

## Your Comments and Questions

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

### Evolution or Creation?

Fish > Amphibians...Missing!

'Although this transition [from fish to amphibians] doubtless occurred over a period of millions of years, there is no known fossil record of these stages'.

(Evolutionist, K.Adler)

Amphibians > Reptiles...Missing!

'Unfortunately, not a single specimen of an appropriate reptilian ancestor is known prior to the appearance of true reptiles'.

(Evolutionist, R.Carroll)

### Praise/Prayer Points

- Praise the Lord for many articles that have been requested and sent out from this ministry to pastors and Christians wanting to explore several topics lately.

- Thanks to the Lord for donations allowing us to continue sending this newsletter free of charge, despite the recent rise in postage fees. Pray for the many new e-mail subscribers - and that this 'Diakrisis' newsletter will continue to *inform, teach* and *equip*.

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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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## **Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol.3, No.52 July/August 2016**

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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### Dr. Deane Woods Weekend

**Recently Hervey Bay Bible Church hosted international speaker Dr. Deane Woods from 'Friends of Israel'. The complete audio messages are available (\$9.50 post included)**  
**The theme: 'Spotlight on Israel and the Middle East'.**  
**The topics (Seminar): 'Israel & 'The ISIS Crisis'; 'Israel & The Coming Russia/Muslim Alliance'; 'Why Israel is 'The Key' to all History & Prophecy''**  
**Sunday Sermons: Passover Seder Presentation; 'The Link between Israel, Prophecy & The Gospel'**

## Guest Editorial

Much of what passes for Christianity today is a tragi-comedy of cosmic proportions. The so-called Church of Jesus Christ globally is in moral free-fall and immersed in gross disobedience.

We now witness an Ecumenical milieu of deep apostasy; homosexuals and lesbians in pulpits and leadership, bishops urging a 'rethink' of foundational biblical doctrines, a rush to Rome by supposed Protestant denominations, large rallies held to 'unite' the brethren, 350,000 Evangelicals marching in the world's 'Largest Ecumenical Christian Event', some 100 pastors, deacons and church leaders revealing they are 'Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Questioning, and Intersex', Pentecostal conferences featuring near naked cowboys, flappers and cabaret - the list of blasphemous atrocities is endless.

Such declension can largely be sheeted home to the presentation of a false 'gospel' - one in which salvation is apparently achieved by decisional regeneration - with no repentance required - leading to a much improved and prosperous life here on earth. Filling pews with rank unbelievers who will believe anything they are taught by so-called 'leaders'.

Very few people calling themselves 'Christian' today have a clue what they have possibly been saved from or why regeneration is necessary at all. The focus of most sermons today is no longer the predicament of the sinner in the presence of God.

Mention is rarely, if ever, made of how dreadfully such a person is in danger of plunging to eternal agony - no attempt is made to present the true condition of fallen man and their precarious position in the world and the urgent need for the salvific work of Christ.

The days are long gone when the reality of hell was spelled out to trembling unbelievers. No longer are men and women made to feel the real nature and danger of sin. No call is made for them to open their eyes and see their perilous state as they stand uncovered before their creator.

Once, the truth of Hell fire awaiting the rebellious was the tool used to persuade men of their uncertain circumstance. Today that subject is ignored in an effort not to offend the tender sensibilities of a 'politically correct' generation. The fear of a terrible judgement to come is not mentioned. The vengeance of God on the wicked and unbelieving left unsaid.

It is currently taught that mankind is loved generally by God, that He sees them as easily redeemable no matter how their lives have been conducted. Today, apparently, everyone who lives a relatively decent and law-abiding life is welcomed into heavenly places at death.

And yet this is not so. The Psalmist writes; 'Surely you did set them in slippery places; you cast them down into destruction; How they are brought into desolation in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors'. This is eternity in correct perspective.

Continued next page >

## **Your Comments and Questions**

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

*Dear Christian friends...I have been receiving 'Diakrisis' from dear friends of mine in Victoria. I have found the newsletter inspiring . I'm a born again believer and love the Lord as my friends from Victoria do...It is refreshing and wonderful to read your frankness and great love for our Saviour. Not many today in our churches will stand on the true word of God and it is hard to find a place of worship where you are blessed in the word. So many preachers are watering the word down and allowing the world to come in. I am in a church...we are missionary based and somewhat connected to Cross View [formerly New Tribes] missions...It thrills my soul sometimes to see young people testify of their love of the Lord...and praying for the Lord's leading for missionary service ...*

*...I noticed you have a sermon on 'Marriage or Same Sex'. I would love to get hold of this...as I have been devastated in a separation in marriage with little left but my clothes and some money...My wife is now re-married (I do not believe in divorce or leaving a marriage)...Thankfully I have much support from pastors and friends...*

*Thanks for the ministry and may the Lord richly bless you. I keep praying for you and your team. Praise His name...*

**J.C. (NSW)**

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*Dear Terry, Quite a few years ago I was subscribed to your newsletter. I have since moved to another part of the world and stopped receiving your newsletters. Yet the articles and information in 'Diakrisis' were very valuable and, apart from your newsletters, very difficult to get. How sad the fact that there are so very few 'warning newsletters' in the world, it is certainly a compliment for you and your team and a confirmation from our Lord that your work is very valuable. Please add me once again to your mailing list. Many thanks for your help and God bless.*

**(F.T. e-mail)**

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*Dear Terry, Thankyou for the recent newsletter...Praise the Lord. Our little assembly is now small but we are loving, and loving the Lord. We are in the last days and they will get even more evil as the Lord is separating the sheep from the goats. God bless you and your upholding of the truth.*

**(G.S., Qld)**

## Your Comments and Questions

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

*Dear Terry, wanted to thank you in particular for the March/April 2016 issue of Diakrisis; especially 'Which 'god' Do You Have?' These are some of my favourite articles where you look at scripture verses then explain them in context i.e. who is it speaking to? Just after I read the article I had opportunity to share 1 Timothy 2:3,4 - so exciting. Greatly appreciate your help and expertise in this area (1 Peter 3:15).*

*I do have another question you may be able to help me with from Genesis.*

*Genesis 2:17 says 'But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die'. Genesis 3:3 says 'But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, neither shall you touch it, lest you die'.*

*Did Eve lie and/or add to God's word, because God is not recorded as saying 'neither shall you touch it'? And if so, does that mean she sinned before eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?...*

*As always, thank you for your faithfulness in writing the newsletter regularly. We are blessed indeed that you 'contend for the faith which was once delivered ..' (Jude 1:3). Love and prayers...*

**K.L. (Brisbane)**

### Editor's reply:

**In Genesis chapter 2 we have God speaking; in Genesis chapter 3 we have a fallen human being speaking...and yes, likely adding to the word of God. I don't sense that the sin was first in eating the fruit but rather in adding to and disobeying God's word, even listening too long to Satan? Perhaps too much is made of the 'fruit' itself? The sin was first in the disobedience and questioning of the word.**

**There is an important point here - adding to the word, changing God's word goes back to the garden, the beginning. It is another reason why we should take the Word of God (the 66 books of revelation by God) to be a serious concern and every effort made to keep it, obey it and not add to it.**

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### Equip the Saints!

*'In utter disregard for God's agenda, many teachers have decided that the primary audience for their lessons should be the unsaved. Tragically, preachers and teachers are speaking to the wrong group week after week; they haven't equipped the Christians to do the work of the ministry during the week and so they try to do it for them on Sunday'*

*( 'The Seven Laws of the Learner' by Bruce Wilkerson P. 287)*

There is no lack of power in God to cast the wicked into Hell at any moment. Men's hands cannot be strong when God rises up. The strongest have no ability to resist Him nor can anyone deliver them out of His hands. When it pleases God He casts His enemies down to Hell. And they deserve this so that divine justice never stands in the way. It makes no objection against God using His power at any moment to destroy the unrepentant. On the contrary, divine justice calls loudly for an infinite punishment for their sin.

What people are not taught today is that upon death Satan stands ready to fall upon them, and claim them as his own at the very moment God shall permit it. Hell opens its mouth wide to receive them. So few today realise this as they unknowingly dangle by a thread above the gaping mouth of Hades.

There is no security to be found in the fact that there are no visible means of death at hand. That immediate good health and prosperity is enjoyed, no evidence of any accident that might bring about sudden death. That there is no visible danger present that would bring about an early exit from this world.

To be unaware of this is to be found living a life of happy abandonment to the sinful pleasures offered by the world. Yet, all of the wicked plans to escape Hell, while they appear to offer salvation without Christ, do not secure them from Hell for a moment.

God is under no obligation or promise to keep any of the unbelieving out of Hell. He is dreadfully provoked, incensed and enraged over the terrible evil being practised everywhere in these last days. This is what must be preached; the awful, disastrous condition that lies ahead for anyone rejecting the salvation available through Christ alone.

To bring people into the Church with an offer of entertainment, prosperity, acceptance of their aberrant lifestyles, and 'inclusion' is to cement their damnation. If this is to become their understanding of the Christian gospel, no matter how wonderful it makes them feel, at death they will discover to their horror that they have been dreadfully deceived.

As we plunge headlong into the very last moments before the return of Christ the great falling away spoken of by the Apostle Paul is well advanced. Christian luminaries of this day seem blissfully unaware that by their unbiblical teachings millions are being led into a Christless eternity. Not just annihilation as many suppose, but an infinite eternal existence. One which offers nothing but anguish, regret, pain and torment. An experience that will lead to wishing that death would come - and it will not.

These words are written from a position of great alarm over what is occurring in the church worldwide. If these truths were preached the church would no doubt be much smaller - relatively few are finally saved - yet at least the members would be sound in doctrine, thankful to God for His mercy, and ready to present the authentic gospel to those that are perishing?

**Mike Claydon**

## Pope Francis ‘Apostolic Exhortation’ on Homosexuality

*Pope Francis...called for the church to be more tolerant in practice, while not changing any official doctrines...But in practical terms, the Roman religion is changing dramatically as Pope Francis is steadily and firmly letting Catholics know that in the ‘new’ Catholic church, the ‘out-and-active’ LGBT will be welcomed with open arms...*

*Pope Francis urged priests around the world to be more accepting of gay men and lesbians, divorced Catholics and other people living in what the church considers ‘irregular’ situations...He urges more commonsense and less unthinking following of rules.*

*‘By thinking that everything is black and white, we sometimes close off the way of grace and growth...priests should use their own discretion on whether divorced Catholics in new marriages can take Communion.*

*The paper [‘Love in the Family’] has much to please both liberals and conservatives...running more than 260 pages...in...what’s called an ‘apostolic exhortation’...an official statement from the Pope on how Roman Catholics should live their lives...*

*...The Pope writes: ‘The divorced who have entered a new union should be made to feel part of the Church’. ‘It can no longer simply be said that all those living in any ‘irregular situation’ are living in a state of ‘mortal sin’...’*

*(Apostasy Alert, April 2016)*

### **Editor’s comment:**

**What of all those Roman Catholics denied ‘church’ membership and communion because of their ‘irregular’ lifestyles down the centuries - judged by Rome to be in ‘mortal sin’? Can they now be released from Rome’s ‘Purgatory’? The Catholic church is a chameleon which changes its colours to suit the ecumenical agenda. Yet it’s extra biblical teachings on mortal sin and purgatory have NOT changed.**



## Methodist Conference with Pope Francis

*Members of the Methodist delegation met with Francis at the Vatican on 7 April 2016. During the audience, the Reverend Gareth Powell gave the following presentation to Pope Francis: ‘Your Holiness, we bring you the greetings of the Methodist people...together we seek to proclaim the love of God. The dialogue between Methodists and Catholics continues to enrich our understanding of each other and also of ourselves...Churches in this City and in a whole variety of local communities give expression to our common faith in Christ...[Your] proclamation of the mercy of a loving God stands at the heart of all that John*

**Do we believe the Bible is God’s infallible inspired inerrant Word or not? Some Christians do; many do not or pay lip service to it only.**

**Thirdly, the question also is: Are these people Christian? Perhaps mostly - but disobedient ones who may well suffer loss at the judgement seat for their laziness with the scriptures? The Holy Spirit guides a genuine seeker into all truth - but He would never overrule our inclinations...which are only evil always? We can be disobedient *in our flesh*.**

**God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him (Heb.11:6). However, such are becoming but a remnant today as the church falls into deeper apostasy. We have been led into all truth - but some choose to disbelieve it. The Holy Spirit illuminates the Word of God and teaches us from it - but if one does not study it then that person remains unenlightened.**

**There are some things I rejected when a young Christian (for example - predestination/sovereign election, etc.) But on further and consistent study, in the light of understanding the inspiration of Scripture, I came to understand I must be obedient to what God says, not what my fleshly fallen human logic might reject. Hence a young or shallow Christian might reject things that are obvious in the Word of God. But again, it is often a matter of the flesh and/or disobedience, or a lack of study. The latter I do believe is sadly rampant in today’s feel good, shallow, undisciplined Christianity. Such a lack of study will often keep people in the errors they have been taught in their early Christian life. The problem too is that many Christians simply do not know enough of the Word of God to have their minds changed from false beliefs.**

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## ‘Eternal Questions’ Book For Evangelism

*Dear Terry, we sincerely appreciate your ‘Diakrisis’ news...but what we also value is your booklet ‘Eternal Questions’, as a means by which the unrepentant may be saved. Can you please advise me how much additional cost per copy it would be? God bless your ministry.*

*(N.H., Qld)*

### **Editor’s comment:**

**This booklet originally began as an attempt to write a salvation ‘tract’ but we felt a short booklet would be better to cover the necessary teaching on the aspects of salvation and the questions people might ask. It has been widely used in evangelism with success. But it is also a book to be used in discipleship and to instruct the Christian as to what is ‘salvation’. The cost now is down to \$1.50 although we have been providing these booklets in bulk at \$1 or distributing them free for various evangelistic campaigns.**

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### Why Different Beliefs?

*Dear Terry, I have two mature-age friends who I assume are 'born again'. One believes in the Biblical Creation story and the other in Evolution...Two other friends - one believes the Jews are no longer God's chosen people and the other that they still are.*

*If one is 'born again' and the Holy Spirit is in us and teaching us, then should these people believe the same things concerning issues like these?*

(D.G., Tas)

#### **Editor's Comment:**

This is a good question. Firstly, the answer is 'yes' - all should believe the same things because the Holy Spirit is not divided. But we are made up of Spirit *and* flesh. The Holy Spirit of God does not override our thought processes or our inclinations. The war between the flesh and the Spirit is evident (Rom.7:22-25). God does not override this battle between the flesh and the Spirit although He has provided all that is necessary for victory in Jesus by the Spirit within.

Secondly, many Christians do not take the Word of God as inspired and thus inerrant. God has provided us with what He says in HIS Word. If we accept that as literal truth and fact, we would believe the creation account in Genesis - and entertain no other explanation for the existence of everything. The fact that there is NO evidence of any species 'evolving' into something outside that species is arguably evidence enough for an intelligent person to see that evolution is impossible. Adaption for sure, but never evolution. The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics ensures that everything goes from order to chaos, from new to corruption over a period of time - whereas evolutionists claim that the opposite occurs given enough time - but the evidence of the truth of that law is obvious to an astute mind.

The same goes for the question of the Jews. If God has finished with them how is it that they are the *only* people to have been dispersed from their land and yet have remained as they always were, and now they are again the *only* nation to be regathered, with all the customs and language they held to 2,000 years ago? Further, scripture is replete with texts holding the promise from God Himself to restore Israel in the last days - *and return there* at His second coming.

There is also another reason for differing beliefs. Some Christians read the Word of God and interpret language as figurative or they spiritualise it; whereas others take the language to be literal unless it is obviously figurative. This issue of *interpretation* also causes differing views.

*Wesley, our founder, stood for. His brother Charles expressed it in one of his hymns; 'Prepare the vessel of thy grace, Adorn me with the robes of praise, And mercy shall be all my song; Mercy for all who know not God, Mercy for all in Jesus blood, Mercy, that earth and heaven transcends; Love that overwhelms the saints in light ...' [584, Methodist Hymn Book]*

**Editor's comment: Shame on these treacherous and cowardly men! How blind can they be to claim that Protestants and Rome have a 'common faith'? John and Charles Wesley would be sick to the stomach at such statements, the ecumenism, and their hymn book being offered to Rome! Just read what Wesley said of Rome in many of his sermons in calling it the system of the antichrist. Neither John nor Charles agreed with the gospel or the grace as offered by Rome. The doctrine of 'Jesus blood' was also diametrically different between Rome and Methodism, as was their communion. Rome has not changed; Methodism has.**

*(Ekklesia April 9, 2016; Apostasy Alert, April 2016)*

### Pope Francis on Islamic 'Evangelism'

*'In an interview published Tuesday with France's La Croix, Pope Francis argued that Jesus' call to spread the Gospel differs little from the Jihad waged by radical Islamic terrorists...He said 'it is also possible to interpret the objective in Matthew's Gospel, where Jesus sends his disciples to all nations, in terms of the same idea of conquest'.*



*Pope Francis went on to talk about his dream of Chrislam, the merging of Christianity and Islam...?' (Apostasy Alert May 2016)*

**Editor's Comment:** Since when do Christians brutally murder and cut off heads when people refuse to believe their message? Islam teaches: *'The Prophet said, 'If somebody (a Muslim) discards his religion, kill him' (Hadith, Vol.4, Bk.52, No.260); 'Fight and slay the pagans (infidels) wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem of war' (Quran, Sura 9:5).*

Matthew's Gospel is rather a conquest of hearts *by the Holy Spirit*, and far removed from the method that is the Jihad of Islam!



A *'merging of Christianity and Islam'*? Islam denies the deity of Christ: *'The Jews say, Ezra is the 'Son of God'; the Christians say, 'The Messiah is the Son of God'. That is the utterance of their mouths, conforming with the unbelievers before them. God assail them! How they are perverted' (Sura 9:30); '...Christians call Christ the son of*

*Allah...Allah's curse be on them...'* (Quran 9:30); *'They say: "God has begotten a son" God forbid!'* (Sura 10:68); and his crucifixion: *'The Jews say, 'we slew the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, the Messenger of God' - yet they did not slay him, neither crucified him'* (Sura 4:156-157)'; and the Trinity: *'Indeed, they who disbelieved among the People of the Scripture and the polytheists will be in the fire of Hell, abiding eternally therein. Those are the most vile of created beings'* (Quran 98:6).



Islam is decidedly unfriendly toward Christians: *'Believers (Muslims), take neither Jews nor Christians to be your friends: they are friends with one another. Whoever of you seeks their friendship shall become one of their number, and God does not guide (those Jewish and Christian) wrong-doers'* (Quran, Sura 5:51).

What does the Bible teach on this *'merging of Christianity and Islam'*?: *'Be you not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion has light with darkness? And what concord has Christ with Belial? or what part has he that believes with an unbeliever?'* (2Cor.6:15,16)

*'Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world'* (1Jn.4:1).

### The Hypocrisy Files

Atheists are fond of quoting the Bible to show passages that appear to show that God is unfair, unjust, unethical - eg. Ps.137:9 *'Happy shall he be, that takes and dashes your little ones against the stones'*.

These people who make this claim do not know or read the Bible but delight in selecting verses in an attempt to match their hatred against God.

Psalm 137:9 is actually concerning a prophecy from Isaiah which taught that Babylon would be visited with punishment for the captivity and cruelty of Israel, God's people. The people who would afflict this punishment were *the Assyrians*.



However, the same people who make such judgements against God will support abortion - the killing of an unborn baby in the womb (the procedure which would shock most people to see).

*Is that not hypocrisy?*

(This ministry sells a DVD titled '180' (\$9.90) which shows people in the street being challenged on abortion and the Jewish holocaust - watch the amazing answers...many change their minds and do a complete '180'. The video includes the Gospel).

## Your Comments and Questions

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### Hillsong: a 'Naked Cowboy'?

Editor's note:

The following letter (at bottom) refers to a recent *Apostasy Alert* article which read in part: *'During a recent women's 'Colour' conference hosted by Hillsong in New York City, a Hillsong youth pastor was on stage, dressed up as the Naked Cowboy, meaning that he too was wearing nothing but a cowboy hat, cowboy boots, briefs, and a guitar...'*

We have viewed the closing ceremony of this Hillsong conference and it is hard to believe that any Christians could be a part of this utterly godless and pagan commotion - with scantily clad dancing girls and a half naked cowboy. The scene is difficult to tell from a rock star concert with people screaming, yelling in applause. Where is Jesus and the Gospel in this? The closing ceremony can be seen in two clips at:

<http://www.nowtheendbegins.com/godless-hillsong-nyc-colour-conference-featured-appearance-naked-cowboy/>

*'Now where do you see Jesus in any of this slop? Answer, you don't. Look at the stage, and what do you see? A naked cowboy, an Elvis impersonator, a bearded male Statue of Liberty, various humans wearing furry animal costumes, and for good measure they get everyone all jacked up waving the American flag and shouting 'USA!, USA!, USA!'* Can you tell the difference between this and a rock concert?

*'Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away'* (2Tim.3:5)

*Hillsong United has been on a roll lately, and all of it bad. For quite a few years now, we have been reporting classic Hillsong events to you like the gay worship leader, the ultra sleazy 'Silent Night' mockery, complete with Roaring Twenties flappers in a nightclub setting, and the image of Baphomet laced into their women's conference marketing. Now they have kicked up to a whole new level.*

*This is what passes for 'church' in our Laodicean end times 'Christian' gatherings'.*

(*Apostasy Alert* June 2016)

One comment we had on this:

*Re: The naked Cowboy event at Hillsong - I actually found the semi naked cowboy the least troubling aspect of this...I am actually more concerned that Christians lack the discernment to react with holy jealousy and outrage over these gross sins, let alone not even notice them...*

(P.H. e-mail)

God could not allow unsaved man to be so helpless in his own efforts and nature.

### **The Fall out...Evangelism and ‘Grace’**

Finally, there is a more serious side to this. A failure to accept and understand the inability of man has two detrimental results. One is in *evangelism*. Evangelism which sees man as having some ability and freedom from a sinful nature causes evangelistic methods to play on the *decisional power of man*. Methods are developed that play on the will of man apart from the *trust in the Holy Spirit changing the very nature of man* so as to be regenerated *in nature* (Born Again). Dependence on the Spirit is lessened. Modern semi-Pelagian and Arminian doctrines have led to a labyrinth of new evangelism techniques that *focus on man in the Gospel, lessen the enslavement of sin* and minimize the Gospel itself, which is not about man but about Christ’s work to satisfy God for sinners *enslaved!*

Secondly, *the understanding of ‘Grace’ is diminished*. Grace as *unmerited favour* is minimised. An understanding of the inability of man to achieve salvation in and of himself should heighten the wonder of Grace that God should save any at all. Is it wholly *‘a gift of God’* or not (Eph.2:8)?

Human logic that works against scripture is dangerous. God’s ways are not our ways. The two truths of the responsibility of man and the sovereign election of God cannot be changed with new or misunderstood terminology, brought together, or reasoned with any exclusive middle logic. The two truths must be held up. Teaching one against the other will cause a ‘hyper view’ of one.

### **God’s reasoning**

The illogic of doctrine is no excuse for inventing a new logic. It is humanly understandable that we would question and ask *‘how can a man be saved if he has no ability within himself and is a willing slave to sin?’* How can he be saved if *‘no man can come’* (Jn.6:44) and he *‘cannot receive the things of the Spirit, neither can he know them’* (1Cor.2:14) and he is *‘not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be’* (Rom.8:7,8)? The answer to this is not found in logical arguments that attempt to set one scripture against another or that propose to solve the logical impossibilities which is well evident in the scriptural truths revealing man’s inability. The answer is to accept God’s answer by faith: *‘The things which are impossible with men are possible with God!’*

*‘Total Inability’ within man does not mean divine impossibility*. God has perfected a sovereign divine Trinitarian plan to do what is *‘impossible with men’* but *‘possible with God’* - to save man, *even in his inability*. And this is where ‘Grace’ now takes on a whole new meaning! Grace is well defined in Ephesians 2:8,9: *‘For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast’*.

Terry Arnold

### **The Catholic Church Teaches**

*(In the ‘Catechism of Catholic Church’; and ‘Teachings of the Catholic Church’)*

The Catholic Church is necessary for salvation

Justification is a *transformation* of the soul. Original sin is removed; sanctifying grace *infused*

Initial justification is by baptism

Adults prepare for justification through faith and good works

Justification is furthered by sacraments and good works; sacraments necessary for salvation and ‘continual grace’

Justification is lost through mortal sin

Catholics with mortal sin are justified again through the sacrament of penance

Salvation is gained by co-operating with grace through faith/works/sacraments

Sins are confessed to a priest

### **The Bible Teaches**

*(...in Catholic Bibles)*

*‘..whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life’* (Jn.3:15).

Justification by God to a sinner is ‘without works’; righteousness is imputed (not ‘infused’ by sacraments); sins forgiven (Rom.3:21-25; 4:8)

Justification is by faith alone (Rom.3:28; 4:5; Eph.2:8,9).

God justifies ungodly believing sinners *‘without works’* (Rom.4:5). Good works are the result of salvation, not the cause (Eph 2:8-10).

The justified are in Christ holy, blameless before God (Eph.1:1-14). The perfect righteousness *of God* is credited to the believer *‘without works’* (Rom.4; 2Cor.5:21; Phil.3:9)

Those whom God justifies will be saved from the wrath of God (Rom.5:8,9). All sin brings judgement in death/Hell or by the cross (Rom.6:23; 8:2; Matt.25:46; 1Cor.1:18; Eph.2:16; Col.1:20)

Those whom God justifies He also will glorify (Rom 8:30).

Salvation is attained by grace through faith apart from works (Eph 2:8,9). *‘If of grace it is not of works’* (Rom.11:6)

Sins confessed to God alone; He alone forgives sin (Mk.2:5-11; 1Jn.1:9).

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Celibacy of priesthood commanded  | Celibacy is permissible but <i>not a command</i> . Many apostles were married (1Cor.9:5; 1Tim.3:2, Matt.8:14) |
| At 'Mass' Christ is Sacrificed <i>again</i> .                                 | The Bible <i>condemns</i> ; Christ sacrificed ' <i>once</i> ' (Heb.6:6; 9:26,28; 10:10)                       |
| Purgatory is necessary to atone for sin (decreed AD1215).                     | The Bible has only Heaven and Hell (Lk.16:19-31). Atonement already achieved; sins purged (Rom.5:11; Heb.1:3) |
| Souls suffering in purgatory paid for/released by indulgences, prayers, works | This is forbidden and rebuked by scripture (Acts 8:20-22; Ps. 49:7)   |
| Praying to Mary and dead 'saints'   | Bible forbids contacting the dead or spirits (Is.8:19-20;Dt.18:11)  |
| Mary a 'co-mediator'  | ' <i>One mediator</i> ' (Jesus) (1Tim.2:5)  |
| Mary 'immaculate conception'; sinless   | Mary was a sinner (Lk.1:47; Rom.3:23)   |
| Images are 'lawful'; to be honoured, worshipped...                            | Commanded against (Ps.97:7; Ex.20:4,5). Rome has deleted 2nd commandment and split No. 10 in two!             |

**Unscriptural or Pagan Practices  
Introduced By The Roman Catholic Church**

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| AD 300 Prayers for the dead           | AD 1439 Doctrine of Purgatory  |
| AD 375 Worship & prayers to saints    | AD 1545 Tradition granted equal authority with Bible                 |
| AD 394 'Mass' instituted              | AD 1546 Apocryphal books added to Bible                              |
| AD 431 Worship of Mary                | AD 1854 Immaculate Conception of Mary - (that Mary never sinned)     |
| AD 593 Doctrine of Purgatory          | AD 1870 Infallibility of Pope declared                               |
| AD 600 Prayers directed to Mary       | AD 1950 Assumption of the Virgin Mary (Mary rose bodily into Heaven) |
| AD 786 Worshipping of images/relics   |  |
| AD 1079 Celibacy of the priesthood    |  |
| AD 1090 Prayer Beads (later 'Rosary') |  |
| AD 1190 Sale of Indulgences           |  |
| AD 1215 Confession of sin yearly      |  |

For a more expansive tract of these two pages, contact this ministry. For a full list and index of teachings, see the book '*To Catholics Whom I Love*'

keep God's laws (Rom.8:7,8; 1Cor.2:14), his mind blinded (2Cor.4:4) and his heart wicked (Jer.17:9) and this *by nature* (Eph.2:3). The inability in unsaved man is obvious in scripture, apart from the Holy Spirit setting man free.

If the unsaved are completely '*free*' to accept and believe in Jesus then why '*the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned*' (1Cor.2:14); '*the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be*' (Rom.8:7,8).

If unsaved man is completely '*free*' to accept and believe in Jesus then why did Jesus say '*No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him...*' (Jn.6:44)?

If unsaved man is completely '*free*' to accept and believe in Jesus then why is it that '*there is none that seeks after God*' (Rom.3:11)? Why is it that it is always God seeking and choosing man and not man seeking or choosing God? '*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost*' (Lk.19:10); '*According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...*' (Eph.1:4).

If unsaved man is completely '*free*' to accept and believe in Jesus then why is it that '*the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not...*' (2Cor.4:4).

If unsaved man is completely '*free*' to accept and believe in Jesus then why does God need to '*free*' us? '*If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed*' (Jn.8:36). If unsaved man is completely '*free*' then why does the Son need to set us '*free*'? What do we need to be '*free*' from?

Hunt actually denies there is any scripture for man only being free to act according to his nature. He rejects another author who states: '*I believe in free will; but then it is a will only free to act according to nature...The sinner in his sinful nature could never have a will according to God. For this he must be born again*'. To this Hunt says: '*Nowhere does the Bible support such a statement*'.

Yet the Bible is clear on this very statement in that unsaved man was: '*in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were BY NATURE the children of wrath, even as others...Even when we were dead in sins, has quickened us...*' (Eph.2:3-6). The same doctrine is repeated in others scriptures where unsaved man is said to be '*dead in sins*' (Eph.2:1,5; Col.2:13). Not once does Hunt give any scripture for his view that unsaved man is totally free in his nature to not be a 'slave to sin', to obey God's laws, his mind not being blinded and his nature entirely free to accept God's ways - all concepts opposed by scripture. Hunt's premise is based on his own middle option logic.

The problem with the likes of Hunt and others who refuse to recognise the total inability of unsaved man is that *reason and logic prevail over revelation*. Man's wisdom arguably becomes greater than God's wisdom. Human logic is stronger, instead of a child-like dependance on the scriptures as they speak plainly on these matters. It then becomes man's own philosophical view that

Hunt continues: *‘Calvinism refuses to accept what so many great evangelists have recognized is vital’*. This statement is actually a blatant contradiction of history! Almost all of the great revivalists and evangelists believed in the sovereign regeneration, unconditional election and the predestination that Hunt denies. Even by Hunt’s standards they would have all been called ‘Calvinists’ today. The most famous missionaries would have been in his sights: such men as John Eliot (1604-1690), David Brainerd (1718-1747) and William Carey (1761-1834) - considered *‘the father of modern missions’* who helped found the *Baptist Missionary Society* in 1792. Others would have been Adoniram Judson and David Livingstone (1813-73). Then there are the Puritans and the founders of churches such as Darby and Mueller (Brethren founders); the great revivals and Awakenings under Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield and Spurgeon; not to mention most of the commentators such as Matthew Henry, and then the translators of the KJV Bible and many of the great hymn writers...the list would be exhaustive who would utterly refute Hunt’s logic by their own teachings.

...Hunt continues with his own extended logic in a quote of agreement from another author: *‘Some have looked at God’s choice alone and ignored the means and the necessary choice on man’s part’*. The problem with this statement is that Scripture has God choosing us, not man choosing God (Eph.1:4,5; 2Thess.2:13; Lk.19:10; Mk.13:20; Matt.20:16; Acts 9:15; 22:14; Rom.16:13; Rev.17:14). Not one single scripture has man choosing God for salvation. Any ‘choice’ we have made would first necessitate an action of God’s Spirit on our unsaved minds - *‘in whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not...’* (2Cor.4:4).

Hunt then produces a common strawman: *‘...would a Holy God decree the evil that fills man’s heart and the world today? Surely not!’* However, most of the ‘Calvinists’ in history have not, and do not, teach this ‘decree’, but rather that God simply foreknew and allowed the fall of Adam and Eve.

The strawmen continue: *‘Calvinism denies to man any real choice concerning anything he thinks or does. C. H. Spurgeon referred to ‘a class of strong-minded hard-headed men who magnify sovereignty at the expense of [human] responsibility’*. However, historic ‘Calvinism’ did not deny choices made by men *‘concerning anything he thinks and does’*. Spurgeon also refers here to hyper-Calvinism where sovereign election (involving what some call ‘double predestination’) overrode the truth of the responsibility of man. The truth is that Spurgeon, as did almost all the great evangelists, revivalists and reformers, believed in *both* sovereign unconditional election and the responsibility of man. Hunt was well known for confusing historic teaching on sovereign election with a hyper-Calvinism, even after being shown his error in this by many.

Hunt completely denies the inability (depravity) of unsaved man as a ‘slave to sin’ (Jn.8:34; Rom.6:17-20). He says: *‘Are all people free to put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour for their sin? Yes’*. But this contradicts much scripture which has unsaved man as a ‘slave to sin’, unable to

## The Illogic of Doctrine (and a Critique of Dave Hunt’s ‘logic’)

### The problem of logic

Not all the Bible would be logical to our human way of thinking. This is especially considering that our thinking is *fallen* through the sin of Adam and Eve. God’s thinking and ways are far above our human logic. *‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts’* (Is.55:8,9).

The laws of logic are various, but even these have been devised and categorised by man and are sometimes even contradictory. There is the law of *non contradiction* - if a woman is pregnant then she cannot be not pregnant. However, two other laws contradict this - the law of *identity* and the Law of *excluded middle*. The Law of identity says that an idea is what it claims to be. If a woman claims to be pregnant then she is what she claims to be. The ‘excluded middle’ excludes a choice for a middle view between two views. The pregnant woman cannot be both pregnant and not pregnant at the same time.

The truths of *sovereign election* and the *responsibility of man* are two truths in scripture. Many attempt to reconcile these with logic that demands a third option. *Many people want this third choice by logic, if not satisfied with two options or truths*. They fail to see the *impossibility of a ‘middle’ option*.

The logic of non contradiction plays out in the area of the sovereignty of God in such things as election and predestination. Election cannot be of man’s choice and God’s choice unless one part gives the other the choice to make. Election and predestination are consistently held to be *‘before the foundation of the world’*. *‘According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will’* (Eph.1:4,5); *‘...God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth’* (2Thess.2:13).

Put simply, a logic of *both* God choosing and man choosing is not a third option that is shown in scripture. There can be no inconsistency in what God says. He does not lie, His word is true. If it appears impossible, illogical or unfair, then it is *our* fallen logic and thinking that is in error.

Most of the great Confessions down the running centuries made mention of the secret counsel and will of God and that it was beyond man to fully comprehend the sovereignty of God in this area. The London Baptist Confession of Faith which followed the Westminster, in 1689 stated: *‘Before the world was made, God’s eternal, immutable purpose, which originated in the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will, moved him to choose (or to elect), in*

*Christ, certain of mankind to everlasting glory. Out of his mere free grace and love he predestined these chosen ones to life, although there was nothing in them to cause Him to choose them.*

Indeed the scriptures echo this sentiment: ***‘The secret things belong unto the Lord our God...’*** (Deut.29:29).

The problem with much modern teaching on election and predestination is that man attempts to reconcile the antinomy of the responsibility of man with the sovereign election of God and bring in an impossible middle third option which ends up contradicting the two major truths.

### **Dave Hunt’s logic**

It is unpalatable for us to expose such authors as Dave Hunt *if it were not so serious an issue*. However, the Doctrines of Grace as they have been taught by most church leaders, evangelists and revivalists over many centuries need to be defended. Hence we in this ministry take this issue seriously because it is about God’s *grace* and *His salvation*. It is enough also for us to expose teaching that we believe *affects evangelism* and the *doctrine of salvation*.

Examples of faulty logic are now increasingly commonplace in doctrines that espouse the Pelagian and Arminian heresies of earlier centuries. A classic example of this was seen in the *‘Berean Call’*, November, 2014. The author, the late Dave Hunt, in this issue argued from a logical point of view against the historical and scriptural *‘Doctrines of Grace’* which includes the sovereign election and predestination of God’s people by God. \*

In an article *‘Irreconcilable Differences?’* he states: *‘The apparent tension between God’s sovereignty and man’s free will has been a point of study and discussion...’* Hunt sets the stage here with confused terms. The *‘tension’* is not with *‘free will’* but rather the *‘responsibility of man’* to repent. *‘Free will’* is not the same thing. Hunt then goes on to show his utter lack of scholarship when he objects to a statement by James M. Gray, a past president of Moody Bible Institute, who *‘suggested that ‘no one finite mind could hold God’s...sovereignty and man’s free agency...’* Again, Hunt does not understand the terms. *‘Free agency’* is NOT Hunt’s *‘free will’*. *‘Free agency’* was a term used to express man has a will that is free but *only according to his nature*. The scriptures consistently state that man’s will is *fallen* and *enslaved* to a sinful nature in this body on earth. We were in our unsaved state ***‘in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were BY NATURE the children of wrath, even as others...Even when we were dead in sins, has quickened us...’*** (Eph.2:3-6). The *‘free agency’* quoted by Hunt here is vastly different to

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\* Dave Hunt’s ministry continues after his death. His many books and articles remain in circulation without any corrections as requested by many ministries, including *‘Diakrisis’*, who wrote books and articles refuting his unbiblical teachings, and his obvious confusion regarding Hyper-Calvinism. These can be sent to you by request.

Hunt’s *‘free will’* - which has *no restraints*. Hunt simply did not understand the difference in terms. *‘Free agency’* was a common term used by many of the Divines, including Spurgeon, but they did *not* mean by this *‘free will’*.\*

Hunt then continues: *‘Unfortunately, neither John Calvin nor many of his followers today have been willing to accept both sides of this biblical teaching. The result has been devastating in its consequences for the gospel: that man can only reject Christ; he cannot accept and believe in Him unless he is sovereignly regenerated by God’*.

The litany of errors here is staggering. *‘Calvin and many of his followers’* actually *did* accept *‘both sides of this biblical teaching’* but they expressed it in different terms and with an understanding that Hunt did not comprehend. But there is in Hunt’s statement here also a sheer outright denial of scripture on the *inability of unsaved man*. Hunt denies that *‘man can only reject Christ; he cannot accept and believe in Him unless he is sovereignly regenerated by God’*. Yet scripture is replete with this very understanding! ***‘There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that does good, no, not one’*** (Rom.3:11,12); ***‘Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be*** (Rom.8:7,8); ***‘And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, has he quickened [made alive] together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses’*** (Col.2:13). Why does Hunt think that this unsaved man can *‘accept and believe’* in and of himself when he is of the *‘not one’* who can *‘do good’*, *‘neither indeed can be’* subject to God’s law, and is *‘dead in sins’* and has to be *‘made alive’* - the very *‘regeneration’* necessary that Hunt denies! What ability is there in unsaved man when ***‘the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned*** (1Cor.2:14)? The Scriptures teach that in our unsaved state our *‘understanding was darkened’* and we were *‘alienated from the life of God...because of the blindness of our hearts’* (Eph.4:18). What does Hunt not understand about the need for *‘sovereign regeneration’* when Jesus said ***‘No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day...And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father’*** (Jn.6:44,65)?

Why does Hunt give unsaved man a power and ability he does not have according to scripture? And how has this belief that unsaved man *‘can only reject Christ...unless he is sovereignly regenerated’* been *‘devastating in its consequences for the Gospel’*? On the contrary, it rather impresses more the need for the Gospel to be given to the unsaved so the Spirit might *‘draw’* and save! This was the driving force for the Awakenings, revivals and missions of old!

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\* For a full treatment of the differences in meaning and history see our book *‘Calvinism & Arminianism - Out of the Maze’*