



Australia  
**Diakrisis**

## A Ministry of Teaching

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age...to discern (diakrisis) both good and evil (Heb. 5:14)  
Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine?... (Is.28:9)*

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

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### Editors Comment

This ministry has now been operating for 15 years and producing this newsletter for over 10 years. What was once a ministry publishing a few articles to help a small number of people discern truth from error, has now grown to be a worldwide dissemination of articles, books and resources. The reason for this growth is that the *need* was greater than we at first could have imagined.

The urgency of this need has been demonstrated by the enormous numbers of Christians who are 'out of church'. This phenomenon has now grown to the extent that we estimate there are many thousands of professing Christians in Australia alone who for one reason or another are not attending a church. As I travel throughout Australia I come into contact with literally hundreds of such people. As an elder/pastor with a respect for the 'local church', I find it almost an anomaly that many of these people are the most committed to the faith, well informed, discerning and sound in doctrine. Some have even been pastors and leaders in churches and have left the 'system' altogether. Many say they have grown weary of 'playing the church system'.

Why have they left? Many will say these people have been 'hurt', are 'bitter', and in 'rebellion', will not 'submit to authority' or are 'backslidden'. Certainly this is true in many cases. But if you talk to enough of these 'out of church' people you will also often find that many had been sitting in churches for years and simply could not any longer stand the false 'miracles', 'healings', 'prophecies' and the lies that go with them. The 'Toronto Blessing' in the early nineties, with all its false prophecies and deception, saw masses of people exit churches *never to return*. Added to this is the increasing rate of Pastors falling in open sin or suffering 'burn out'. Others leave more 'orthodox' churches having grown weary of the new fads and false doctrines that come and go. They ask the question - where is God and Scripture in all this?

Many contend that God 'called them out'. Some do the rounds of other churches, hoping to find a place that just teaches Scripture without twisting it or using it for monetary gain. And not all of these are 'church hoppers'.

I was once one of these 'out of church' people! After being 'in the wilderness' and by the grace of God and through extraordinary circumstances, I was able to find a church in which to fellowship. Although not perfect, this church adhered to the faith once delivered and shunned the ecumenical trends that come and go. Then after some years, to have had the ears of the people to elder and teach, indeed is a blessing. However, this experience is not the experience of many, who still remain 'out of church'. Some of these have started up 'home-fellowships'. These groups have their advantages and disadvantages. Some become nothing more than cults. Others in defiance of the church system deny even the existence of any church offices (elders/pastors, etc) of which the Bible teaches. But I have also seen some groups with a humility and submission to Scripture that have grown in maturity. Some have developed into larger independent 'churches'.

While this ministry is reaching out to pastors and 'churches' within the 'system', it is also tapping into these thousands who are 'out of church'. Our heart goes out to those in need to be informed, taught and equipped.

**Terry Arnold**

**Please note NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS: [taminist@bigpond.net.au](mailto:taminist@bigpond.net.au)**

## ‘God’s Rottweiler’

On 2 April 2005 Pope John Paul II was pronounced dead - and the world at large plunged into a mourning not seen since the death of Diana Princess of Wales. How is it that such a man could engender such emotion and commentary?

His funeral was an event of immense historic importance - never before had so many kings, queens, heads of state and leaders of all the world religions met to bid farewell to anyone. Three successive Protestant American presidents kneeled in homage before the dead pontiff.

This event served to further expose the apostasy of Christendom today and offers a strong clue regarding the times ahead. A depressing parade of so-called ‘Christian leaders’ and others rushed to eulogise Karol Wojtyla - and in doing so could only have earned God’s ire.

What Some of Them Had to Say:

Rowan Williams, Anglican archbishop of Canterbury: *‘I think in these past few days, we’ve seen an extraordinary ‘lived sermon’ for Eastertide, about facing death with honesty and courage; I feel there’s a certain appropriateness about the fact that he died within the Easter season - a time of the Church’s year which meant so much to him. It has been a season in which he was able to give a message to the whole of the Christian world, and in fact to the whole human world, that won’t be readily forgotten’.*

Billy Graham, U.S. evangelist: *Pope John Paul II was ‘unquestionably the most influential voice for morality and peace in the world during the last 100 years. He was convinced that the complex problems of our world are ultimately moral and spiritual in nature, and only Christ can set us free from the shackles of sin and greed and violence’.*

Mark Hanson, president of the Lutheran World Federation: *‘Lutherans will always remember John Paul II as the pope who fostered an unprecedented growth in Lutheran/Roman Catholic relations. Healing the wounds laid bare during the 16th-century Reformation took on new meaning as the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification was signed in 1999. We live in new hope that the Spirit of the Living Christ will continue that work and bring about an even stronger relationship between the two church bodies’.*

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberties Commission: *‘He rallied the captive nations of Eastern Europe to throw off the yoke of Soviet communism. Furthermore, he emerged as one of the most eloquent spokesmen anywhere in the world for religious freedom for all human beings as a universal right, and for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death...’*

The Reverend Frank Griswold, leader of the U.S. Episcopal Church: *‘Like the householder in the Gospel he was able to bring out of the treasure of his own deep spirit things ‘both new and old.’ His voice and moral authority gave inspiration and hope to millions well beyond the Roman Catholic Church. His commitment to the unity of the church expressed itself in his personal willingness to meet with representatives of other faith communities and to invite those outside his own tradition to reflect on how the ministry of the Bishop of Rome might be of greater service both in the cause of Christian unity and the well-being of the world’.*

Ted Haggard, president of the National Association of Evangelicals: *‘Pope John Paul II has stood with us strongly all over the free world in defending heterosexual, monogamous marriage and defending the fact that a fetus is a human being’.*

Clifton Kirkpatrick, president, World Alliance of Reformed Churches: *‘We give thanks to God for the impact Pope John Paul II has made in his lifetime as a leader. We give thanks for a ministry in which, as a priest, bishop, and head of the Roman Catholic Church, he sought to bear witness to the Gospel in the contemporary world’.*

Reverend Dr. Keith Clements, general secretary of the Conference of European Churches: *‘For the churches and peoples of Europe John Paul II was a figure of special significance....His place in the history of change in Europe during the last quarter of the 20th century is secure. So too is his record during his long pontificate, of advocating the cause of greater European unity, the building of a ‘common European house’ in which the Christianity of both east and west has to share’.*

Whilst the world was still mesmerised by the pomp and grandeur of the papal funeral, the cardinals met to elect a successor. In no time flat, as if predetermined, the head of the old Office of the Inquisition was elected pope. Josef Ratzinger, 78, is the first German pope in over 1,000 years. He is known as ‘The Enforcer’ and ‘God’s Rottweiler’ in Roman Catholic circles due to his ‘hardline’ enforcement of dogma within the Roman worldwide empire. His past is murky - he says he was ‘forced’ to join the Hitler Youth movement and was later drafted into an anti-aircraft artillery unit from which he later deserted. He was taken prisoner by the victorious American army - and released a few months later on June 19, 1945. He and his brother went on to study for the priesthood. Ratzinger was closer to the previous pope than any other cardinal, and we can expect more of the same unscriptural and even blasphemous statements from this man that marked the pontificate of John Paul II, (documented in back-issues of ‘*Diakrisis*’). To cement this view the new pontiff at his first Mass, said of John Paul II: *‘I seem to feel his strong hand holding mine. I seem to see his smiling eyes and hear him speaking to me at this moment, saying ‘Don’t be afraid’.* Benedict XVI also believes that *‘the best antidote to political totalitarianism is ecclesiastical totalitarianism’* thereby restricting one’s internal spiritual life to what the Holy See determines as doctrine.

The thrust of this papacy has been declared to be a strong drive toward Christian ‘unity’. The further wooing and acceptance of all false religion - to produce a spiritual amalgam such as the world has not previously seen. The problem with this plan is that those ignorant of history will not understand that Rome does never ‘unify’, she ‘absorbs’.

This could be a short pontificate - perhaps a far more charismatic man stands waiting in the wings to complete the work of this great harlot ‘church’? But where are the strong Protestant Christian voices of warning at this pivotal time? They are mainly silent. Nay worse, the leaders are right now clamouring to applaud this man and his office! The lambs have been left to themselves to figure it all out - and many have been deceived by the kindly words of prominent men who should know better.

We are entering interesting but treacherous times. Every true saint of God must, as never before, filter all statements and events through the sieve of God’s Word. We now find ourselves in uncharted waters - and our only compass is found in scripture alone. It is not a time to look unquestioningly to our leaders for guidance and truth - they have betrayed us for far too long.

Mike Claydon

## ‘Colour Your World’ Womens Conference 2005

Each year we are compelled to comment on ‘conferences’ organised by *Hillsong* in Sydney. This year a ‘Colour’ conference was held *twice* in March to accommodate demand.

The conference was promoted by way of a colourful, glossy eighteen page brochure (with two inserts). On the front cover were the words; ‘*For The Love Of*’. And as one reads on it becomes apparent that this refers to women. Page three simply contains the unexplainable words; ‘*For the Love of a Princess He Came...From Heaven to Earth He Came*’. Page four has an introduction by ‘Pastor’ Bobbie Houston. Says she: ‘*Women are fantastic. They are beautiful, diverse, interesting and intriguing. They captivate hearts and light up a room. They are warm, embracive, maternal and delightful. They delight in friendship and crave companionship - the desire for loyalty runs within their veins. They’re dynamic and creative and without doubt are fashioned for greatness*’.

Revealing exactly where her organisation stands theologically, she continues...‘*We believe in women! We believe in their potential and the significant contribution they bring to this table called Life! We believe that within every woman resides a history maker capable of making her world a better place. The Colour conference exists to champion this cause. Birthed from a whisper sensed from above, this conference seeks to tell ‘every day women’ that there is a God in heaven, and a company of people here on earth, who believe in them...You’ll laugh, you’ll cry, you’ll be refreshed and inspired - and you’ll definitely be empowered to be your ‘Magnificent Self*’.

The theme of this conference was ‘*An invitation to make the world a better place*’. A four page centrefold features photographs of soft porn star Monica Belucci on the set of the Icon production ‘The Passion of the Christ’. Mother Teresa is superimposed over one of her many senseless quotations: ‘*The greatest disease in the world today is unwanted, unloved people*’; and the late Princess Diana is depicted walking hand in hand with her in India.

Brian and Bobbie Houston continue to embrace Roman Catholicism as Christian, and their frequent calling upon the sayings of mystic Mother Teresa confirms this.

Nowhere in this expensive production can the Gospel of Jesus Christ be read - simply mindless, unbiblical, humanistic quotations such as: ‘*A dream exists that the daughters of planet earth will know their origin and walk with their creator. That they will become the daughters that He knows they truly are. That they will deny the enemy his pleasure. That they will become a force on the earth for only good. That they will partner with humanity to fulfil humanity’s potential...and that they will stand tall, dignified and honoured both sides of eternity!*’” A whisper calls ‘*tell them that a God in heaven and a company of people exist, who believe in them*’. A mandate refines ‘*gather the daughters and tell them that within every woman resides a history maker capable of making her world a better place - empower them to be that woman!*’.

Since the early 1980’s the slide of the *Christian Life Centre* (now *Hillsong*) movement into apostasy has been simply breathtaking. Many ministries warned them of the dangers ahead when they welcomed a plethora of false teachers and prophets into their pulpits, endorsed the worldwide false revivals initiated in Toronto and Pensacola, and began preaching the ‘Health & Wealth’ gospel. The more they were cautioned the more arrogant and defensive they became. At one point Brian Houston accused us of being ‘out to bring down the leadership’. All we had done was question his sharing the stage with a collection of Roman Catholic priests.

As all unchecked apostasy always finally leads to the exclusion of God Himself, this conference material confirms our fears - that *Hillsong* is now more interested in Human Potential than salvation through Christ. It has rightfully been stated this week that they are now more a branch of the Australian Liberal Party than of the Christian Church.

**Mike Claydon**

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## The Shroud of Turin Controversy Continues

The Shroud of Turin is a piece of cloth alleged to be Christ’s burial shroud. Kept in a Roman Chapel since the 14th Century it bears the impression of a tall long haired wounded man. When I was a Roman Catholic boy the shroud fascinated me. I was told it was the face of Jesus shown on the shroud. Then in 1988 the shroud was finally scientifically tested, found to be a fraud and dated to the 14th century.

Now new controversy has arisen in support of the shroud - that the pieces scientifically examined are said to be of ‘repair material’ during the middle ages. But many people have failed to realise this cloth has been venerated in disobedience to the second commandment, (Ex.20:4,5;

Dt.5:8,9). (This despite the Roman Catholic religion having its own ten commandments, having *deleted* the second commandment and split number ten into two thereby still maintaining ten!). The Bible also says Jesus was wrapped in several clothes (Jn.19:40) rather than one piece as in the shroud of Turin, and His head was wrapped separately from the rest of his body, (Jn.20:5-7). Added to this it is well known that Jesus did not have long hair as depicted in Roman Catholic art. The Bible says it is a shame for man to have long hair, (1Cor.11:14).

The Shroud of Turin may well be another link in the counterfeit signs and wonders movement. **Terry Arnold**

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## RC Bishops Vote Against Reading Bible

At an Autumn meeting (Nov.17) US Roman Catholic Bishops voted *against* urging Catholics to read their Bibles.

Perhaps the reason why they would vote against such a thing is because the Bible has serious and conflicting messages for Catholics. It says Mary was a sinner denying their ‘*Immaculate Conception*’ doctrine, (Lk.1:47; Rom.3:23;

Heb.7:26); it teaches man must be ‘born again’ to enter the kingdom of heaven, (Jn.3); it teaches assurance of salvation, (1Jn.5:13); and it teaches Jesus died *once* for sin (Heb.9 & 10), contrary to Catholic teaching that the Mass is ‘*the same sacrifice as at Calvary*’ repeated ad infinitum.

**Terry Arnold**

## The State of the Church in Britain

(By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent  
*The London Times*, 2/6/2005)

*'Churchgoing is in freefall in Britain because clergy and ministers are failing to stand up for moral values and treasured beliefs, a new survey has found. Churches are being 'silent' and 'lukewarm' in the face of moral and social collapse, according to the £20,000, year-long study of 14,000 British churchgoers and those who have left the Church. Researchers found 'a widespread sense of anger and frustration' at what was happening to churches in the UK and Ireland. The 42-page report is an indictment of modern preaching and worship, illustrating how excessive liberalism and lack of conviction are driving worshippers from the pews. The report portrays a desire for sermons based on the Bible and traditional teaching, rather than on politics, social affairs or audience-pleasing stunts. The report calls for better apologetics, or Christian teaching, and claims that many clergy are unable to mount a convincing argument in defence of Christianity and are not interested in trying...The report says: 'This has resulted in a growing number of people being left with the false impression that there are no strong reasons for Christian belief. Ultimately they abandon churchgoing and are mystified that Christianity continues to grow elsewhere in the world'.*

*The report blames the contemporary practice of teaching the universal nature of God's love. Because people believe God will continue to love them no matter what they do, they no longer see any need to go to church to confess their sins or seek guidance on how to change their lives. The aim was to explore the reasons why Christianity is in decline in Britain and Ireland but thrives in other parts of the world, including prosperous countries such as the US. Researchers...report widespread criticism of the current fashion for 'family' or 'all age' services for bordering on entertainment rather than worship. One Shropshire churchgoer said: 'I've seen balloons rising from the pulpit, fake moustaches and all manner of audience appeal...but with no real message behind it'.*

*Instead, churchgoers want to be told how to live a Christian life, and to understand how to evangelise in a society distracted by materialism. The report correlates statistics from the past 150 years showing attendance rising in the last half of the 19th century and peaking around 1905 before going into steady decline, with an inverse trend of crime, drunkenness and illegitimacy falling to a low at the turn of the 19th century and then steadily rising'.*

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## Hillsong Funding

(Sunday Telegraph, NSW, 20 February 2005)

*'An evangelical Christian church with strong links to the Liberal Party has received almost \$800,000 in grants from government departments in the past five years. The Sydney-based Church has received \$473,588 from the Department of Family and Community services since 1999. Hillsong, based in a sprawling convention centre in Sydney's north western suburbs, is known for its focus on wealth generation'.*

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## Gibson Donates to Roman Catholic Religion

Mel Gibson has earned at least 200 million pounds Sterling from the 'passion' movie and will be donating 51 million pounds to the Roman Catholic religion.

## Benny Hinn

(By Kyle Williams, WorldNetDaily.com, March 12, 2005)

*'A few years ago, a Houston Texas woman went with her mother to a Benny Hinn crusade. Her mother was suffering from lung cancer and hoped to be healed by Hinn - and she got her chance, even being allowed to go on stage in front of thousands and be healed. At least, that's what she thought. The mother gave hundreds of dollars to Benny Hinn's organization and quit taking her medication. Soon after the crusade, she was dead - another of 'faith-healer' Benny Hinn's followers gone.*

*...But even though he follows in the line of deceptive televangelists, Hinn continues in popularity, with his television program airing in 190 countries, receiving \$100 million a year in donations...The pressing problem is in his growing popularity: He's on a consistent schedule of crusades all around the world...*

*Sure, we're all disgusted by a guy like Jimmy Swaggart, who used donation cash for prostitutes and repeatedly lied about it, all the while continuing to beg for more money on television. But Benny Hinn isn't much better. In fact, he may be worse. He epitomizes the dark side of consumerism gone awry in religious communities - specifically taking shape through tele-evangelism. In Machiavellian style, he preys on the fears of people, offering them pseudo-Christian spirituality and unverified healing. Then weeks later, when the cancer isn't gone and the back problem continues, the hopes of unsuspecting people are shattered. Adding insult to injury, Hinn preaches the heresy that all our problems are founded in lack of faith.*

*Hinn recently had a crusade in Bangalore, India, where over 7 million attended. But days later we heard stories about religious fraud, like this reported by the Times of India: 'Col. Samuel suffers from immobility of the right side of the body. Hoping for a miracle, he with wife in tow, managed to shuffle up to the stage - only to be jostled away by an organizer who said: 'Only if you are healed can you go on stage. If you're not healed by Jesus, your time has not come'.*

*Benny Hinn brings his religious bizarreness to millions of the poorest people in countries like India, and when it's over, he flies aboard his private jet, to his luxury cars, and home to his multi-million dollar house in Southern California or presidential suites in ritzy hotels. In 1997, he told CNN that he earns between \$500,000 and \$1 million a year. And maybe this is the most honest image of Hinn - the money is where it's at.*

*The biggest question, however, and the most disconcerting is why this man is being portrayed as a herald of Christianity...Either shallow consumerism has completely deluded the minds of church leadership, or we are too afraid to call out 'ministers' like Benny Hinn. He's a smooth talker; he can deflect the criticisms, and his manipulation techniques instil credibility in far too many. Yet, something must be done to confront the televangelist culture that is frequently welcomed on stations like the ridiculous Trinity Broadcasting Network.*

*Unsuspecting people are being fed lies, and standing up to these frauds with truth and Scripture is the most honourable thing we as Christians could do. Trading in truth for a false sense of unity will bring nothing but harm to all people'.*

**(This ministry distributes the 'Signs and Wonders - exposed' 3-part video series. These have information on Benny Hinn)**

## How The Reformation Changed The World

(Excerpted from an article by Dr. Peter Hammond, Frontline Fellowship, Cape Town, South Africa)

In the book of Judges we read about another generation which arose, which knew neither the Lord nor what He had done, (Judges 2:10). Today, it appears that a generation has arisen, which like Israel under the Judges, knows little of what the Lord did during the Protestant exodus and the struggles in the wilderness, which followed in the 16th and 17th century. Sometimes this is from a cowardly dislike of controversy and confrontation. But few seem to understand either the evils from which the Reformation delivered us, or the blessings which the Reformation won for us.

### **The Reformation delivered the Church from gross ignorance and spiritual darkness:**

The church, before the Reformation, was a church without the Bible. And a church without a Bible is as useless as a lighthouse without light, a candlestick without a candle, or a motor vehicle without an engine. The priests and people knew scarcely anything about God's Word or the way of salvation in Christ. Bishop J.C. Ryle described the situation: *'The immense majority of the clergy did little more than say masses and offer up pretended sacrifices, repeat Latin prayers and chant Latin hymns (which of course most of the people could not understand), hear confessions, grant absolutions, give 'extreme unction', and take money to get dead people out of purgatory'*. Sermons once every three months were prescribed to the clergy, but not insisted upon. Latimer noted that the mass was never left unsaid for a single Sunday, yet sermons might be omitted for 20 successive Sundays. Indeed, to preach much was to incur the suspicion of being a 'heretic'.

Bishop Hooper, who along with Bishop Latimer was burned alive at the stake under Queen Mary, (Roman Catholic Queen of England), did a survey in 1551 and found that of 311 clergy in his Diocese, 168 were unable to repeat the Ten Commandments, 31 of those 168 could not even say where in Scripture the Ten Commandments were to be found, 40 could not tell where the Lord's Prayer was written, and 31 of the 40 did not know who was the author of the Lord's Prayer!

Bishop Ryle summarised the situation: *'Before the Reformation was a religion without knowledge, without faith and without lively hope - a religion without justification, regeneration and sanctification - a religion without any clear views of Christ and the Holy Ghost. Except in rare instances, it was little better than an organised system of Mary worship, saint worship, image worship, relic worship, pilgrimages, alms giving, formalism, ceremonialism, processions, penances, absolutions, masses and blind obedience to the priests. It was a huge higgledy-piggledy of ignorance and idolatry, and serving an unknown God by deputy. The only practical result was that the priests took the people's money and undertook to secure their salvation. And the people flattered themselves that the more they gave to the priests, the more sure they were to go to Heaven!'*

### **The Reformation delivered the church from childish superstitions:**

The Roman Catholic religion, before the Reformation, taught its members to seek spiritual benefit from so-called relics of dead saints and to treat them with divine honour. Calvin's 'Inventory of Relics' and Hobart Seymour's 'Pilgrimage to Rome' catalogued some of the ludicrous swindles perpetrated by the church of Rome. This included

pieces of wood 'of the true cross' enough to load a large ship, thorns professing to be part of the Saviour's crown of thorns, enough to make a huge faggot, at least 14 nails said to have been used at the Crucifixion, four spearheads - each purporting to be the one which pierced our Lord's side, at least three seamless coats of Christ, for which the soldiers cast lots, Saint James's hand, bones of Mary Magdalene, toe nails from Saint Edmund, bread purported to have been used by Christ at the Last Supper, a girdle of the Virgin Mary and even her milk! The Royal Commissioners of Henry VIII examined a vial in Gloucestershire, said to contain the blood of Christ. The Commissioners found it contained the blood of a duck!

Roman priests persisted in presenting these lies and requiring that the ignorant laity believe them. Sometimes the priests induced dying sinners to give vast tracts of lands to abbeys and monasteries, in order to atone for their bad lives. To them confession had to be made. Without their absolution and 'sacrament' of 'Extreme Unction' no professing Christian could be saved. Without their masses no soul could be redeemed from 'purgatory'. In short, they were, to all intents and purposes, the mediators between Christ and man.

One of the indulgences issued in 1498, with the authority of the Pope, claimed: *'To absolve people from usury, theft, manslaughter, fornication and all crime whatsoever, except smiting the clergy and conspiring against the Pope'*! It was from such superstitions which the Reformation delivered us.

### **The Reformation delivered the church from blatant immorality:**

Before the Reformation, the lives of the clergy were scandalous and included brothels in the Vatican. The Popes, Cardinals and Bishops openly consorted with prostitutes and engaged in the most debauched orgies. The local priests became notorious for gluttony, drunkenness and gambling. As Bishop Ryle pointed out: *'To expect the huge roots of ignorance and superstition, which filled our land, to bear any but corrupt fruit, would be unreasonable and absurd'*. Contemporary art depicted Friars as foxes preaching with the neck of a stolen goose peeping out of the hood behind; as wolves giving absolution, with the sheep partly concealed under their cloaks; or as apes sitting on a sick man's bed with a crucifix in one hand and with the other hand in the suffering person's pocket! Such public contempt in art reflects the scorn with which the clergy were held at the time.

Bishop Ryle pointed out: *'But the blackest spot on the character of our pre-Reformation clergy in England is...their horrible contempt of the 7th Commandment...the consequences of shutting up herds of men and women in the prime of life, in monasteries and nunneries, were such that I will not defile my paper by dwelling upon them...if ever there was a plausible theory weighed in the balance and found utterly wanting, it is the favourite theory that celibacy and monasticism promote holiness...monasteries and nunneries were frequently sinks of iniquity'*.

It was observed that: *'There is no surer recipe for promoting immorality than fullness of bread and abundance of idleness'*, (Ezek.16:49). It is from such superstition, corruption, immorality and idolatry that the Reformation freed the church.

### **The Reformation gave the church back the Bible:**

In 1519, six men and a woman were burned at Coventry for teaching their children the Ten Commandments, the

Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed in English. Nothing seems to have alarmed and enraged the Roman priesthood as much as the spread of Bibles in the local language. It was for the crime of translating the Bible into English that the Reformer, William Tyndale, was burned at the stake. Of all the aspects which combined to make up the Reformation, no other aspect received such bitter opposition as the translation and circulation of the Scriptures. The translation of the Bible struck a blow at the root of the whole Roman Catholic system. The Bible, as the only rule of faith and conduct, freely available in the local languages, was a threat to all the superstitions and abuses of the medieval Roman popery. With the Bible in every church, every thoughtful man soon saw that the religion of the priests had no basis in Scripture.

**The Reformation opened the road to the throne of Grace:**

The way of salvation had become blocked up and made impassible by heaps of superstitious rubble. *'He who desired to obtain forgiveness had to seek it through a jungle of priests, saints, Mary worship, masses, penances, confession, absolution and the like, so that there might as well have been no throne of Grace at all'* (J.C. Ryle).

The Reformers hacked their way through this huge jungle of papal obstruction and cleared the way for every heavy-laden sinner to go straight to the Lord Jesus Christ for remission of sins.

**The Reformation restored Biblical simplicity to worship:**

Before the Reformation, the presentations of the sacraments were a solemn farce because the ceremonies and prayers were in Latin. The laity could bring their bodies to the services, but their minds, understanding, reason and spirit could take no part. For this reason, the 24th Article of the Church of England declared: *'It is a thing totally repugnant to the Word of God and the custom of the primitive church to have public prayer in the church or to minister the sacraments in a tongue not understood of the people'*.

**The Reformation gave a Biblical understanding of the office of a minister:**

Before the Reformation, the concept of the Christian ministry was sacerdotal - that is, every clergyman was a sacrificing priest. The clergy were understood to hold the keys of Heaven and to be mediators between God and man. The Reformers cast out the words 'sacrifice' and 'altar'. They taught that the clergy were pastors, ambassadors, messengers, witnesses, evangelists, teachers and ministers of the Word and sacraments. The Reformers taught that the chief business of every Christian minister is to preach the Word and to be diligent in prayer and the reading of the Scriptures. The Reformers taught the immense superiority of the pulpit to the confessional. For this reason, where the altar used to be, the Lord's table was placed with an open Bible or a pulpit

**The Reformation restored a Biblical understanding of holiness:**

Before the Reformation, it was believed that a monastic life and vows of celibacy were the only ways to escape sin and to attain sanctification. Multitudes of men and women poured into the monasteries and convents under the vain idea that this would please God and ensure their eternal salvation. The Reformers struck at the root of this fallacy by establishing the great Scriptural principle that true religion was not to be found in retiring into convents and monasteries and fleeing

from the difficulties of daily life, but in manfully facing up to our difficulties and doing our duty diligently - in every position to which God calls us. It is not by running away from the world that we fulfil God's call, but by courageously resisting the devil, the flesh and the world and overcoming them in daily life. That is how true holiness is to be exhibited. The Reformers dissolved the monasteries and convents and freed the inmates to be re-integrated into normal life.

The Reformers also ordered that the Ten Commandments be set up in every parish church and taught to every child.

**A Heritage of Faith and Freedom:**

We must continually thank God for the Reformation. It lit the flames of knowledge and freedom which we must ensure are never allowed to be extinguished or to grow dim. We need to continually remember that the Reformation was won for us by the blood of many tens of thousands of martyrs. It was not only by their preaching and praying, and writing and legislation, but by their sacrifices - that our religious liberty, freedom of conscience and Christian heritage was won.

The Reformation found church members steeped in ignorance and left them in possession of knowledge. It found them without Bibles and left them with the Bible in every parish. It found them in darkness and left them in light. It found them bound in fear and left them enjoying the liberty and peace which only Christ can give. It found them strangers to the blood of Christ's atonement, to faith, grace and holiness and left them with the key of all those blessings in their hands. It found them blind and left them with spiritual eyes to see. It found them slaves to superstition and set them free to serve Christ. As Bishop Ryle declared: *'Are we to return to a church which boasts that she is infallible and never changes - to a church which has never repented of her pre-Reformation superstitions and abominations - to a church which has never confessed and abjured her countless corruptions? Are we to go back to gross ignorance of true religion? Shame on us, I say, if we entertain the idea for a moment! Let the Israelite return to Egypt, if he will. Let the prodigal go back to his husks among the swine. Let the dog return to his vomit. But let no Englishman with brains in his head, ever listen to the idea of exchanging Protestantism for Popery, or returning to the bondage of the church of Rome. No, indeed!...God forbid! The man who counsels such base apostasy and suicidal folly, must be judicially blind. The iron collar has been broken; let us not put it on again. The prison has been thrown open; let us not resume the yoke and return to our chains...Let us not go back to ignorance, superstition, priestcraft and immorality'*.

If you have a Bible in your own language, and enjoy to read and study God's Word, never forget that you owe that Bible to the Reformation. Brave men and women died that you could have the freedom to delight in God's Word. If you know the joy of sins forgiven and new life in Christ, if you are walking by faith and enjoying peace with God, never forget that you owe this priceless privilege to the Reformation. If you enjoy Church services, Scripture choruses, Hymns, prayers and sermons in your own language, remember that for this you are also indebted to the Reformation. If you appreciate the Biblical and practical sermons of your pastor, and his counsel, never forget that for this you are indebted to the Reformation. We need to ask if we are on the side of the Reformers, or of those who burned them and the Bible. *'...Contend earnestly for the Faith which was once for all delivered to the saints'*, (Jude 3).

## Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Mike, a question has come to my mind after reading from the text in Rev. 17:5, where it refers to 'Mystery Babylon The Great, the Mother of Harlots and abominations of the earth'.

This reference to 'Rome', I think you will agree, demands a follow-up question in the light of the exodus from mainline churches you report.

My question is this. If Rome is the 'Mother' of Harlots, then, who would be the harlot's daughters?

One immediately thinks of all the 'Orthodox' churches,

Egyptian, Macedonian, Russian etc, not to forget the Anglican and Episcopal, but does it stop there?

What are your thoughts? In Christian love and appreciation, (A.T., Qld.)

**Sub-editors reply: I am of the opinion that the Mystery Babylonian religion covers all worship of deities outside of Christ. I consider the harlots to be those that present themselves as 'Christian' and the 'abominations' are the horrors of Islam, Hinduism, et al.**

Mike Claydon

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## Paul's Answer To Dave Hunt

There is today a rising chorus of teachers evading or objecting to the plain meaning of the choice, predestination and election of God. The Apostle Paul writing in Romans 9:19 anticipates such objection to what he has just stated with regard to God choosing one person upon whom to place His mercy - and leaving another in their already unregenerate state. Jacob He loved, Esau He loved less...

In his latest writings, renowned author Dave Hunt objects to this statement made by Paul, and intimates that God would be unrighteous and unfair if the claim was true. But the Apostle Paul anticipates this when he writes: '*...Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?*' (Rom.9:19).

Dave asserts that the doctrine of the sovereignty of God in the election of the Saints is tantamount to God '*damning millions to hell*'; that God simply '*foreknew*' who would '*believe*' and then elected them to be conformed to the image of His son; that God is omniscient and knows that certain people are going to believe when they hear the Gospel, so He chooses them because of that; and that He knows, too, that the others are not going to believe and therefore He hardens them. This is what Paul is saying, contends Dave.

But Paul knew only too well that many would question God's sovereign right to choose those according to his own free will to be saved, (Eph.1:4,5).

*Our contention is that no one could possibly object to Dave's theory anyway!* Everybody would say that that was quite just and fair. *So, obviously that cannot be what Paul is teaching, since there would be no objection.* Furthermore, the Apostle is asserting that the whole of humanity, everybody born into this world from Adam, is *already lost* and under condemnation - everybody. Yet God chooses some to salvation and others He leaves. As the potter has the right to make one vessel to honour and another to dishonour from the clay before him, God has an equal right to choose some to honour and to leave the others to dishonour. On what grounds do we say this? *All deserve damnation* as the result of the sin of Adam. That is proved in Romans chapter 5 verse 12: '*Wherefore as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*'. We all sinned in Adam, the sin of Adam is on us all, and we all received the condemnation. And not only that, we deserve it also as the result of *our own* deliberate sins and disobedience.

How then does Paul deal with Dave's objection? Well, the first thing he does is to rebuke the questioner and refute the

question! Before he deals with the argument he says '*Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God?*' (vs.20). This is a most important point. What is he rebuking here? He is surely rebuking the spirit in which the question is put. And this is something that is always vital. We need to be reminded that in discussing a subject such as this, we are not just looking at a subject of abstract academic or theoretical philosophy, we are not just looking here into some human opinions or argumentation. You do not approach a subject like this as you approach a subject such as the political situation of the day, which is purely a matter of human opinion. We find ourselves in a different realm here. What the Apostle is rebuking is a spirit of contention. He is not rebuking a man who is earnestly seeking truth in all of this - no, he is castigating an objector who confronts God as it were, and who contradicts Him. Paul is rebuking a proud, arrogant contentious spirit that says '*this is all wrong! As nobody can stand up against God finally, what right then has He to punish anybody? What right does He have to harden any heart or to leave them to hell? The thing is unjust!*' Now that is what Paul is rebuking.

*Here we are face to face with the very argument which is most frequently brought against the whole doctrine of election and predestination.* The objection proves the understanding of what Paul is teaching here. He is confirming that God, and *God alone*, determines the salvation of every man. A man is saved because God has chosen him, not because man has chosen God, (Eph.1:4; Jn.1:11-13; Jn.15:16; Lk.19:10; Rom.3:11; Jn.6:44,65).

We must understand that Paul uses Old Testament scripture throughout this passage to show that this is not his own theory or his own opinion. To treat this doctrine as if it is not displaying God's true character is to bring woe upon ourselves. It is impossible to reconcile these matters using human reasoning; or to become frustrated because they do not fit the grid of our human thinking.

Many teachers today, Dave Hunt most notably, when they find themselves in difficulty over a passage of scripture, fall back to a *defensive* position and proffer human *logic* and opinionated assumption to object to the *plain teaching* presented to us in the Bible. And such human logic sounds so right to so many. But to present a God who allows fallen human beings to determine the efficacy, or otherwise, of His glorious and costly plan of salvation, is to attract nothing less than His great displeasure.

Mike Claydon

**Your Comments and Questions**

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

Dear Terry, with reference to the latest 'Diakrisis'. I would like to comment on two of the articles which you and Mike wrote. First re: the Acts 13:48 article - we should be getting more articles like this. This article warms the blood and cheers the spirit and makes a person feel glad he is a Christian. More please.

Secondly, Re: 'The Indonesian Disaster' - that is the first time I have heard the truth about that disaster anywhere. Keep up the good work and don't let anything that would be put before you distract you from this work. God bless...

Ps. I have now listened to the audio tape you sent me on the end times & Indonesian disaster. I must say that I think that was the best message I have ever heard on such a subject...I thought it was powerful...

**(J.H., Brisbane)**

Dear Terry, I congratulate you on your article and sermon on 'The Indonesian Disaster'. You were the only ministry that I know of that told it for what it really was, and the only one to use useful scripture to support your claim that God is the author of earthquakes, disasters, etc.

I have always regarded Asia as Satan's playground and unless mankind turns from their sinful ways and repents, then it is going to be 'as it was in the days of Noah'. The quotes from the various ministries including the Archbishop of Canterbury were appalling to anyone who knows their Bible. These other 'ministries' are trying to form some impression on their readers that such disasters are not primarily the work of a loving God but the work of Satan or 'mother nature' reacting to 'global warming', etc...Matthew Henry in one of his commentaries wrote: 'Hell is the blackest of darkness'. I don't want to find out if he is right or wrong. I must just believe what the Bible says...even concerning the warnings of natural disasters... **(J.F., Qld.)**

Dear Terry & Mike, I have enjoyed reading your 'Diakrisis'...the days are rapidly growing darker and we need those who are able to speak out plainly. I am 80 years old, so I have seen much decline in the church in my time and at an ever increasing rate downwards! May you know the wisdom of God in your answers and your editorials...Yours in Christ, **(E.D. NSW)**

**Prayer Points**

- Please pray for the Sydney trip. Pray God leads and guides Terry and that hearts will be open to truth. Pray for hearts to be stirred to study the serious things of God in these perilous times. Pray for safety and health.

**Please note NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS:  
taminist@bigpond.net.au**

Dear Terry, Many thanks for your ministry promoting truth and refreshing our hearts with the purity of teaching from Scripture. The constant challenge as to the basis for what we believe is a great need today and 'Diakrisis' focuses our minds and hearts on the Word of God itself. The Lord's continued blessing on your faithful work as we wait His glorious appearance, Yours in Christ Jesus,  
**(M.& H. B., NSW)**

Dear Terry,...thanks for 'Diakrisis', It is a real beacon for our times. May God bless you and strengthen both you and Mike.

**(A.B., Mosman, NSW)**

**(Sydney Itinerary)**

**May 1st (Sun) 9.30am & 11am Allowera Baptist, Riverstone Ph.0413128569**

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**May 4th (Wed) 8pm Kingsgrove Gospel Youth, Ph. 96216926**

**May 6th (Fri) 7pm Combined Guildford Christian Assembly Ph.88077725 & Wentworthville Arabic Baptist Ph.96799442**

**May 7th (Sat) 7pm Church For Everybody, Marrickville Ph.95534818**

**May 8th (Sun) 10am Church For Everybody, Marrickville Ph.95534818**

**May 10th (Tues) 7pm Ishak Home Group, Mt Druitt Ph.0425277794**

**May 11th (Wed) 7pm Ishak Home Group, Mt Druitt Ph.0425277794**

**May 13th (Fri) 7pm Ishak Home Group, Mt Druitt Ph.0425277794**

**May 15th (Sun) 12pm Combined Wentworthville Arabic Baptist Church Ph.96799442 & Guildford Christian Assembly Ph.88077725**

**May 18th (Wed) 7pm Independant Baptist Church, Wagga Wagga Ph.(02)69265804**

**May 21st (Sat) 10am Seminar - Foundations For Evangelism & Discipleship, Cootamundra Bible Fellowship Ph.(02)69421027**

**May 22nd (Sun) 10am Cootamundra Bible Fellowship Ph.(02)69423541 or (02)69421027**

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