

Your Comments and Questions

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

Roman 'Terrorism'

The beheading of Christians by Islamic 'extremists' is horrific and shows the depravity of mens hearts. But Christians may need to be reminded of the reign of terror by Rome throughout history, the Spanish Inquisition being one period:

'From Rome and Madrid came the orders to rack and to kill, the dungeons were filled by the spies and man-catchers as fast as they were emptied by the scaffold. Men and women were broken on the wheel, racked, dragged at horses' trails; their sight was extinguished, their tongues torn out by the roots, their hands and feet burned and twisted off between red hot irons; they were starved, drowned, hanged, burned, killed in every slow and agonising way that the malicious inventiveness of priests could devise...hooked by the middle of the body...and then made to swing to and fro over a slow fire until entirely roasted...all was done under the authority of the Holy Father, the Pope'.

(*'A short History'* P.202,296)

Prayer and Praise Points

- Praise the Lord we have produced our first 'Diakrisis TV' video for U-tube. The first segment (10 minute video) of a series on the Gospel will be available on our website and on U-tube. We are hoping to have a second in the series uploaded soon.

Subscription Form

I am interested in receiving the *free* monthly
TA Ministries newsletter 'Diakrisis' by Send this form to:
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Diakrisis (Australia)

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

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

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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'Strange Fire' book

There was a great interest in the book we advertised by John MacArthur, 'Strange Fire'. We quickly sold out of stocks but have now obtained more supplies. This is a most devastating and concise critique of the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement. The book is a powerful trumpet call back to the 'faith once delivered'. (See review July/August). \$26 (includes postage)

The New Covenant – For The Church or Israel?

In the church today there is great confusion regarding the ‘New Covenant’ or ‘Testament’ brought into being by Christ Himself during the last Seder meal in Jerusalem just prior to His crucifixion.

Was this New Covenant given to Israel, or to the Church - or both? Some hold that the ‘Old’ covenant was made with Israel and the ‘New’ covenant has been made with the Church. Multitudes of Christians today might be surprised to learn that all the ‘covenants’ since Abraham have been made with Israel alone. There is not one Biblical covenant that has been made with the Church. Paul, speaking about Israel (his brothers ‘after the flesh’) says that *‘theirs are the covenants’* (Romans 9:4) - plural! Not just the (old) covenant, but the ‘covenants’ including the ‘Old’ and the ‘New’ covenant!

On whose authority did Paul make such a statement? The prophet Jeremiah - when he claimed: *‘The time is coming’*, declares the Lord, *‘when I will make a New covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah’* (Jeremiah 31:31-34). This surely confirms that a ‘New’ covenant was to be made with the houses of Israel and Judah sometime in the future?

When was this New covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah initiated? At the Passover meal in Jerusalem. Jesus took the cup, saying, *‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you’* (Luke 22:19-20).

Christ was born a Jew. He was that day in the sole company of His Jewish disciples. There wasn’t a Gentile in sight. The moment He uttered those words He was establishing the New covenant with Israel; His broken body and His poured-out blood were the signs of the New covenant, which spoke of redemption and forgiveness of the sins of the world, the sins of Jews and non-Jews alike.

Christ had come to His people, the Jews. Later, at Pentecost only Jews and proselytes (who had converted to Judaism) were in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon those present (Acts 2:11). Paul was then a murderous Pharisee - the ‘church’ was a mystery yet to be revealed to him. It wasn’t until Acts chapter 10 that the Gentile centurion Cornelius, much to the amazement of Peter and those assembled with him, received the Holy Spirit and was redeemed (Acts 10:44-47). Since that event, Gentiles have been steadily ‘grafted’ into this ‘New’ covenant - it has been opened up to them. Later, Paul was sent out to preach the Gospel revealing God’s plan to include the Gentiles - yet only after always first presenting the gospel to the Jews wherever he travelled. Those Gentiles converted under the preaching of Paul and his companions were being ‘grafted’ into the Jewish olive tree as new branches (Romans 11:24) of the ‘New’ covenant with Israel.

Terry’s Itinerary

September/October (most Sundays) 9.30am Hervey Bay Bible Church, Qld
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Website Comments

Keeping the Commandments

‘Men think that they are to be saved by keeping God’s commandments. They are to do their best, and they conceive that their sincere endeavors will be accepted, and they will thus save themselves. This self-righteous idea is diametrically opposed to the whole spirit of the gospel. The gospel is not for you who can save yourselves, but for those who are lost. If you can save yourselves, go and do it, and do not mock the Savior with your hypocritical prayers. Go and stumble among the tombs of ancient Israel, and perish as they did in the wilderness, for into rest Moses and the law can never lead you.

The gospel is for sinners who cannot keep the law for themselves, who have broken it, and incurred its penalty, who know that they have done so, and confess it. For such, a living Savior has come that he may blot out their transgressions. Seek not salvation by the works of the law, for by them shall no flesh living be justified. By the law is the knowledge of sin, and nothing more, but righteousness, peace, life, salvation, come by faith in the living Lord Jesus Christ, and by no other means. “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved;” but if thou goest about to establish thine own righteousness, thou shalt surely perish, because thou hast rejected the righteousness of Christ’.

(From a sermon by Charles Spurgeon, ‘The Lord Is Risen Indeed’, April 13, 1873)

God’s Love in Election

*‘How ravishing is the thought of eternal love! Try to drink it in: if you are a believer in Christ **you were loved before time began its cycles; in that old eternity, or o’er the earth was born, you were beloved of the Lord.** You were dear to Jehovah’s heart when this great world, the sun, the moon, the stars, slept in the mind of God like unborn forests in an acorn-cup. **He loved you with an everlasting and infinite love.** Rejoice in this and let your souls be glad. Never forget that **election is the source of every favour**, for the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, according as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world’.***

(From a sermon by Charles Spurgeon ‘A Song Concerning Lovingkindness’, August 10, 1873)

Your Comments and Questions

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Dear Terry, Thankyou for the 'Diakrisis'. It's full of helpful information and keeps me aware of what is taking place in our churches and in the world. The 'Diakrisis' teaching has saved me from falling into error and helped my [family members] who were invited to listen to some TV preachers...who believe Saturday is the day for worship and that it could be proved from scripture. The result was they broke contact with them before they were turned from the true gospel. The 'Adventist Deception' article [July/Aug/2014] was very helpful.

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Dear Terry, Thankyou for answering my questions on the SDA in the July/Aug 'Diakrisis'. I had no idea that SDA was such a dangerous cult, and so deceitful in hiding error and truth. Thankyou the Lord almighty for your work in teaching informing and equipping the church...

J.M., (W.A)

Dear Terry, Thankyou for the July/Aug 'Diakrisis'. Praise the Lord for sound exegesis as we see more and more false teaching in most denominations. The 'falling away' of the church is certainly here. The Arminian Gospel is rampant and even in the Brethren assemblies as well. All the gospels you mentioned I have heard - love without judgement, health & wealth, the social gospel, etc.

I am also concerned about some of our hymns we sing. We sing a song where Jesus is pleading for sinners to accept him. I feel this dishonours God and is not in the spirit of John 6:37,39,44,64 'All that the Father gives me shall come to me...No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him...' Please advise on this...

Editor's comment: Many Brethren folk today I find are simply not aware of their roots. The founders of the Brethren movement (such as Darby, Mueller, etc) were quite adept in exposing Arminianism and were strong supporters of the Doctrines of Grace (unconditional election, etc).

I am unsure which hymn you refer to but some hymns (such as 'you must open the door') do not agree with scripture in regard to the sovereignty of God in salvation. However, we are to plead with sinners and preach the Gospel to 'receive Christ' but our theology behind this should be that it is God's responsibility to save. (We do not know who the elect are). Any emphasis on what man can do in conversion, apart from believing and repenting, is in danger of changing the Gospel. The gospel is not what man can do but what Christ has done in satisfying a holy God for our sin.

The church is engrafted. She is not the core; the Jews are. So often the church has said: *'The Jews must come to us. They have to convert to Jesus, and should lose their Jewishness. Then they can become part of the Church and become Christians, just like us'*. Exactly the opposite is true. Jews do not have to come to the Church. Instead, by the grace of God, we are added to them - into their New covenant - engrafted. Once the Jews receive Christ as their Messiah they are immediately redeemed under their 'New' covenant.

Gentile Christians must show great caution on this matter. Paul sternly warns them not to become arrogant toward Israel: 'You do not carry the root, but the root carries you' (Rom.11:18). By God's grace, you Gentiles are permitted to share in their New covenant.

God is a covenant keeping God. He is a God who elects. If He can be faithful toward a disobedient Israel and keep His promises to them, He can and will be faithful to His so-often disobedient Church and keep His promises to her as well.

Some day soon, very soon, He will save a remnant of 'Israel'. Paul is clear that once God's work of grace among the Gentiles has been completed, He will save 'all Israel'. 'There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer and He Himself will turn ungodliness away from Jacob...and take away their sins' (Romans; 11:25-27).

Paul says to us: Be glad, therefore, Gentiles, that God for a time, has set aside His own Jewish people (branches were broken off) in order that you might be grafted in (Romans 11:19-20). One day He will re-attach the broken-off, natural branches to the olive tree, because He is faithful to Himself and to His covenant(s). Zechariah prophesied, 'I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn' (Zechariah. 12:10; see also verses 11-14). What a moment of recognition - what a day that will be!

We are to be about preaching the Gospel to the Jews, to provoke them to jealousy - to have them embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as their rightful Messiah - and so be redeemed. God has placed a veil over their eyes at present - and not yet given them a full revelation of their redeemer - allowing time for us to enter - we are not to boast but fear - to be astounded at the Grace of God toward us.

The Church has not replaced Israel. What an historical difference it would have made down the often shameful centuries if Romans chapter 11 had been read carefully and taught correctly in the church.

Mike Claydon

Shocking Remains Of Sodom And Gomorrah



'The five cities of the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah have been located and the evidence is staggering. For the first time in modern history we have found round balls of brimstone, or nearly pure sulphur, embedded in an ashen area near the Dead Sea, which show clear signs of having once been ancient building structures.

The massive destruction of both the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for their unrepentant homosexuality and sexual perversions remains as a stark and uncomfortable reminder that God will not forever remain silent about this matter. Sodom still speaks!

America, under the policies of president Barack Obama, has wholeheartedly embraced the LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender] Movement and works tirelessly to advance its pernicious doctrine of death and rebellion to the Holy God of Israel. What we today call Pride is what God destroyed these cities for, and why God will once again cause fire and brimstone to rain down. The thing which has been, declares the scriptures, is the thing which shall yet be'.

(NTEB News Desk; 25 June 2014; cited in Apostasy Alert June/2014)

Turn to the Blessed Mother, Pope Says...



VATICAN CITY, June 30, 2014. *The Pope has urged young people to fix their eyes on the Blessed Mother as they decide which vocation to choose.*

Speaking to young people...in the Lourdes Grotto in the Vatican Gardens...he told them that as they contemplate vocations, not to forget or ignore their mother Mary, who remains at their side.

Just as Mary accompanied her son, the Pontiff said, she 'accompanies us' and is with young people as they decide their vocations. 'When a Christian says to me, not that he does not love the Virgin, but rather that it does not come to mind to look to the Virgin or to pray to the Virgin, I feel sad', the Pope said, adding that 'a Christian without the Virgin is an orphan'...

The Pontiff explained that a Christian needs two 'mothers: 'the Church and Our Lady. He added that to 'test' a true Christian vocation, it is necessary to ask... 'How is my relationship with these two mothers?' This visit to the Virgin is very important in our lives'...adding that 'she accompanies us also, in...the vocational choice', just as she did for her Son, on his vocational path...'

After encouraging all present to sing the 'Salve Regina' [a hymn to Mary invented in the middle ages], the pontiff concluded by imparting his blessing to all the young people and their families, asking them to pray for him.

Apostasy Alert, July 8th, 2014

Your Comments and Questions

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Mark Driscoll and Hillsong

Dear Terry, the following is an e-mail I've sent today to one of my Salvation Army Christian friends who sees no harm in attending Hillsong Conferences.

On the Hillsong website Mark Driscoll is one of their guest speakers for their 2015 conferences in Sydney and London. Mark Driscoll is the founding pastor of Mars Hill Church - based in Seattle, Washington - and one of the most popular preachers in the world today. In 2010, Preaching magazine named him one of the 25 most influential pastors of the past 25 years.

The Huffington Post reported yesterday that this US megachurch pastor and his church Mars Hill have been removed from the church planting 'Acts 29' network of more than 500 churches he helped found after a pattern of 'ungodly and disqualifying behaviour'. Christianity Today has just reported that Lifeway Christian stores (a southern Baptist chain of 180 stores) has pulled his 15 books from their shelves following their report on 31 July headed 'Do Mark Driscoll's outbursts discredit his ministry?'

On Hillsong's web intro to their 2015 conference entitled 'Speak, we're listening' Brian Houston, prior to introducing his 'Special Guests' says 'We are trusting God's Spirit to enable us to create the most perfect gathering in 2015. As always we will labor to bring the finest Bible teachers'. (For commentary on the other 'speakers' a quick summary can be found on 'the-end-time.blogspot.com.au'.)

As for Mark Driscoll, he had been the subject of controversy for years to the point that there is a web page www.driscollcontroversy.com and I would encourage you to read at least the first 8 paragraphs.

As stated at the top of this website, surely there is no excuse for the 'dearth of discernment' on Hillsong's part. As stated in 2Timothy 4:3 'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears'.

In Love,

(H.S., Qld)

Editor's comments: Mark Driscoll's crude outbursts, emphasis on sex and blasphemies are to be noted. But Houston is no stranger to others, who as keynote speakers at the Hillsong Conferences, have been arguably more blatant and to be avoided - false prophets, heretics and outright charlatans of the worst kind - Benny Hinn, the Copelands, T.D. Jakes, Marilyn Hickey, Joyce Meyer, John Arnott, Todd Bentley, Howard Browne, etc.

God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ'. I personally do not separate them rigidly. Both are born of the same Spirit. Faith is the vehicle unto salvation; repentance is the mental/moral condition of that same faith.

Spurgeon said: 'Repentance and faith are born of the same Spirit of God. I do not know which comes first; but I fall back on my well-worn image of a wheel - when the cart starts, which spoke of the wheel moves first? I do not know. What if I liken them [Repentance/Faith] to the two valves of the heart? They must be both in action, or the soul cannot live. They are born together, and they must live together...The solid of faith is held in solution in the liquid of repentance...To the dark cloud of repentance there is a silver lining of faith...Repentance salts faith and sweetens it, and faith does the same to repentance. Faith, if there could be true faith without repentance, would be like the flowers without the dew, like the sunshine without shade, and like the hills without valleys. If faith be the cluster, repentance is the juice of the grape. Faith is dry, like the fleece on the threshing-floor, receptive and retentive; but when heaven visits it with fullness, it drips with repentance...Faith looks to the throne, and repentance loves the cross. When faith looks most rightly to the Second Advent, repentance forbids its forgetting the First Advent. When faith is tempted to climb into presumption, repentance calls it back to sit at Jesus' feet. Repentance and faith must go together to complete each other. It is like a door and its post. Repentance is the door which shuts out sin, but faith is the post upon which its hinges are fixed. A door without a door-post to hang upon is not a door at all; while a door-post without the door hanging to it is of no value whatever'.

The first message John the Baptist preached was 'Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matt.3:2). The first message Jesus preached was 'Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand' (Matt.4:17). The first message the Apostles preached was 'Repent you therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...' (Acts 3:19). Jesus called 'sinners to repentance' (Mk.2:17); He said 'repent you, and believe the Gospel' (Mk.1:15); He warned: 'except you repent, you will all likewise perish' (Lk.13:3). The apostles repeated this (Acts 2:38; 17:30; 26:20).

Spurgeon said: 'That conversion which is all joy and lacks sorrow for sin, is very questionable. I will not believe in that faith which has no repentance with it, any more than I would believe in that repentance which left a man without faith in Jesus...Yet trust neither repentance nor faith; but repent toward God, and have faith toward the Lord Jesus. Mind you do this; for there is a sad aptitude in many hearers to forget the essential point, and think of our stories and illustrations rather than of the practical duty which we would enforce. It is the same for saving faith'.

True repentance leads to faith. True faith joins hands with repentance. We must receive Christ by faith, and that faith will see us loathe and repent from every evil way.



Tony Palmer Sudden Death

Just months after Anglican priest and personal friend to Pope Francis Tony Palmer gave a rousing performance urging Christians to place themselves under the authority of the Roman Catholic system, he died suddenly in a motorcycle accident.

Tony Palmer had said that he was a 'prophet in the spirit of Elijah', and that his mission was to unite the Christian evangelical church with the Roman Catholic system. He declared 'Martin Luther's protest to be over', and said that it was time for 'Christians to come home to Rome'. Tony's deluded vision of seeing Christians 'coming home to Rome' will also die with him.

(Apostasy Alert, July/2014)

Global Warming Data Faked



When drug companies are caught faking clinical trial data, no one is surprised any more...

Now, in what might be the largest scientific fraud ever uncovered, NASA and the NOAA have been caught red-handed altering historical temperature data to produce a 'climate change narrative' that defies reality. This finding was originally documented on the Real Science website...historical temperature data for the continental United States were deliberately altered by NASA and NOAA scientists in a politically-motivated attempt to...claim global warming is causing U.S. temperatures to trend upward. The data actually show that we are in a cooling trend, not a warming...The data were simply altered using 'computer models' and then published as fact...the chart of U.S. temperatures published by NASA in 1999...shows the highest temperatures actually occurred in the 1930's, followed by a cooling trend ramping downward to the year 2000...published by James Hansen on NASA's website...Hansen wrote, 'Empirical evidence does not lend much support to the notion that climate is headed precipitately toward more extreme heat and drought'.

After the Obama administration took office, however, and started pushing the global warming narrative for political purposes...NASA managed to misleadingly distort charts to depict the appearance of global warming. A new, altered chart shows that historical data - especially the severe heat and droughts experienced in the 1930's - are now systematically suppressed to make them appear cooler than they really were. At the same time, temperature data from the 1970's to 2010 are strongly exaggerated to make them appear warmer than they really were. This is a clear case of scientific fraud being carried out on a grand scale to deceive the entire world about global warming.

(Natural News, June 23, 2014; cited in Apostasy Alert, July/2014)

The History of the Marian Doctrines

Today there is a proliferation of teachings concerning Mary and the saints. These include: the 'Immaculate Conception' - a sinless Mary; the 'Assumption' - Mary did not die, but ascended bodily into Heaven; she is 'co-mediator' and a 'co-redeemer' of men's souls; and is to be prayed to and venerated. But where did these teachings originate? History is often a telling ally of truth.

The early centuries (ante Nicene period)

The first centuries show *none* of the above Marian teachings. None of the theologians (Irenaeus, Tertullian, Origen, etc) held Mary as sinless. Some leaders speculated Mary's birth was exempt from pain, but Tertullian and others refuted this.

However, in the second century a cult was developing around the many martyrs. People collected relics and bones of martyrs and famous Christians and eventually celebrated birthdays for them. The early Polycarp's (69-155) bones were collected after his martyrdom and later became treasured relics. (1)

Third, Fourth Centuries

In the first three centuries it is difficult to find evidence of veneration or prayers to Mary, apart from apocryphal literature which was not considered worthy of any serious attention and indeed was at times wildly mystical. But towards the end of this period people began to pay attention to Mary and seek guidance and help from her. Prayers to the dead and the idea of intercessory prayers were slowly developing by the 3rd century.

By the 4th century Constantine's edicts with state and church caused martyrdom to all but cease. Popular ascetics and 'holy men' were made heroes and celebrated. By the middle of the 4th century apostles were being honoured in church services and many believed such heavenly people could receive our petitions for help. Chrysostom (347-407) wrote of the ability we could have in appealing to saints who have access to God. (2) The seeds were being sown for the one 'saint' who 'God would not deny' - Mary, the mother of Jesus.

It was following the Council of Nicea in 325 AD that a more intense interest in Mary began, spurred on by an interest in asceticism and virginity. Epiphanius (310-403) argued Mary could be venerated but not worshipped and should be called the '*mother of all living*'. (3) Others began to speculate about her possible bodily assumption. Yet most church fathers spoke of her as a sinner. Hilary (300-368) had taught Mary remained a virgin but not sinless. This idea was to grow alongside the notion that Jesus brothers were 'cousins', not brothers.

It was Augustine (354-430) who developed the interest in Mary further. He taught that Mary was a virgin all her life and developed a theology that Mary had

of iniquity' (Acts 8:19-23). The response by Simon was not repentance but sorrow for what might 'come upon' him (vs.24). The church fathers also stated this man later founded the heresy of Gnosticism. Hardly a 'convert'?

The Ethiopian Eunuch was in a 'minority group'? This is not the intent or the context of the passage. Why are the likes of Houston so desperate to sensationalise such passages and change the very meaning and context of the Scriptures? Acts 8 is about how *not* to be saved (Simon); a divine appointment (the eunuch); and the sovereignty of God in salvation. What this has to do with a '*pioneering spirit*' and '*minority groups*' is beyond me.

Your Comments and Questions

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Repentance and Faith for Salvation?

Hello Brothers in Christ, What a blessing your website has been to me. My past is an easy believism follower and a person with a family heavily influenced by Arminianism and Pentecostalism. Your website has clearly shown me the errors of Arminianism and Pentecostalism...I thank you.

As a young believer I would love some help on another issue: I believe we are justified by faith alone and saved by faith in Christ's death for us. This faith is a gift from God and is a result of regeneration. I believe Christ commanded us to repent...However I am struggling to comprehend what part in salvation repentance plays if salvation is by faith alone...Am I right in saying...repentance is not what justifies us or saves us but needs to be present for faith to be true saving faith?...

(E-mail from a teenager in England)

Editor's reply: As eternal life is unattainable without faith, faith is unattainable without repentance. Biblical repentance involves faith. Biblical faith involves repentance. With true faith one should expect 'repentance' - a turning from sin to the will of God. In today's 'decisional regeneration' repentance is often not mentioned and millions of people say a 'sinners prayer' and are then told they are 'saved' and yet continue content in their sinful *unrepentant* lives. A truly repentant person will *continue* to strive to repent and live as holy a life as possible whilst living in a body of death.

Faith and repentance are as Siamese twins. It has been said: '*Repentance looks within and sees our misery. Faith looks above and sees our deliverer. Repentance is the hunger; faith is the open mouth; and Christ the living food*'.

What is the relationship between faith and repentance? Acts 20:21 states: '*Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward*

Your Comments and Questions

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Hillsong Confusion

'We have obtained footage from an unedited Hillsong sermon that was livestreamed at Hillsong Conference 2014. Hillsong have since edited this down...this is the segment that should get your attention:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNafkNAu1t8>

You can watch the same sermon on YouTube here - but they've had fun editing it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgFtqNE0N6w>

Houston says [unedited version; the bracketed parts edited by Hillsong]: '...a pioneer reaches the unreachable and includes the excluded...the first three individuals, when the gospel goes beyond Jerusalem and Judea to Samaria and then ultimately to the uttermost parts of the end - the first three individual converts that are mentioned. In other words, new believers. The first one is a wizard...Simon who confounded the people with magic tricks. [Edited: They were astonished with his magic]. He's a sorcerer. A wizard. The second one...is an Ethiopian eunuch. Putting it bluntly, he was castrated. Which I guess made him a part of a minority group [Edited: 8 second pause, Houston looking to see if people understood something he was implying?]. The third one [Edited: was a terrorist]. [Laughter] His name was Saul...How's that for an encouraging front row in church? [Edited: You've got...a guy who's still got his tarot cards in one hand and his astrology charts in the other hand. You've got a guy who's got real sexual [Sound glitch] The first three. What if you...identity problems. He's not sure who he is. And then you've got a third person who's a terrorist! That's pretty encouraging for the worship team when they look down. I love the fact that maybe, not terrorists, but [audio glitch] whatever Lord may come, should never be built on superstars necessarily or people who've got it all together. It's rarely reached people at all walks of life: the down and out, the up and out, everything in between. And I pray we always be that kind of church. And a pioneering spirit keeps that kind of spirit happening in the church...]

(Uploaded on July 14, 2014 6:06 AM: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IodyU1aHevc>. Titled: Hillsong Church Watch - What's missing?)

(Sent to us by 'C3 Church Watch' concerning Hillsong TV // 'The Spirit Of A Pioneer, Pt1 with Brian Houston', Published on Apr 13, 2014; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ju06h2dBx5s>)

Editor's comment: Was Simon a 'convert'? Rather, he 'offered them [the apostles] money' to buy the power of God! Peter said to him, 'Your money perish with you...you have neither part nor lot in this matter: for your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this your wickedness...I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond

a unique 'relationship with the church'. He used the term 'mother of God' for Mary, but wavered on whether Mary was born sinless. His strong teachings on 'Original Sin' tended to hold back the teaching that Mary was born sinless.

Images also increased in the following centuries. Yet the early Christians had no images on their shrines and early writers, (eg. Irenaeus, Clement, Origen, Cyprian, Athanasius, Jerome), wrote strongly against images, statues, and any form of prayer or veneration to do with them. The Council of Constantinople (AD 381) unanimously decreed the removal of images and the abolition of image worship. However, over several hundred years the cult of image worship began to grow and the second Council of Nicaea (787) re-established what the former Council had abolished! This council pronounced a curse on any who had concurred in the previous council decision!

The Fifth Century

Leo the Great (400-461) furthered the idea of prayers to saints. Indeed leaders such as Jerome argued for it. This is despite critics who challenged this new doctrine, even pagan authors such as 'Julian the apostate' and Christian Vigilantius. Most of the arguments for praying to saints were by logic: 'If the apostles prayed for fellow Christians when alive, so they must do so now'.

At the Council of Ephesus in AD 431 Mary-worship was made an official doctrine and Mary called the 'Mother of God'. But it was no surprise that it was here at Ephesus that the Goddess Diana had been worshipped as the goddess of virginity and motherhood from primitive times. The similarities between the two forms of devotions is startling and many scholarly works have detailed the mixture of pagan practices to do with Mary, the saints and various gods.

Also beginning to emerge was the Roman Catholic idea that there is a distinction between 'latría' - veneration due to God alone, and 'dulía' - veneration to saints. However, in practice this distinction breaks down and becomes nothing but a play on words. Webster's Dictionary states that idolatry is 'reverence paid to a divine being and extravagant respect or admiration for, or devotion to, an object of esteem'.

In the west the interest in Mary was slower than in the east. But by the fifth century the new teachings on Mary became prominent and churches were increasingly dedicating feasts to Mary.

The Medieval Centuries

Successive centuries saw these traditions only increase in intensity. After AD 850 the cult of image worship became more entrenched due to stories of miracles performed through them. Gradually the Church of Rome made the veneration of relics and images an integral part of the Church's teachings and practices. Several churches claimed to have the crown of thorns, the baby

clothes of Jesus, the cup used at the last supper and specimens of the hair of Mary (all different colours). Venerating the dead bodies of martyrs was ordained by the Council of Trent (1545-1563) which condemned anyone who did not believe in relics and that 'benefits' could be derived from this veneration.

The Roman Catholic Church today deletes the second Commandment concerning idolatry (Ex.20:4,5; Dt.5:8,9), from the ten commandments in their Catechisms and books, and splits number ten into two separate Commandments, thus maintaining ten Commandments. When one considers the multi-million dollar industry created from the sale of images to do with Mary and the 'saints', it is not difficult to understand the reason for this deletion.

Later Centuries

Many centuries elapsed before Mary was found to be exempt from original sin (in the west only). Yet it was opposed by St. Bernard, Ambrose, Pope Gregory The Great, Pope Innocent III, St. Peter Lombard and St. Thomas Aquinas, the latter being considered to be the best Catholic theologian of his time. This '*Immaculate Conception*' was generally denied in the east (although some held to it) and yet was declared 'infallible' in 1854 by Pope Pius IX. He also stated that '*There is no salvation to those who do not believe this dogma...*'

Mary's bodily 'assumption' into Heaven was also declared in 1950 as 'infallible' by Pope Pius XII.

Summary

The *co-mediator* doctrine - that Mary is a '*mediatrix of all graces*' (4) and that '*Her (Mary's) prayer is all powerful with her Lord, for He will refuse her nothing, who deigned to be called and to be her son*' (5) - blatantly contradicts the Bible which states unequivocally '*there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*' (1Tim.2:5, see also Heb.12:24). It is only through Him that we have '*access...to the Father*' (Eph.2:18). He is our '*advocate with the Father*' (1Jn.2:1) and '*My soul waits only upon God*' (Ps.62:5). This concept of Mary standing between us and Jesus to obtain our pardon is nowhere to be found in the Word of God. Acts 4:12 speaks of the name of Jesus as being our only salvation: '*Neither is there salvation in any other: For there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*'. Only Jesus can save us! The Bible says '*Whom have I in Heaven but you?*' (Ps.73:25). And who did the thief on the cross appeal to?

The *Perpetual Virginity* of Mary is contrary to Matthew 1:18,25 and Luke 2:7 which state clearly that Jesus was Mary's '*firstborn son*'. The Greek '*prototokos*' (see Rom.8:29; Col.1:15-18; Heb.1:6,11:28,12:23; Pr.69:8; Rev.1:5), is used of the first of many others. James is called '*the Lord's brother*'

as God chooses not to remember my sin. Jesus paid for it and '*condemned sin in the flesh*': '*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh*' (Rom.8:1-3). I must '*reckon myself dead to sin*' (Rom.6:11). The '*reckon*' here is the same Greek word for '*impute*' or to '*credit*'. As believers, God has credited our sins to the Lord Jesus on the cross so He can then credit His righteousness to our account. '*For he has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*' (2Cor.5:21).

God does not remember our sins and offences against Him. He chooses to '*remember their sin no more*' (Jer.31:34). This is holy amnesia. Should we not do the same with past hurts, sins and offences? There are no sins to remember for a Christian. In the physical body we 'remember' considering the brain is an organ with a memory bank. But we can will to choose to refuse to draw out of the ungodly chambers of that bank. If we take these thoughts to the cross they will be credited as not remembered by God. We can cleanse the memory banks in this way because we have been cleansed by God and are being cleansed in Sanctification by the Spirit within. When the memories come back we can also choose to 'reckon ourselves dead to sin' (Rom.6:11). God's grace has surely taken these pains upon himself at the cross. Overthrow the tables in the temples of doom in the mind and remember what Jesus has done for us within His agonies on the cross!

Again, there is a more serious side to this. Those people who constantly remember, dwell and recite past offenses are not acting like saved, born again, blood washed New Creations. Is there pride in rejecting God's plan and His Spirit's plea not to remember that which was atoned for? '*According as his divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness...that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust...*' (2Pet.1:3,4).

God has done all that is necessary to clean our memories of past sin and offences. He is now renewing us in our minds (Rom.12:2). To go against this is at best to become a 'victim' and at worst rebellion. Being a 'victim' is selfishness and fleshly when we have the mind of Christ.

The Bible says we as 'new creations' (2Cor 5:17) have a new heart (Ezek.36:26) and a mind being renewed (Rom.12:2).

Christ has taken all our sins to extinction. We do not look back. We must remember not to remember.

Terry Arnold

(Some ideas taken from '*The Cleansing of the Memories*' by Geoffrey Bingham)

* See '*Diakrisis*' Oct/97, P.2; May/98, P.5

Dealing With the Past

I have often counselled people who are struggling with past sins, offences, abuse or hurts. In church life there will be constant offences between people which can linger on and divide person to person unless dealt with biblically. Many today do not adequately deal with the past and will hang onto grudges, abuses and offenses for years. Many today leave churches because of offences, and sadly sometimes these amount to selfish, carnal or petty concerns. Many do not realise it is indicative of a lack of salvation to hold unforgiveness or offences against others. The Spirit of salvation is about forgiveness. As Christ forgave us we forgive others. We will not have God's forgiveness and be redeemed if we continue in unforgiveness (Matt.6:15; Mk.11:26).

When there has been abuse in the past or offenses we are often told to 'forgive ourselves'. This teaching does not come from Scripture but from the annals of the world which God Himself disdains and says is 'foolishness' (1Cor.1:19-21; 3:19). How can we 'forgive ourselves'? Are we some kind of schizophrenic being where one half of us forgives the other? And who is the forgiver but God? If we are a Christian He has *already* forgiven us! Why would we want to take God's place and 'forgive ourselves' again, even if we could? If we could forgive ourselves it would mean the conscience is guilty in some way; and only God can solve that problem eternally. Convincing ourselves to 'forgive ourselves' of a guilty conscience is dangerous since the guilt will surely come back again unless dealt with at its root.

Secular counselling sometimes attempts to recall and bring up the past. This can be fraught with danger. Memory regression techniques have caused people much harm and even false convictions. * Such are unscriptural ways of digging into areas of the mind that are not consciously understood. This often increases rather than decrease the guilt. Most mature Christians should not need to go back into the past and recall events of abuse, offenses or sin.

I am not here saying that past offenses and sins can be just instantly forgotten as some trivial thing. Some Christians may need to have Biblical counselling to understand the will of God as taught in this article. Others may need to deal with serious offenses or sin by Matthew 18 and other scriptures which give a way of resolving issues. But such 'accounts' need to be settled sooner and not later. When the issue is openly dealt with like this it then needs to be left to the distant memory banks that God will deal with the memory in time.

I personally had one traumatic experience as a boy in a Catholic school, but when I became a Christian it faded into a memory that is now insignificant. Christ has paid for the sin and the offence. He drains the human ungodly memory bank of its power. He took away the guilt and shame of it on the cross. All such memories were laid on Christ on the cross! I don't need to talk about such any more, or choose to remember it. *I choose not to remember it the same*

(Gal.1:19) and Matthew 13:55,56 and Mark 6:3 also mention '*brothers and sisters*' (Greek '*adelphos*'). The Roman Catholic Church attempts to explain these away as 'cousins'. But in Greek there are other words for 'cousins' ('*anepsios*' - Col.4:10; and in a wider sense '*suggenous*' - Lk.1:36). The Bible says that Joseph 'knew' Mary not until after the birth of Jesus. The idea that Mary remained a virgin is thus nowhere to be found in the Bible.

The *Immaculate Conception* of Mary is admitted by the Catholic Encyclopedia to have '*no direct and categorical and stringent proof of the dogma [that] can be brought forward from scripture*'. (6) The Bible simply states Mary was a sinner. The Bible is clear that '*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God*' (Rom.3:23). Mary herself said, '*my spirit has rejoiced in God my saviour*' (Lk.1:47). Why would Mary need a '*saviour*' if she was not a sinner?

The *Assumption of Mary* - that Mary ascended into Heaven in a bodily form was made 'infallible' by Pope Pius XII on November 1st, 1950. There is not one Bible verse that the Catholic Church can use to support this doctrine. The Bible says '*no man has ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven*' (Jn.3:13, also compare Pr.30:4,5,6 with Rom.10:6).

The *Co-redemptrix* doctrine is now taught openly by recent Popes. It teaches that Mary plays an important part in our salvation. Pope Pius IX stated in one of his encyclicals,...'*if any salvation, it redounds to us from her*'. (7)

Praying to Mary and the saints is simply contacting the dead, or spiritualism. Isaiah 8:19-20 condemns this (see also Dt.18:10,11; Lev.20:6). *The Catholic Encyclopedia* itself admits: '*The chief objections raised against the intercession and invocation of the saints are that these doctrines are opposed to the faith and the trust which we should have in God alone and that they cannot be proved from scripture*'. (8)

The teachings on Mary are the result of traditions being gradually built up into dogmas. Yet some of these teachings are blasphemy to the worship that should be solely for Jesus Christ. Marian theology is an ingenious method by which attention is taken away from having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ alone, our Saviour. We do not need Mary, we need Jesus!

Terry Arnold

(1) Mart, Polyc, 18,2:cf. Cyprian,epp,12,2;39,3 (2) Cat.23,9 (3) Hare.78,18 (4) Canon George D. Smith, '*The Teaching Of The Catholic Church - A Summary of the Catholic Doctrine*', P.532 (5) Ibid P.533 (6) '*The Catholic Encyclopedia*'. P.675 (7) For references see author's '*To Catholics Whom I Love*' Ch.7 (8) '*The Catholic Encyclopedia*' Vol.8 P.70

Why I Hate 'Religion'!

I was raised and immersed in the Roman Catholic religion for 35 years and a Catholic school teacher and religious education teacher. Yet I was not a Bible believing Christian. I did not believe that a man can be justified from his sins by faith alone; that his sins could be for all time imputed to Christ and God's perfect righteousness could be imputed to the sinner, enabling one to enter a perfect Heaven having the penalty of sin paid for by substitution (Romans 4:1-9). These Bible doctrines are literally 'cursed' by the Catholic church in their various 'Anthemias'.

I hate religion. So does God and so does Jesus.

Why do I hate 'religion'?

Religion says good people go to Heaven; yet the Bible says such good works are as '*filthy rags*' (Is.64:6); and that only by grace through faith alone is anyone saved (Eph.2:8,9). If you are trying to be a 'good person' then stop trying because '*there is none righteous, no, not one...all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*' (Rom.3:10,23).

Why do I hate 'religion'?

Religion is played out at funerals every day where everyone seemingly is going to Heaven and the angels are smiling on the dead who are 'at peace'. Yet the Bible says only those 'begotten from above' enter Heaven (Jn.3:3); that this is not because of our religion; and that the majority of people are on the '*broad road*' to Hell because of their sins and rejection of Jesus Christ (Matt.7:13,14). Indeed, Hell will be full of religious people.

Why do I hate 'religion'?

Religion says sacraments and works are necessary for salvation and Heaven; yet the Bible says not by the works of, or the keeping of the Law, will any be saved (Rom.3:20,28; 10:4; Gal.2:16).

Religion is full of extra biblical laws, rules and works for man to do; true salvation points sinful man to the one work on the cross. Religion adds works to grace and faith, for salvation; the Bible pleads for the one work that saves - the work of Jesus in death to appease an offended God.

The Penitent thief demolishes 'religion'! The thief kept no sacraments, laws or works of any religion. In the morning he cursed God; in the evening he was saved from his sins and promised eternal life in paradise with the creator of the universe (Lk.23:32-43)!

Why do I hate 'religion'?

Religion relies on works, sacraments or an after-life in 'purgatory' to settle

or purge the sins of this earthly life. It denies the all sufficient saving work of the cross for those who will believe in the One who did all the work necessary to satisfy a Holy God.

Religion does not promise assurance of salvation; the Bible does (Jn.10:28). Only Biblical Christianity guarantees that a believer with a true faith will '*not perish, but have everlasting life*' (Jn.3:15,16; 10:28).

Why do I hate 'religion'?

So much of religion today is involved with worldly politics and social events of the day. Such endeavours by the religious and their leaders crowd out the Gospel. Today the Gospel is almost lost.

Religion is worldly minded; Bible Christianity is heavenly minded.

Why do I hate 'religion'?

Religion loves the traditions, rituals, pomp, ceremony and separation of 'clergy' from the 'laity'. Yet the Bible says God is '*no respecter of persons with God*' (Rom.2:11).

I hate religion. So does God and so does Jesus. Jesus was at his most scathing to the religious leaders of the day. He repeatedly called them 'vipers', 'tombstones full of dead mens bones' and 'hypocrites' resigned to Hell (Matt.6:2,5,16; 12:34; 15:7; 16:3; 22:18; 23:13-29; 24:51).

Today the religions of our nation are littered with paedophiles and hypocrites. The leaders cover these sins from all but God. They hold back sinners from God's Grace and knowing who He really is (Matt.23:15).

In the last book of the Bible the religion of the world is called the '*great harlot*' (Revelation ch.17). Here is a frightful description of a religious system that the Antichrist will control and Christ will destroy. The description of this religious system details closely the place, the colours, the sins and the historical misdeeds of the religious system down the running centuries. It is a system which God destroys in the end.

I hate religion; but I love the people in it. I once loved religion, being blind. Now I hate it having understood what God has himself said of it.

Let God have the final say '*Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities*' (Rev.18:4,5).

Terry Arnold