* that 'he visited angels during his time in a coma at age 6; he now admits it was a hoax'. (Time magazine, 02 Feb.2015, P.3).*

A similar claim regarding visiting heaven comes from Todd Burpo in his book, 'Heaven Is For Real'.

...May God bless you in your very valuable ministry. Yours in Christ.

D.H. (www.defenceofthefaiht.org)

Editor's comment: Hundreds of thousands of Christians each year are duped by these *best selling* books sold in *most* Christian bookstores. The website above (see the section '*Subjective Experiences*') has some good comments on this problem of extra-biblical revelation which is rife in Christianity. The root of the problem again goes back to the denial of, or the lack of understanding of, the *all sufficiency* of Scripture as our only rule and guide for teaching, doctrine and the spiritual life.

Terry, I am still looking for a church...I decided to attend a service in the Uniting Church, Victor Harbor - in a beautiful old building styled after Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle...I opened the door to a beautiful interior - stained glass windows, circular pew seating, wonderful acoustics. There were perhaps 70 people in an amphitheatre built for hundreds. Most if not all were quite elderly people...I began to wonder where the 'minister' was. There was a rather mannish looking woman - grey short hair, in white gown, sitting at the organ. To my surprise, when the time for the sermon arrived this same woman arose and walked to the pulpit. Her sermon that morning, she announced, was titled 'Soil'. For the next 20 minutes (all I could stand) she regaled the congregation with her views on our treatment of the 'environment' and how angry God is with us for mistreating it. I had to restrain myself from standing and shouting 'What has this to do with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!' But I left the building instead. The search for a church continues...

(M.C., South Australia)

simply does not accept that God has finally spoken through the Bible. They *add* new words from God in 'prophecies', unknown 'tongues', dreams and visions with signs and wonders supposedly validating their claims. Yet Jesus warned '**An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign**' (Matt.12:39) and that end times signs and wonders would be '**lying**' and **false** (Matt.12:39; 24:24; Mk.13:22; 2Thess.2:9; Rev.13:13).

But now a most provocative issue has surfaced - 'Same Sex Marriage'. What was a non issue in churches in the eighties (most accepted the Scriptures judgement in such matters), now has denominations accepting it at the highest levels.

The media and the culture have now swung to a position of demanding we recognise the 'right' of 'gay' people to 'marry'. They say we 'religious' will be 'exempt', but in the countries where 'same-sex marriage' has been adopted this exemption is fast being whittled away. Law suits against those who refuse to support same sex couples have already begun. Funding for adoption agencies have been withdrawn. When same sex marriage is legalised the media will show an increased proliferation of same sex entertainment. Schools will be forced to teach same sex ideologies...the 'gay' lobby are a very demanding lot.

What will pastors and preachers do about this? Too many are sitting on compromised fences or waiting for denominational leaders to speak up. The silence is deafening! In most towns ministers are so far silent, just as they were in other matters before with abortion, the removal of Bibles from public places, public prayers, etc. It's time to find out who is real and who is not. God will separate the sheep from the goats. What will you do if your denomination or pastor accept 'gay marriage', sits on the fence, or does not speak out?

The issue of same sex marriage actually affects the Gospel. In Ephesians 5:25-31 '**Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it...For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh**' is a picture of God's love and sacrifice for His church. As the church is, so marriage is a Divine institution. Marriage here shows us the love of Christ.

At the root of all these changes are two causes. One is the *post-modern thinking in adapting to the cultural climate of the world*. The second is the steady *minimising of the All Sufficiency of the Word of God*. Being more subjectively relevant to the world has become more important than the objective truths in Scripture. Thus we adopt the world's 'new tolerance' view with its market driven philosophies. 'Emergent' theology and 'Purpose Driven' philosophies are thus popular. *The church has for too long now ignored and disobeyed the word of God*. The church must repent, come back to its 'first love' and do its 'first works' or it will lose its 'candlestick' (Rev.2:1-7). '*Judgment begins in the house of the Lord*' (1Pet.4:17).

The good news is that there is a remnant of Christians in nearly every town who are prepared to stand on the Lord's side. But it is a shrinking remnant. Will you be a part of that remnant?

Terry Arnold

Hillsong - From an AOG Pastor's Wife



My mate Tanya Levin did a brilliant job on 'A Current Affairs' (ACA) this week. She's speaking again about the revenue raising juggernaut that is Hillsong ahead of the release of the mega-church's new Hollywood movie.

In my former life I was for a time an AoG (ACC) pastor's wife. Even 25 years ago, Brian Houston was recognised in the movement as the one to watch. I can tell you that pastors of churches all around Australia dreamed of being able to count on 'collections' like the ones Brian garnered.

Over time Brian's formula for getting folks to empty their pockets - a complex and emotionally powerful mix of music and clever sales patter with lashings of Jesus - was replicated in hundreds of financially struggling churches around the country and, eventually, around the world. As Tanya so beautifully puts it in this clip, 'From London to Cape Town to Copenhagen the message is the same - give, give, give, give, give.'

Although the ACA team was forbidden to film the plea for money, I can tell you that the section of the 'service' specifically designed to predispose you to giving generously, runs for about 15 minutes and is the culmination of a cleverly orchestrated, high-production value, highly emotionally manipulative stage show. Those of us in the AoG...had a name for that: fleecing the flock. Nobody does it better than Brian. The report estimates in 2012 Hillsong 'earned' \$72 million dollars in tax-free income, only a tiny fraction of which is spent on charity work. These guys are crooks, plain and simple, and the Australian public is paying for it. Glad to see Nick Xenophon is trying to increase public accountability of this secretive money printing organisation'.

(<https://www.facebook.com/jane.douglas.90/posts/805714359512544>, 22/04/2015)



Hillsong Homosexuals Lead Choir

Hillsong NYC Church has an 'engaged' openly homosexual couple leading the choir. 'We have a lot of gay men and women in our church and I pray we always do' - Pastor Carl Lentz, Hillsong NYC...Hillsong Church in New York City attracts over 7,000 energized worshippers every week. It's pastor, Carl Lentz, has a half-shaved head, ripped jeans, is covered with tattoos and draws a celebrity audience of people like Justin Beiber and NBA star Kevin Durant.

When it comes to the topic of same-sex marriage, however, their official position is shrouded in half-answers and obfuscation. But...they allow an openly and unrepentantly gay couple to lead their choir.

(Read Lev.20:13; Rom.1:26,27)

(hillsong-nyc-church-josh-canfield-reed-kelly-married-gay-couple-lead-choir-carl-lentz).

Cited in Apostasy Alert Aug 4, 2015

whatsoever. The recent 'Catechism of the Catholic Church' shows this]

No one can know if he will attain eternal life [Correct. In Catholicism there is NO assurance of eternal life now. This is because of several reasons - one being that there is a 'Purgatory' where most, if not all people, must go with 'venial sins' - needing to be 'purged'. 'Mortal' sins send one straight to Hell. One can never be assured of eternal life now because Catholicism outright rejects the doctrine of Justification by faith alone and imputed righteousness (Rom.4). Sins have to be purged, cleansed and grace infused through 'sacraments'. Christ's sacrifice is not final but repeated at Mass]

Eternal life is a merited reward [Eternal life is gained by grace infused through sacraments. 'The sacraments are necessary for salvation' - stated by the Pope himself and the Catholic Catechism. Then there is 'Purgatory' to purge sins. Eternal life is gained by faith plus the sacraments]

The Roman Catholic church is necessary for salvation [Yes, a statement made many times in the past, in the 'Teachings of the Catholic Church', by former Popes, written in canon laws, and even in the Vatican II documents - although carefully worded to be more ecumenical]

We understand Mother Theresa was very firm in her Catholic beliefs [Mother Theresa was a devout Catholic. She stated the Priest was 'another Christ', that Mary is necessary for salvation, among other Roman views. She differed slightly from some in that she was more openly a universalist. (When Hindus and other religious people were dying she would tell them to pray to their own god). She firmly believed in the sacraments as necessary for salvation and works for the same. She did not believe in many Biblical doctrines. Her Gospel was clearly a different gospel to that of Evangelicism]

I was at a missionary study and the last 'missionary' to look at was Mother Theresa...I questioned this...I was 'jumped on' by others who claimed she was a Christian...I stressed that the Gospel is the centre of our belief..

[The best way to tackle this situation is to state clearly and prove that the RC gospel is NOT the same as our gospel and that if so we are discussing 'another jesus, another gospel and another spirit' as Paul says. The Gospel of RC is faith and works (or faith and sacraments to be exact). It also flatly 'anathematizes' Justification by faith alone through imputation (Rom.4). I usually challenge these people with the question 'are we talking about two different gospels here or not?'. If they answer 'no' then ask them to correct you after sending them statements from RC documents themselves]

I was told to be careful about judging who will go to heaven [We are rather judging 'another gospel' as Paul did]

Sad for me is the firm conviction by these people that the RC church is fine. If so then we do not see the need for sharing the gospel with Catholics.

[This is why most churches and bookshops ceased using our book 'To Catholics Whom I love' or to evangelise RC's in the last few decades. The above book and a tract with that will have quotes, references, etc.]

In Mk.2:27,28 Jesus said: 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath'. If Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath should we not follow him? [The context is Jesus and his disciples **breaking** the Sabbath in the eyes of the pharisees! We follow Jesus, not the Sabbath]

Ps.51:10-12...[Nothing to do with the Sabbath]. Ezek.20:12,20 'Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them...a sign between me and you, that ye may know that I am the Lord your God'. [Again, note the word 'sign' - the Mosaic covenant had a sign - the Sabbath. It also had a beginning and an end. And who is the 'them' and the 'you' here - it's Israel alone] Are we not to follow God and not man. Following Sunday is following man? Sunday worship? - Jesus Christ kept the Sabbath. [Jesus Christ is a Jew from the tribe of Judah. We are not to follow or be under the Mosaic covenant. We do not 'follow Sunday', nor 'man'. If you mean having Sunday as a day of worship is 'following man' then the apostles and the early Christians (yes, in the first few centuries) all kept Sunday, the 'first day of the week'. Both history and scripture attests to this. Yet Sabbath means 'rest' not 'worship'. I choose my own day to 'rest' (Rom.14:5) and judge no man on which day they keep (Col.2:16).

Rev.1:10 'I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet' [The 'Lord's day' to the early Christians was the first day of the week - Sunday! They often called it 'resurrection Sunday']

Do Gentiles have to follow the 4th commandment. [The 4th commandment is NOT anywhere commanded to be kept in the NT. (All the other nine commandments are). Nowhere in the Bible are Gentiles commanded to keep the Sabbath].

Our website has several more detailed articles on these issues.

The Roman Catholic Church, Vatican II and Mother Theresa...

[Editor's replies in bold and brackets]

(Subscriber, Western Australia) Terry, help us...we are responding to some baptist churchgoers who believe Catholics, including Mother Theresa, were Christians. As we understand things Vatican II did not alter basic doctrines

[No single doctrine was altered in the Vatican II Council (1962-65). It reiterated all the doctrines of the Council of Trent hundreds of years before. The only changes were in the way the church appeals to the public - e.g. the 'Mass' being said in common language instead of Latin; renewed efforts in ecumenism; increases in the use of the 'laity' for some services, etc. 'Protestants' who were originally said to be not a part of the 'body' of Christ (RC is the 'body') were now part of the 'soul' of the church. The language changed to be more ecumenical and inclusive. No doctrine changed



Osteen's Wide Road To Hell

...The biblical principle is clear: private sin, private rebuke; public sin, public rebuke. If Joel Osteen pastored a small church...and he started teaching false doctrines, then my responsibility would be to confront him privately and hope he sees the error...If not...Matthew 18 - I take a brother or two...and try again. But as the example of Paul in 1 Corinthians and Galatians...when there is public sin, public teaching of false doctrine, then public rebuke is called for...

...With his preposterous and appalling humanistic preaching...He seems to be happy in allowing Muslims, atheists and others to enter a lost eternity...Osteen shared...that 'about 50 Muslims' recently visited his nondenominational megachurch in Houston, Texas, and indicated that his inspirational messages on 'how to live a great life' resonate with people 'in Muslim countries'...Osteen said: '...our main theme is Jesus says love God with all your heart and love your neighbour as you love yourself'...Osteen previously has shared that his messages are not only attractive to Muslims, but to atheists...In a 2014 'Larry King Now' interview, King asked... 'Why would an atheist be a fan?' [Osteen replied]: 'The principles we teach are from Scripture but they help anybody you know, to reach dreams or to forgive or have a good self-image...what I would teach is just how to live a great life'.

But if your message to a Muslim, an atheist, or any other sinner is that you can have a great life, a good self-image, you are not preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ...A sinner going to Hell does not need a pep talk, a feel-good sermon, New Age mumbo jumbo, or therapeutic emotionalism. He needs the real Gospel...The good news of the gospel must always be preceded by the bad news of the gospel (we are lost rebels under the wrath of God heading to eternal judgment unless we repent), Osteen should not be seeking to make his listeners feel good in the first place. He should be making his listeners feel bad about their sin, their lostness, offending a holy, just God...then out of that sense of despair and hopelessness, the good news of the gospel can be proclaimed...of a Saviour who took our place at Calvary...faith and repentance are produced.

The Christian life is no bed of roses...a great life. It is...self-denial, taking up the cross, crucifying the flesh, being rejected, persecuted, and making hard lonely choices of Christian discipleship...Jesus demanded faith and repentance as entrance requirements into the Kingdom...Any 'gospel' that says you can stay just as you are and remain in your selfishness is a lie from the pit of hell.

Jesus did not die a horrible death on the cross so we can be confirmed in our sin and selfishness...or have [Osteen's] 'best life now'. He did not suffer the agonies of Calvary so we could have a good self-image. He did not leave the comforts of heaven to cement us in our hedonism, self-centredness, greed. That is a false gospel...Satan loves it...It is sending countless fans of Osteen to a lost eternity...

(Culturewatch. Bill Muehlenberg's commentary on issues of the day)



The Deception of Reason

This writing by Darlene Zschech (a former worship leader in Hillsong and now pastor in a NSW church) we believe will capture the emotions of many. We urge readers to read this carefully and then study the editor's comments and discern truth from error - *God's revelation over reason.*

Darlene Zschech [excerpts]:

I am writing this...on my way home...One of the highlights was...Rome. A few months ago a very interesting e-mail turned up...inviting me to sing at a beautiful event called the 'Catholic charismatic renewal' at St Peters Square, to actually lead songs of worship with others as the Pope called people to prayer and unity.

...This invite to Rome was about many different denominations coming together to pray for the world we live in. To worship together, to announce the Hope of Jesus to all who will hear...I felt it was important to say yes...

So, I must say I was completely taken by surprise at the harsh and downright mean comments from Christians who criticised my involvement in the event without any understanding, without any knowledge of why or how I got to be there. Or why I even felt it was important to be present. I was not there to judge, I was not there to become a Catholic...I WAS there to lift up the name of Jesus without any hesitation or compromise for as I have learned over many years, that once Jesus is the centre anything can happen.

A message was preached about the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our midst, and about the great grace of God on which we are all dependent. Pope Francis asked the crowd to declare loudly, 'Jesus is Lord' three times and each time it grew in confidence and intention. Worship was lifted up which had the many thousands of people who attended all singing in free-flowing moments...

...It is sad when Christians beat up other Christians with words...it is sad when we retreat to immature responses rather than being people of diligent prayer for ALL sectors of the church...But I also know that the word of God says that if people truly seek after God, they will find Him (Jeremiah 29:13 Amplified Bible)...It all comes down to a seeking heart. And a God, who is seeking us, is NOT defined or intimidated by denomination, liturgy, age or preferences. The TRUTH of our hearts toward Him is what He is after. Not controlled or manufactured, outside in expressions of lives trying to present a Holy life. Jesus, only Jesus is the answer. He takes us as He finds us. He works with us every day, from the inside out, patient and kind in His love for us and His ultimate work in our lives, leading us daily in our life's purpose.

...I did meet Pope Francis...I did witness something truly miraculous. Change is happening all over the planet. There is a hunger for the truth of

Your Comments and Questions

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

More 'Sabbath' Confusion

[Editor's replies in bold and brackets]

*Dear Terry, I have been doing a Bible study with a young pastor...in Genesis 2:2,3 it says 'God blessed the seventh day...' I know the word 'Sabbath' is not there, but because God rested must we also as Gentiles 'rest' on Saturday? [There may be a 'principle' of rest here every seven days which designed by God is good for man. But this here is *not a command* for man. It is *God resting*, not man. 'Saturday' is also not mentioned. The New Testament clearly teaches we can choose our own day (Rom.14:5)]*

*In Romans 3:31 says 'Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law'. So, do we have to obey all the 10 commandments, including the 4th? [The context of the passage is justification by faith without the law! Vs.31 is stating we do not do away with the Law but that it is 'established' by faith in Christ who is '*the end of the law for righteousness*' (Rom.10:4). This passage can never be used for lawkeeping as it is referring to salvation without the law! We are '*no longer under the law*' and '*delivered*' from it and its '*curse*'.*

*Never are we to judge any man concerning the 'Sabbath' (Rom.6:14; 7:6; Gal.3:13; Col.2:16). If you strive to keep the Law you must keep them ALL. If trying to do this becomes a requirement for our salvation then you are 'no longer under Grace'? No person I know of has managed to keep the Law, except ONE - Jesus Christ. He alone kept it, fulfilled it and paid for *my sin of not keeping it*, by substitution. We are now not under the Mosaic law but under the '*law of Christ*' (Gal.6:2; 1Cor.9:21; James 1:25; 2:12), the '*law of faith*' (Rom.3:27)]*

*In revelation 14:7 it says to worship him as the creator (also Eph.3:9). Are not salvation and creation intertwined? [These scriptures have nothing to do with keeping any Sabbath. A *fallen* creation is also in need of salvation]*

Is.58:13 'If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath...' Ex.31:16,17 'Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant...It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever...'; Ex.20:8 'Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...'...Does this include Gentiles?

*[The passage was spoken specifically to the Jewish nation, not the Gentiles. It was a '*sign*' of a Mosaic covenant which had a beginning and end! (Dt.5:2,3; Gal.3:19). The Sabbaths were a '*shadow*' of things to come (Col.2:17; Heb.10:1). Do you want the '*shadow*' or the real thing (Christ - Heb.4)? Gentiles were, and are, never commanded to *keep* the Jewish Sabbath.*

Continued next page >

Conclusion

Even if we redefine 'marriage' then Christians must still have the problem with a wider issue - *same gender sex*. The Bible is not uncertain about this. Homosexuality is clearly defined in both Old and New Testaments. In Leviticus 18:22 it is called an 'abomination'. This does not change in the New Testament. In Romans 1:26,27 it is called a 'vile affection'; being 'against nature'; 'unseemly'; and 'error'; and in Jude 7 'going after strange flesh' it will bring 'eternal fire'. The Greek word for 'strange' here means 'another of a different kind' and refers to men with men or women with women. 1Corinthians 6:9,10 also states '*..the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven...nor the effeminate, nor the abusers of themselves with mankind...*' The original Greek words here for 'effeminate' and 'abusers' specifically refer to Homosexuals and Lesbians and are clearly translated as such in many major Bible versions.

Biblically, same sex marriage is not on any biblical radar!

However, despite all the arguments the most serious issue may well be that '*same-sex marriage*' will minimise the Gospel itself. Ephesians 5:25-31 has two themes running side by side. One is *Christ dying for his church* and the other *the man loving his wife*. '***For the husband is the head of the wife, EVEN AS Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body***' (vs.23)...***Husbands, love your wives, EVEN AS Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it***' (vs.25). *The Gospel of the sacrificial love of Christ for His bride, the church, is here the example for a husband loving his wife!* No same sex union can be imagined here, for it continues...'***For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church***' (vs.31,32).

As the church is, so marriage is a Divine institution. *It is a picture of the Gospel of Christ coming for His blood washed believing church!*

We need conviction on this! We are on the wrong side of history. Culture is changing us and need we be reminded of other civilisations (the Roman Empire) that disintegrated, partly because of such moral lapses?

Christians accepting same sex marriage will cause the Gospel to be demeaned The Bible would needs be thrown out or re-written.

Biblical Christians can never accept same sex marriage.

Terry Arnold

(1) Savin-Williams, Ritch C & Geoffrey L Ream, 2007, 'Prevalence and stability of sexual orientation components during adolescence and young adulthood' Archives of Sexual Behavior, Vol.36, Issue 3,P.385-394 (2) Kyle Pruett, Fatherhood, Broadway Books, 2001 (3) Elizabeth Marquardt, 'The Moral and Spiritual Lives of Children of Divorce' (4) Ellis, Bruce J., 'Does Father Absence Place Daughters at Special Risk for Early Sexual Activity and Teenage Pregnancy?' Child Development, 74:801-821; David Popenoe, 'Life Without Father', Boston: Harvard University Press, 1999 (5) <http://www.elsevier.com/about/press-releases/research-and-journals/new-studies-challenge-established-views-about-the-development-of-children-raised-by-gay-or-lesbian-parents> (6) <http://www.dawnstefanowicz.org>

being a Christ follower, and so Christ followers need to be found EVERYWHERE that we will be a witness BY OUR LOVE.

C'mon church. Isaiah 60 says to ARISE SHINE Thy light has come that even as the earth grows darker, Christ's light in us shines brighter. Let's not be dulled down by a lack of understanding, or a judgmental attitude...Go into ALL the world....

Editor's comments: I was once a part of the Roman 'Catholic Charismatic renewal'. I did not understand the Gospel and was not Born Again. Yet I was moved by its ecstatic worship, received its 'baptism with the spirit' and spoke in unknown 'tongues'. But the gospel I knew was the Roman Catholic gospel and with a mixture of experiences. The glue which bound Catholics with Pentecostals then was *shared experience!*

The '*worship*', '*prayer*' and '*unity*' Darlene speaks of here are different between Catholics and Bible believing Christians. The '*jesus*' of Catholicism is not the Biblical Jesus. The Catholic jesus speaks through Mary to draw men to Christ; is on a cross and re-sacrificed at every 'mass'; speaks through an infallible Pope and church; teaches many extra doctrines derived from traditions *added* to the faith; and 'curses' the biblical doctrine of Justification through the imputed righteousness of Christ (Rom.4). It *adds* sacraments to faith for salvation. It is not the same gospel or the same jesus or the same spirit (2Cor.11:4). How can the '*worship*' be the same if the object of the worship is different? Catholic '*prayers*' are also to Mary; Bible prayers are to God alone through Jesus as the one mediator (Catholicism has Mary as a 'co-mediator'). How can there be true '*unity*' when the jesus, the prayer, the worship and spirit are *different*?

We do not need to know '*why or how* [Darlene] *got to be there*'. She should not be there *according to scripture!* Jesus cannot '*be the centre*' of this event because He will not share His glory with any other jesus, gospel or spirit! The Pope can well say '*Jesus is lord*'. Cult members have said the same to me! In the Pope's '*Jesus is Lord*' - which jesus and which gospel is the Pope proclaiming?...It is a gospel of sacraments, works and traditions contrary to the word of God.

Darlene believes we '*beat up Christians with words...with immature responses*'. Then let the scriptures '*beat up*' all of us more! '*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them*' (Rom.16:17); '*Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw yourselves from every brother that walks disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us*' (2Thess.3:6).

Darlene says '*He takes us as He finds us*'. But God will never accept us '*as we are*' - He changes us by the true Gospel! Darlene speaks of '*love*' as a *reason* for being there. But what about God's revelation? '*Can two walk together except they be agreed?*' (Amos 3:3). Darlene's '*go in to all the world*' was once reaching religions like Roman Catholicism - no longer it seems.

Marriage or Same-Sex Marriage?

The institution of Marriage has been increasingly under attack in recent decades. More than half of marriages suffer separations, divorce or re-marriage. Many today do not even bother with any 'marriage' contract. Hence fornication in churches is not uncommon and many pastors turn a blind eye to this sin.

But now there has come a new issue to deal with. Whether or not same-sex marriage will be one day legalised in this country, the church still must be '*the pillar and the ground of truth*' (1Tim.3:15) and '*salt*' (Matt.5:13) to a decaying society, as well as *undershepherd* to God's people.

Most denominations and church leaders are either running from the media or sitting on fences of compromise over this issue. Mega church Hillsong leader, Brian Houston, originally said he and his church were '*on a journey*' with this issue and refused to state what their position really was. However recently, following the exposure of 'gay' singers in Hillsong New York, he stated Hillsong Australia did '*not affirm the Gay lifestyle*'. At a time when churches need to be instructing the faithful in what God thinks on this issue, most churches deliberate or are silent.

Our prayer is that this article will help readers to *think* on this issue and determine their own defence. If we are Biblical Christians our final judgment on this *will come from revelation, not reason*. But when answering non Christians there are also logical arguments and research that can be used to counter the emotional array of 'feeling' arguments which seem to pervade this issue. Yet the final argument for Christians must come from God's revelation provided in '*the faith once delivered*' - the '*more sure word of prophecy*' - the Bible. Same-sex advocates cannot deny that this book is the best selling book of all time and a moral compass by which many of our laws have been instituted.

Marriage

Secular definitions of marriage might arguably date back a 1,000 years. That definition was generally held to mean a male, female; one being espoused to; or to take in marriage one of the opposite sex.

However, before any secular or religious meaning, is the use of the word in the first book of the Bible. Whether one is a Christian or an 'atheist' the book of Genesis is still a written document many thousands of years old and written *thousands of years before any secular definition*. And even at the most conservative *secular* estimate Genesis was written at least 600 years before the advent of Christ! It details the covenant of marriage made by God. Here we have the *earliest definitive statement* on what marriage is: '***And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him...And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of***

'Christian' arguments

Interestingly, many in the church are now putting forth arguments that are essentially *the same as the secular arguments* for same sex marriage. Most are based on logic, emotion and strawman arguments. None that I have found use a biblical argument unless they change the very meaning of words, confuse the context of passages or deny the relevance of passages for today. In other words, in such cases God's word is seen as not fully inspired and inerrant for today.

The following excerpts were taken from the Australian organisation '*Christians4Equality*' (<http://www.christians4equality.com.au>) and were cited in the Australian *Apostasy Alert* in 2011. The same arguments are repeated year by year. (Editor's comments follow each statement):

Rev Bill Crews (Uniting Church Minister, Sydney): '*Today in Australia we all live in a secular non discriminatory society. Churches and other spiritual institutions exist within this society...gay couples should be as free to marry as any other human couple...it is the state that legitimises all marriages*'.

Reply: The church and state are separate. The Bible calls for separation from anything which opposes God's laws. Marriage is not a state invention or institution. And how are Christians '*discriminating*' if they choose to follow what marriage has traditionally, historically and Biblically been?

Rev Roger Munson (Uniting Church Minister, Canberra): '*As a follower of Jesus...All are welcome and all deserve the dignity due to them as human beings...As a progressive Christian I understand that the Bible must be interpreted in its historical and cultural context but also through the prism of the way of Jesus. As Christians we need to support those who are excluded and challenge those who through exclusion, dehumanise and discriminate...*'.

Reply: The very '*dignity*' of marriage is what it was intended to be in the sight of God - a man and woman becoming 'one flesh'. The '*historical and cultural context*' IS man, woman, 'one flesh'! How are we '*dehumanising*' and '*discriminating*' if we stick to the original definition of marriage?

Rev Leanne Jencki (Uniting Church Minister, Adelaide): '*As the founder of Christians for Gay Marriage lobby group and as someone who is an ordained minister with a same gendered partner I strongly support the right of LGBT people to marry. I long for the day when my partner Susan and I can finally marry with the full blessing of the 'church and state'. God is not against us, but unfortunately some Christians are. Be assured there are many Christians out there who stand in solidarity with us*'.

Reply: '*Rights*'? Do we Christian have the 'right' to reject God's word? '***He that rejects me, and receives not my words, has one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day***' (Jn.12:48).

homosexuals or heterosexual relationships. But such research is scant by comparison and many of these studies are often done by same-sex advocates and with serious methodological problems. *‘Recently, LSU scholar Loren Marks published a peer-reviewed paper in Social Science Research. 59 studies were examined that supposedly stated there was no differences for children in same sex relationships. Marks discovered that not one of the studies used a large, random, representative sample of lesbian or gay parents and their children. Several used extremely small ‘convenience’ samples, recruiting participants through advertisements or word of mouth, and many failed to even include a ‘control’ group. Furthermore, the studies did not track the children over time and were largely based on interviews with parents about the upbringing of their own children - a virtual guarantee of biased results!’* (5)

One month later, Texas sociologist Mark Regnerus released a comprehensive study titled *‘How Different Are the Adult Children of Parents Who Have Same-Sex Relationships?’* His research used a large, random, national sample. Contrary to previous pro same-sex research, Regnerus found for a majority, *‘children raised by parents with same-sex relationships drastically underperformed children raised in a household with married, biological parents’*.

Sociologist Steven Nock of University of Virginia, who is agnostic on the issue of same-sex civil marriage, was an expert witness for a Canadian court considering legalization of same-sex civil marriage. His conclusion: *‘sons of lesbians are less masculine; daughters of lesbians are more masculine’*.

The evidence against same-sex relationship in its effects on children and family is indeed overwhelming and compelling. A Book *‘A Warning from Canada: Same-Sex Marriage Erodes Fundamental Rights’* by Dawn Stefanowicz (2015) has a chilling testimony: *‘I am one of six adult children of gay parents who recently filed amicus briefs with the US Supreme Court, asking the Court to respect the authority of citizens to keep the original definition of marriage: a union between one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others, so that children may know and may be raised by their biological parents. I also live in Canada, where same-sex marriage was federally mandated in 2005. I am the daughter of a gay father who died of AIDS. I described my experiences in my book: ‘Out From Under: The Impact of Homosexual Parenting’. Over fifty adult children who were raised by LGBT [gay] parents have communicated with me and share my concerns about same-sex marriage and parenting. Many of us struggle with our own sexuality and sense of gender because of the influences in our household environments growing up’*. (6)

Recently parliaments have apologised for forced adoptions in early years, yet same-sex marriage legislation will achieve the same practise by definition!

Finally, same-sex marriage will and must by logic and redefinition open the Pandora’s box to other perversions of ‘marriage’, including polygamy, incestuous marriages and even with animals. The same reasoning for redefining ‘marriage’ to same-sex marriage can no doubt by logic extend to these other areas.

my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh’ (Gen.2:18-24). Other Old Testament books and hundreds of scriptures also consistently mention ‘marriage’, ‘husbands’, ‘wives’ - all as male and female (Ex.21:10 ‘wives’, ‘marriage’; Ps.78:63 ‘young men’, ‘maidens’, ‘marriage’, etc).

This does nowhere change when we come to the New Testament which mentions ‘marriage’ 16 times and with further references to ‘husbands’, ‘wives’ as male and female. The Greek word for ‘marriage’ (‘gámos’) refers to the coming together, the *joining* of man and woman as husband and wife. ***‘Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge’*** (Heb.13:4). The word ‘whoremongers’ here is the Greek word ‘pórnos’ elsewhere translated ‘fornicators’ or for the ‘sexually immoral’. ‘Marriage’ here is put in a decidedly *moral* context.

Jesus Christ himself *repeated* what was written in Genesis and referred to thousands of years before: ***‘He which made them at the beginning made them male and female...For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they two shall be one flesh. Wherefore they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder’*** (Matt.19:4-6).

In summary ‘marriage’ is well defined over many centuries. The earliest definition and the very essence of it *predates any culture, religion or politics*. It was always about a ‘man’ and ‘woman’ becoming ‘one flesh’.

‘Same sex marriage’?

Secular Arguments:

1. *Marriage has evolved throughout history, so it can change again.*

Reply: If you change the definition of something you change its essence. The nature of marriage has not ‘evolved’. It may have had differing ‘forms’ or cultural diversities, such as ‘arranged marriages’...but it is still man and woman becoming ‘one flesh’, and for procreating children (something same-sex couples cannot naturally do). That essence and definition *predates* any government, religious or political system. (Government marriage laws in 1961 and 2004 only *confirmed* the previous definition of one man and one woman).

The essence of to ‘marry’ means *opposites coming together*. You cannot ‘marry’ same parts. In machinery you cannot join a ‘male’ hose to a ‘female’ hose. A basic lesson in sex organs will show that they are made *different*, male and female, and designed to come together as ‘one flesh’. Thus the essence and nature of this ‘marriage’ has not and cannot ‘evolve’.

2. *Same-sex marriage is primarily about ‘equality’*

Reply: Are same-sex couples denied ‘equality’ by *not* claiming such

relationships to be ‘marriage’? Do they not have full relationship ‘equality’ in being free to live as they please? ‘Equality’ means something is the same as or equivalent to. Men and women are not ‘equal’; they are different. They require different rest rooms, different medical advice, etc. *You cannot have full ‘equality’ when things are different.*

This ‘equality’ issue is a strawman which then leads to ‘discrimination’. Yet same-sex couples are not discriminated against in matters of tax, superannuation, medicare, etc. And they have *full relationship equality to live as they choose.*

But let’s run with this ‘discrimination’ argument for a bit...What about the children in such relationships? Are they given the ‘right’ to choose a motherless or fatherless existence? Could that be called ‘discrimination’?

Same-sex marriage will, *and with prior intention*, remove children from either or both of their natural parents. Arguably this is manifestly unjust, and contradicts the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990). Article 7 says: *‘The child shall...have the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents’*. Article 9 states: *‘A child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child’*.

There are painful testimonies of the effects on children recorded in chapter 6 of the 2011 Australian Senate report Donor Conception Practices in Australia as well as the Anonymous.Us.org project.

3. *Opposition to same-sex marriage is based on bigotry, homophobia or religious hatred*

Reply: Since when do the accusers with such judgements know hearts to judge such a thing?

‘*Bigotry*’? We say, as the Bible does, that men and women are ‘equal in the Lord’ (Gal.3:28). That’s not ‘bigotry’.

‘*Homophobia*’? The word literally means ‘fear of man’. Christ has not given Christians a fear of homosexuals! **‘God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind’** (2Tim.1:7).

I love ‘gay’ people like I would love anyone else I might meet.

‘*Religious hatred*’? The Gospel is about the *love* of God in saving sinners!

These accusations are personal attacks which shut down debate. Branding someone ‘homophobic’ is used to end rational discussion. Already, we have seen anti-discrimination laws wielded as weapons against those who cannot, in all conscience, accept same-sex marriage. In some countries adoption agencies are forced to give up rather than refuse children to gay couples. Schools teach homosexual relations are natural and good despite parents disagreeing. *In countries where same sex-marriage is adopted - religious freedom has already been diminished.* When same-sex marriage laws were passed in New Zealand, the Charities Commission notified the *Family First* Christian lobby group that

it would be de-registered and lose its tax-exempt status, because it promoted *‘a point of view about family life that does not have a public benefit, (including) the view that the union of a man and a woman through marriage is the fundamental social unit’*. Many other examples can be cited.

The diminishing of religious freedom is already a by-product of same-sex laws.

4. *Everyone has the right to marry whomever he or she loves.*

Reply: Let’s extend the premise: Do we have the ‘right’ to marry a young child, a relative, or two people at the same time? ‘Rights’ becomes a nebulous strawman wielded to humanise the issue of same sex.

5. *Genetics - Homosexuals are born ‘Gay’.*

Reply: No one single study conclusively proves a ‘gay gene’. It’s a myth. Yet the premise is touted as though it is already true. Even if it were true, one does not follow the other - If alcoholism has a genetic basis, it does not follow that alcoholics ought to drink excessively. The *choice* is still available. However, researchers admit that behaviour is formed or changed by a variety of factors including biological, social, parents, life’s circumstances, etc.

If there is a homosexual gene then why is it that identical twins do not always have the same ‘orientation’? Statistics show that when one twin is homosexual the other twin is not in 80% of cases. 99.9% of humans are born with either female chromosomes (XX) or male (XY). Homosexuals are born male (XY) and Lesbians are born female (XX).

If it is by genetics then why is it that homosexuals often *change orientation*? Several large studies have shown that same sex attracted 16 year old boys - 72% were opposite sex attracted by age 22. Similarly with girls 16 year old - 55% were opposite by 22 years. Other studies also show that 21 year olds change by age 26 (30% for males; 50% for females). (1)

The aftermath of same sex-marriage

1. *The effects on children.*

Yale Child Study Center psychiatrist Kyle Pruett reports children of IVF often ask their single or lesbian mothers about their fathers, with such questions as ‘where is my daddy?’ (2) Children of divorcees often say similar. (3)

Fathers exercise a unique social and biological influence on their children.

Studies found that girls who grew up apart from their biological father were much more likely to experience *early puberty* and a *teen pregnancy* than girls who spent their entire childhood in an intact family. This study, along with other works, suggests a father’s influence on the biological development of his daughter is significant and even gives them confidence to resist the sexual entreaties of boyfriends. (4)

Some studies try to show there is ‘no differences’ between children in