



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 Comments

This is arguably a stronger edition than usual. But I cannot remain silent when I see the church plunged into one delusion after another. Recently I was away from home on a ministry tour and was shown the '*Australian Christian Channel*' (ACC) on 'Cable TV'. At first I assumed it was a rock music station until I discovered I was watching a lead singer at *Hillsong* lead his gyrating audience in a display of beat that would equal any rock concert. Most of the young people were lost in ecstatic 'worship'.

I turned this station on at intermittent periods over a few weeks to be sure I was not mistaken in thinking this was a 'Christian' channel. At times I could not honestly see any difference between this station and the music of, and the ways of, the world. I also wondered why it is called the 'Christian' channel and not the 'Charismatic/Pentecostal' channel, since most of the speakers were clearly of that persuasion.

As I watched the preachers and teachers on this channel I was sickened as 'prominent' speakers fed people nothing more than curdled milk and appealed to their selfish 'felt needs'. The Word of God was added to with extra biblical material and decorated with human psychology to entertain and tickle willing ears. Rarely did I see any preacher go deeper than a surface reading of scripture. Most used a shotgun approach rather than any real exposition of a passage. Speakers would make basic Sunday school statements of belief yet through emotional antics and one line catch phrases would draw enthusiastic and emotional reactions from their audiences. I was left wondering how the audiences could get so emotional about such shallow words! If one were to take transcripts of many of these sermons, the amount of real meat would be negligible when separated from the loads of junk food served up!

The scriptures speak of '*another jesus...another gospel...and another spirit*', (2Cor.11:4; Gal.1:6). We normally think this is to do with cults. Perhaps Satan is happy with us thinking just that. But I am convinced today there is 'another jesus' in much of the contemporary Christian music and in modern TV preaching including such channels as ACC.

It is *only* the word of God that changes a mans wicked heart, (1Pet.1:23; Heb.4:12; Jer.17:9). Mixtures will not do, (1Cor.5:6-8; Lev.20:23-26). Take away the music, the hype and entertainment, and will the people still stand? What we feed people with is what we will have to keep them with. If we feed them junk food they will need to be fed with food that is constantly changing to suit the whims and tastes of the world. Only the Manna from God will sustain us with strength all the way to the kingdom of heaven. I fear many, if they do not have 'another jesus', would enter malnourished!

If we are classified as 'narrow' and feed people unadulterated truth; and if God blesses us with just a few souls, then may we be content and redeem the time, for the days are wicked indeed, (Eph.5:16).

Terry Arnold

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‘All Things To All Men’

1 Corinthians 9:22 *‘To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.’*

Just what is Paul saying here? That we should conform ourselves to sinful men to win some for Christ? That we should entice unbelievers to the gospel by worldly attractions?

Today we have an ‘emerging Church’ advocated by such luminaries as Robert Schuller, Richard Foster, Brennan Manning, Dan Kimball, Bill Hybels, Dallas Willard, Bruce Wilkinson, Eugene Peterson, John Ortberg, John Eldredge, Dr. Robert Webber, Tony Campolo, Rick Warren, David Cartledge, Brian Houston and many other lesser known personalities. These are but a selection of the mega-ministry leaders who are urging their ‘church growth’ strategies upon our churches, and boldly declaring that God is ‘doing a new work’ today - and that he is doing so through them! Not shy these people. They are adamant that the Gospel now preached for 2,000 years fails the test when presented to the ‘unchurched’ of our era.

They fully believe that they are fulfilling a Biblical mandate to ensure that the Christian message is palatable to an unbelieving age of western society accustomed to having their ‘felt needs’ met. To ensure success springs from this novel approach it has been necessary to consult the secular spinmeisters of Madison Avenue advertising and marketing agencies in how best to repackage the Christian Gospel, and present it to Generation X in a way that will guarantee new ‘converts’. And wildly successful it has been.

To the sometimes visible envy of many doctrinally sound pastors, mega-churches catering to what they quaintly call ‘seekers’ have sprung up in widespread communities, and drawn many of the faithful into their web of flimsy doctrine, vacuous homilies, drama, and liturgy that would make Rome proud. All accompanied by ‘worship teams’ backed by loud rock bands and vocalists that can barely be heard above the din, voicing vapid, meaningless lyrics. Many thousands are apparently being ‘converted’ to whatever this phenomenon is, and willingly fall into the hands of an emerging breed of self proclaimed ‘apostles’.

It’s heady stuff, but is it Biblically sound, or simply downright deception? Are these men warranted in their claim that they are continuing to carry out the great commission in this way? Because that is what these leaders boldly state they are doing. And they often use 1 Corinthians 9:22 as a proof text.

When Paul penned the words above to the church at Corinth, was he urging upon the church a view that to attract men to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it is paramount we appear ‘relevant, stylish, professional’ and ‘with it’ when presenting the eternal truths it contains?

Shortly before he arrived in the presence of the Corinthians he had visited Greece. Whilst there his heart was greatly troubled by the idols strewn across Athens. He was taken to the Aeropagus on Mars Hill to further elaborate on what he had previously preached in the synagogue. There he spoke to a crowd of Athenians who spent most of their time discussing various philosophies - and to gain their attention he finally quoted one of their poets. This he did simply to illustrate to them that in spite of their ingrained paganism, one of their own had mentioned the God who Paul knew so well. Yet this

methodology has been described by the seeker friendly, new apostolic age gurus of today, as Paul’s attempt to identify with his listeners! Nothing could be further from the truth than that. He was simply pointing out to them that the deity He was drawing their attention to was already present in their literature - unbeknownst to them of course. He was not in anyway endorsing the poet’s work or the Epicurean or Stoic teachings.

In an attempt to establish that the correct apostolic thing to strive for is an acceptance from the unbelieving, Paul is often described here as immersing himself in the local culture in an effort to become believable because he was ‘one of them’. The cry today is that Christians are viewed as too ‘other worldly’, ‘too heavenly minded to be of any earthly use’- and that Paul here has the answer to successful evangelism. Become one of them, and show the masses that Christians are simply not as weird as we are made out to be. Is this what Paul was doing though?

No. Paul had basically decided to surrender all his rights, he was free from all men, in no sense bound by the standards and fashions of his audience, let alone imitating them! He is prepared to be a slave for all providing that no real principle is at stake, to win the elect among them to Christ. On the other hand he is always under the authority of the true God. Subject to this overriding consideration he is prepared to accept the practices of the Gentiles. This does not mean that he will act in an unprincipled manner, compromise or behave foolishly, but he will willingly sacrifice his own legitimate interests and preferences completely. This is done for the sake of the Gospel and his share in the resultant blessings.

Those that use these scriptures to endorse their new brand of relevant evangelism fail to see that Paul, as a Jew, was making concessions to pagan Gentiles in an effort to reach their minds. The new ‘Apostles’ today seem not to comprehend the cultural and religious differences between regions in the Near and Middle East, and the need to bridge those to effectively communicate a message. They are products, generally, of Anglo Saxon societies and to employ this methodology as an excuse to imitate the low culture of today is unintelligent, and shows a great ignorance of contextual interpretation at best. Or worse, a wilful misapplication of scripture.

We must not allow our understanding to be manipulated by those that have an unorthodox agenda. Nowhere in scripture or church history has the Gospel been properly delivered by methods employed by the fallen human race. It is by the Word preached that God draws His people to salvation - it may not appear overly successful, and in many cases it continually falls on deaf ears. But to despair of God’s decreed vehicle for reaching people, and resort to mimicking worldly entertainment with which to accomplish the work, is a great evil. When the Church does this she either does it so badly as to invite ridicule - or well enough that hordes of false conversions result. Fellowships considering altering their worship and evangelism to an entertainment mode should keep in mind that you cannot later easily turn new devotees away from the glitz to sound Biblical doctrine - and in the interim God’s true remnant will have left for elsewhere to find the solid food they require.

Mike Claydon

‘Well Intentioned Dragons’

In my travels around various churches within and without Australia I am seeing an increase in church splits and divisions. Recently I remembered a book in my reference library titled *‘Well Intentioned Dragons’* by Marshal Shelley (Bethany House Publishers). Having faced a few church crisis over the years, a quick re-read crystallised some thoughts on problems and problem people that lead to church division...

Sound Pastors and elders are coming under increasing pressure from elements within churches to change with the world, to accommodate its every whim. On the other hand legalism in some churches can tear flocks apart. However, one characteristic of churches in turmoil is the *carnal attitudes and behaviour* of ‘well intentioned dragons’. These are ‘well intentioned’ but nevertheless fire breathing ‘dragons’ who must have their selfish needs met. Yet anyone of us has the potential to become a ‘dragon’! But most of these ‘dragons’ come out of a seedbed of wanting to control people or circumstances. *A common characteristic is a lack of humility and submission to Biblical local church authority.*

There are the ‘God’s little helpers’, or as the above mentioned book calls them, the ‘bird dog’, who ‘points’ the elder/pastor to a ‘problem’ in the church. These people subtly attempt to control the pastor with information and suggestions which are of course ‘from God’. Gossippers fit into this category and the sin thereof is one of the most destructive which can stifle growth and devastate the reputation of members and church leaderships alike.

There are the legalists - they have their special interests, are quick to vilify, slow to apologise and will use out of context scriptures to back their own convictions which they subtly impose upon others.

Many ‘dragons’ remain dormant for long periods, only to suddenly breathe fire, exposing their true natures. *The feature of a ‘dragon’ is not just what they say but how it is said.*

When an elder/pastor is forced to handle ‘dragons’, outreach suffers, change is stifled, and the Pastor is consumed with putting out ‘bushfires’. The worst ‘dragon’ often begins as one of the pastors strongest supporters but ends up being a constant drain on His time and energy. These people ultimately may raise doubts about the pastors competence, credibility and his motives. However, critics of the pastor should be taken seriously as sometimes there is truth worth salvaging. *‘If one calls you a donkey, ignore him. If two call you a donkey, check for hoof prints. If three call you a donkey, get a saddle’* (P.110)...and *‘never deal with criticisms*

on the same day as they are received’ (P.113). Yet ministers are committed to care for *all* members of the body, even those whose breath appears tainted with ‘dragon smoke’, (P.48).

The spirit in which the criticisms are given will often tell the minister the source of the ‘fire’. *The true nature of dragons will often be seen in their lack of humility and resistance to submission to church authorities and to brothers and sisters in Christ.* Invariably this is the common characteristic of those who cause division.

‘When attacked by a dragon, don’t become one’ (P. 61). It is easy to react in fleshly defence and become part of the fire that consumes. It is also crucial that elder/pastors do not fight battles with dragons alone. A solid eldership/leadership team which can deal in grace yet firmness in truth will see the pastor through the toughest of battles. Developing and maintaining unity in the leadership is vital. A sense of loyalty to each other is crucial yet not to the exclusion of truth and honesty. Such events as ‘retreats’ and training sessions will help facilitate the fellowship and relationship required to build unity. And do not entertain accusations against elders unless according to Scripture, (1Tim.5:19).

‘Face into the wind’ (P.77). Ignoring well intentioned fire breathing ‘dragons’ will not often result in peace or stability - the problems will likely later return to bite the leadership at its heels. Face the ‘dragons’ head on.

One of the best ways to prevent the rise of ‘dragons’ is to state clearly the ‘direction of the church’ (P.91). Many churches today are reluctant to state clearly their stance on doctrines and distinctives. This produces confusion and dissension. Strong expository Biblical preaching is vital to showing clearly the ‘direction’ of the church.

The church is desperately in need of courageous pastors who will, as the spirit leads, warn their flocks. As one pastor wrote to me: *‘The church is luring the wolves and unchurched into the church...to make the ‘Church of God’ appealing to the ‘unchurched’, and there begins the ‘falling away’ that is spoken of in 2Thessalonians 2:3...the church is feeding and entertaining the wolves and starving the sheep and so most churches now have malnourished Christians in them that need to ‘come out from among them’.*

Fire breathing ‘dragons’, even ‘well intentioned’ ones, will continue to multiply and choke the life out of the church and ‘burn out’ many pastors...unless the church returns to a Biblical philosophy of ministry and the faith once delivered.

Terry Arnold

AOG, Brian Houston and the Pope

(Assemblies of God (AOG) Media Release, 21 April 2005)

‘National President of the AOG in Australia, Brian Houston, has congratulated Pope Benedict XVI on his election as the leader of the world’s Catholics. Pastor Houston said the shoes of the charismatic and endearing Pope John Paul II, who taught the world so much through his life and his subsequent suffering, would be difficult to fill. ‘Pope John Paul II left an indelible mark on the world, and we pray for Pope Benedict as he takes on the leadership of the Catholic church and navigates the challenges and opportunities facing the global church in the 21st century, Ps. Houston said. ‘It is important for all of us to honour and pray for anyone in a position of leadership and

authority. Pope Benedict XVI is a spiritual and experienced leader and is now head over a significant portion of the Christian community, so we will pray for wisdom in his immensely influential role,’ he said.

‘We pray too that this Papacy, like those before it, is marked by a commitment to seeing the Christian message continue to go forward and people changed by the power and truth of the Gospel.

‘Obviously, as Protestants, our views are consistently different to the Pope’s on a number of issues, however, we share a common desire to exalt Christ and serve our community to the best of our ability.’

For Editors Comments - see P.4

Rick Warren Teams Up With New-Age Guru

While Rick Warren is gearing up to train a billion people, unbeknownst to many he has also been teamed up with New Age and contemplative promoter, Ken Blanchard...A new biography on Rick Warren, 'A Life With Purpose' written by George Mair, Rick Warren has solicited the services of Ken Blanchard to aid him in training leaders: 'Rick taps the best and most famous to help train church leaders to be like Jesus. He has hired Ken Blanchard...to come to Saddleback to help train people how to be effective leaders.' (P.193)

...There is countless evidence to show that Blanchard sits on the New Age/mystical/contemplative bandwagon. Blanchard believes in the benefits and use of mantra meditation, yoga and has no trouble borrowing from Buddhism. Here are just a few examples: - Wrote the foreword to Jim Ballard's 'Mind Like Water'; Wrote the foreword to Franz Metcalf's 'What Would Buddha Do At Work?'; Is on the back cover of Deepak Chopra's 'Seven Spiritual Laws of Success'; Jim Ballard, a staunch New Ager, and a colleague of The Ken Blanchard Companies, wrote the Foreword to Ellen Ladd's (clairvoyant) book, 'Death and Letting Go'.

Blanchard makes no apology when he says much can be gained from Buddhism. He and his wife both encourage the practice of yoga (P.11) and mantra meditation.

For those who do not find the words of an unofficial biographer (Mair) linking Rick Warren with Blanchard convincing enough, Ken Blanchard, Rick Warren and Bill Hybels (Willow Creek) have become team players at the 'Lead Like Jesus' conferences, which take place across North America. The three also have an audio set they co-authored together...

'For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you', (1Cor.11:19). ('Apostasy Alert' by Mike Claydon)

Fred Nile & The Pope

'The Rev Fred Nile, MLC...leader of the Christian Democratic party, has sent a message of congratulations and support to the newly elected Pope Benedict XVI.'

'I am sure all Catholics, and Christians of other churches rejoice at the election of Cardinal Ratzinger as the new head of the Catholic church', said Rev Fred Nile. 'The new conservative Pope Benedict is not only the leader of the Catholic Church but represents all Christians, especially Evangelicals, in the campaign to protect human life...marriage...the family. 'Pope Benedict XVI will continue the faithful, zealous efforts of the former Pope, John Paul II, against the culture of death...secularism, atheism...pornography, prostitution and homosexuality...He will also promote the importance of healthy minds and bodies for our youth in the war against drugs. Finally the new Pope will continue the historic Biblical teaching on the fundamentals of the Christian faith such as the virgin birth of Jesus Christ and his atonement...and resurrection...said Rev Fred Nile MLC.' (Media Release, Wed, 27th April, 2005)

Editors comments: The 'leader of Evangelicals'?'; 'The historic teaching on the fundamentals of the Christian faith'? But what about the additions to that Faith and the Gospel? - a sinless virgin; an 'atonement' that includes a continuing sacrifice of the 'mass'; Purgatory to purge sins...Where are the 'protesters' now? Where are the voices of dissent!

Deceptive Tolerance: The One World Religion

'There's been a 'Vatican watch' for weeks...even months. When Pope John Paul II first became ill, reporters from around the world camped outside of the hospital or the Vatican with coverage 24/7. Some networks covered the scene without interruption keeping a constant eye on Rome. When the crisis moved on, TV cameras then focused on a chimney for two days. Unbelievable. And why were non-Catholics so caught up in this? Why was a chimney such an epic world event?

The fact that a pope is a world leader, not just a spiritual head, was revealed the days following his death. He 'united' Muslims, Hindus, New Agers, evangelicals, atheists, kings, Mullahs, presidents, generals, and more. Many called him a 'man of peace' which reveals the world's longing for such a man. Until I studied eschatology, none of this would have caught my serious attention. However, I do feel it has apocalyptic overtones. All of this bears watching, however, because of the deceptive 'tolerance' that was accentuated through all of this. Ecumenism has a new meaning right now: Let's reach out and embrace all who profess God, regardless of who their god is. If it's Baal, Allah, Krishna, 'mother earth', Druids, Wiccans, Satanists, or self, I can almost hear the Antichrist saying, 'Just give me your allegiance and I will guarantee your freedom to worship as you please'. Absolute truth will be forbidden as only the Antichrist and the False Prophet will have that.

Pope Benedictine 16th wants to unite all of Christianity and reach out to all religions. If you have your eye on the sky, bells and whistles should be going off. The book of Revelation talks a lot about the 'one world' theme. There will be an end-time system according to Revelation 13 and all will be one. John Lennon would be pleased; based on his song 'Imagine' there's no Heaven or hell and the world will be one. But Benedictine wants to have 'an open and sincere dialogue' with all religions and says he will do anything in his power to improve the ecumenical cause.

Revelation 13 talks about the 'religious beast' who would be the False Prophet. The 'political beast' is the Antichrist. The 'system' they will ride will be called 'Mystery Babylon'. In Revelation 17 it is clear that the system will operate out of a city on seven hills. Yes, there are several cities on seven hills including the most prominent, Rome. Apostate religious leaders will unite under the False Prophet but there must be a system in place over which they can unite...

...The global religious system must be large enough and centralized enough to legitimize a new system of pseudo-Christianity modified so it would accommodate all religions in the world, but it would exclude all those who put their trust in Jesus Christ as Savior.'

(From: Jan Markell, Olive Tree Ministries, www.olivetreeviews.org)

Halley's Bible Handbook

Halley's Bible Handbook was once an excellent and sound source of historical information concerning the History of the church and the Roman Catholic religion. However, the more recent 25th NIV edition and the Billy Graham editions have edited this history.

The history of the Papacy and the 'blood of the saints' and the 'blood of the martyrs' (Rev.17:6) is being systematically deleted or re-written as the ecumenical church grows.

The Papacy and Islam

By Richard M. Bennett & Robert J. Nicholson

In his message to the predominately Muslim nation of Kazakhstan, twelve days after the horrors of September 11th, 2001, the [late] Pope declared, *'There is one God. The Apostle proclaims before all else the absolute oneness of God. This is a truth which Christians inherited from the children of Israel and which they share with Muslims: it is faith in the one God, 'Lord of heaven and earth' (Lk.10:21), almighty and merciful. In the name of this one God, I turn to the people of deep and ancient religious traditions, the people of Kazakhstan.'* (1)

He then gave a false Gospel: *'This 'logic of love' is what he [Jesus] holds out to us, asking us to live it above all through generosity to those in need. It is a logic which can bring together Christians and Muslims, and commit them to work together for the 'civilization of love'. It is a logic which overcomes all the cunning of this world and allows us to make true friends who will welcome us 'into the eternal dwelling-places' (Lk.16:9), into the 'homeland' of heaven.'* (2)

His final prayer was for a partnership between 'Christians and Muslims': *'And in this celebration we want to pray for Kazakhstan and its inhabitants...May it progress on the basis in particular of co-operation between Christians and Muslims, committed day by day, side by side, in the effort to fulfil God's will.'* (3)

In spite of the catastrophic events of September 11th, the Pope continued faithfully the Roman Catholic Church policy of affirmation and approval of Islam. The Vatican speaks officially of the Roman Catholic Church having the same God and faith of Abraham as the Muslims...*'The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day.'* (4)

The Roman Catholic Church officially declares that the One God of Holy Scripture is also the God of Islam...*'The Church has also a high regard for the Muslims. They worship God, who is one, living and subsistent, merciful and almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, who has also spoken to men. They strive to submit themselves without reserve to the hidden decrees of God, just as Abraham submitted himself to God's plan, whose faith Muslims eagerly link to their own. Although not acknowledging him as God, they venerate Jesus as a prophet, his virgin Mother they also honor, and even at times devotedly invoke. Further, they await the day of judgment and the reward of God following the resurrection of the dead. For this reason they highly esteem an upright life and worship God, especially by way of prayer, alms-deeds and fasting.'* (5)

It is clear from this official recognition that the Church of Rome's estimation of Islam has experienced a fundamental change...aimed at engendering a new mood of respectful, rapprochement and mutual understanding between the Papacy and Islam. As a device of diplomatic exchange, they show clearly that a new interfaith-Ecumenism has been propounded by Rome with the singular objective of embracing Islam and its peoples within a new international community of religious life and faith, a community incidentally, in which Rome enjoys priority as founder and senior partner.

Islam rejects the Trinity, Christ's divinity and His sacrifice. Christians believe in one God, in which one Godhead

there exists three Persons. Islam rejects this concept as blasphemous. The Qur'an declares: *'Certainly they disbelieve who say: Surely Allah is the third (person) of the three; and there is no god but the one God, and if they desist not from what they say, a painful chastisement shall befall those among them who disbelieve'*, (Surah 5:73) (6)

The Bible proclaims Christ's sacrificial death on the cross in place of the believer, *'In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace'*, (Eph.1:7). Islam passionately rejects the crucifixion of Christ Jesus. Thus the Qur'an declares: *'And their saying: Surely we have killed the Messiah, Isa son of Marium, the apostle of Allah; and they did not kill him nor did they crucify him, but it appeared to them so (like Isa) and most surely those who differ therein are only in a doubt about it; they have no knowledge respecting it, but only follow a conjecture, and they killed him not for sure'*, (Surah 4:157).

The Bible proclaims Christ Jesus as divine...In the Qur'an Christ Jesus is debased to being solely an apostle of Allah. The Qur'an states: *'O followers of the Book! do not exceed the limits in your religion, and do not speak (lies) against Allah, but (speak) the truth; the Messiah, Isa son of Marium is only an apostle of Allah...'*, (Surah 4.171). Yet Christ Jesus declared: *'Before Abraham was, I am'*, (Jn.8:58); *'I and my Father are one'*; (Jn.10:30); *'I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins'*, (Jn.8:24)...It is an absurd blasphemy that the Pope declares the one living and subsistent God of the Bible is the same as the infidel god of Islam.

The Gospel and the Qur'an's religious philosophy: In the Bible the Gospel is as the Apostle John declared: *'This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all'*, (1Jn.1:5); *'And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent'*, (Jn.17:3). The whole purpose of the God of Scripture is clearly seen in the reason why the Gospel of John was written: *'These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God'*, (1Jn.5:13). This is totally different from the god of Islam who orders fighting, war, and punishment, by murder, crucifixion and amputation. The following is just a sample of the primary concept of fighting for Allah that the Qur'an requires: *'And kill them wherever you find them, and drive them out from whence they drove you out, and persecution is severer than slaughter, and do not fight with them at the Sacred Mosque until they fight with you in it, but if they do fight you, then slay them; such is the recompense of the unbelievers'*, (Surah 2.191); *'And fight with them until there is no persecution, and religion should be only for Allah, but if they desist, then there should be no hostility except against the oppressors'*, (Surah 2.193); *'...let those fight in the way of Allah, who sell this world's life for the hereafter; and whoever fights in the way of Allah, then be he slain or be he victorious, We shall grant him a mighty reward'*, (Surah 4.74); *'The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His apostle and strive to make mischief in the land is only this, that they should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides or they should be imprisoned; this shall be as a disgrace for*

them in this world, and in the hereafter they shall have a grievous chastisement', (Surah 5.33); 'Those who believe fight in the way of Allah...', (Surah 8.39).

The commandment of the Lord...says: 'Love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful', (Luke 6:35-36). While many individual Muslims may deplore atrocities committed in the name of Islam, it cannot be denied that these atrocities are justified and encouraged by Islamic teaching. Even the most moderate form of Islam is incompatible with Biblical truth...Clearly, the Roman Catholic Church still plays the adaptable Chameleon - for since Vatican Council II...she calls praiseworthy that which she once had denounced as evil and the object of war.

In 1095, Pope Urban II called for a 'War of the Cross' or a Crusade, to retake the holy lands from the infidel Muslim Turks...The heart and mind of papal power in twelfth and thirteenth centuries is seen in these sentences: 'All who die by the way, whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins. This I grant them through the power of God with which I am invested'. (7)

...The ecumenism of the Papacy with Islam is of grave concern for the true body of Christ...The Sovereign Pontiff John Paul II...through his Vatican II documents declared: 'The encouragement of unity is in harmony with the deepest nature of the [Roman Catholic] Church's mission...' (8)

...There has been a great common-ground meeting place between Rome and Mecca in the town of Fatima in Portugal. To quote a Catholic news organization, 'Our Lady of Fatima is really Fatima, daughter of the Prophet Mohammed...On October 23, 1995, Iranian television began running stories that the apparitions in Fatima, Portugal in 1917 were religious phenomena of Muslim origin'. (9) Islam teaches that men can achieve favour with God by what a person does. On the Fatima site in Portugal May 13th 2000, the Pope proclaimed a message that could be readily accepted by both Muslims and Catholics: 'Pray, pray much and make sacrifices for sinners; many souls go to hell because they have no one to pray and make sacrifices for them' (10)...The Pope's message, and the message and veneration of heroism in Islam are a total negation of the Gospel - 'not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us...', (Tit.3:5). In practice both systems - a mammoth one billion adherents each - are totalitarian, synthesizing spiritual and civil power in their doctrinal presentations and cultic practices. The global hierarchy and infrastructure of Roman Catholicism is far more developed than that of Islam. (11) The bringing together of both under the Roman Pontiff, who calls himself the Vicar of Christ, would make for a political powerhouse of vast consequences.

Pope's message echoed by Bush and Muslim Leaders:

...Islam as such is still accepted as a valid religion, and the terrorists of September understood to be fallen from their religion, rather than upholding its teachings. In the words of President George W. Bush, 'These murderers have hijacked a great religion in order to justify their evil deeds'. (12) The Muslims themselves are giving the same message...the Associated Press reported, 'An international Muslim religious ruling endorsed the morality of the U.S.-led military effort against terrorists...The ruling...was written by Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, the widely respected chairman of the Sunna and Sira Council in Qatar, along with three colleagues in

Egypt and one in Syria. The new fatwa cited the words of God in the Quran and authoritative Hadith...All Muslims ought to be united against all those who terrorize the innocents, and those who permit the killing of non-combatants without a justifiable reason,' the fatwa said... 'The five jurists also said Muslims have a duty to speak up about the faith's anti-terrorism stand'. (13)

This spin on Islam is perfectly in line with what the Pope and the Vatican declared, 'together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day'. (14)...The Pope, the politicians and the Muslims continue to conceal successfully the history of Mohammed and the contents of his Qur'an...The profound danger for Evangelical people is that they, unthinking, might come to embrace Rome's claim to be the true spokesman for Christ on this earth, a lie which is deeply embedded in this new thrust for inter-faith ecumenicity...The Lord Jesus Christ did not elect the Pope as His Vicar on earth; rather He and the Father gave to the Holy Spirit of Truth that position. If contemporary Evangelical leaders and their disciples discount and ignore these utterly basic prophetic and historical facts, they must understand they are placing themselves outside the stream of historic biblical Christianity. They are willingly divorcing themselves from great men of the faith - Wycliff, Huss, Luther, Tyndale, Calvin, Cranmer, Latimer, Ridley, Bradford, Foxe, Bunyan, Newton, Edwards, Whitefield, Wesley, Spurgeon, Ryle, and Lloyd-Jones to mention just a few. It is impossible to hold to the Gospel of Christ and simultaneously accord any legitimacy to the accommodations of the papal system...If Evangelicals continue to fraternize with Rome, it will mark a major, irrevocable betrayal of the Gospel testimony toward the poor deluded adherents of Romanism and leave them languishing in the claws of the Devil. In other words, in simple terms of loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ, those claiming to be believers must 'Come out of her...that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues', (Rev.18:4). There is no common ground between the religion of apostasy and the Gospel of the Apostles...At this moment of history the Ecumenism of accommodation, with the Pope leading the pack, accepts Islam as a great religion. The true believer must decide where he or she stands. 'And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve', (Josh.24:15).

Richard M. Bennett, Berean Beacon <http://www.bereanbeacon.org/>

(1) Homily of Pope, Astana, Kazakhstan, 23 Sept., 2001 (2) Ibid (3) Ibid (4) *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, (San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 1994) Para. 841 (5) Vatican Council II: *The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents*, No. 56, Nostra Aetate, Austin P.; Flannery, ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B Eerdsman's Publ. Co., 1975 & 1984) Vol. I., pp. 739-740 (6) <http://www.hti.umich.edu/k/koran/> (7) Bongars, *Gesta Dei per Francos*, I, pp. 382 f., in *A Source Book for Medieval History*, Oliver J. Thatcher and Edgar Holmes McNeal, eds. (New York: Scribners, 1905) (8) Vatican II, No. 64, *Gaudium et Spes*, Vol. I, Sec. 42, p. 942 (9) www.zenit.org/english/asia/za980513.html Accessed 11/1/2001 (10) www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_p.../hf_jp-ii_hom_20000513_beatification-fatima_en.htm accessed 6/1/00 (11) For a brief overview of Islamic position, see Yossef Bodansky, 'Bin Laden: The Man Who Declared War on America' (Roseville, CA: Prima Publ, Forum, 1999, 2001) Introduction, pp. x-xv. For a study of RCC infrastructure, see 2001 Catholic Almanac (Huntington, IN: *Our Sunday Visitor* Publ., 2000) Pt. III: *The Church Universal* (12) Reported on cnn.com 10/12/01 'Bush Gives Update on the War on Terrorism' (13) http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/ap/20011012/ts/attacks_fatwa_1.html Associated Press, Sat/Oct.13/2001 (14) *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Para. 841

Your Comments and Questions

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

A Warning - 'Two Edged Sword' Newsletter

(Excerpted from 'Apostasy Alert' by Mike Claydon)

It is with much regret and sadness that we inform our readers of a deceptive newsletter doing the rounds in Australia that purports in some way to be 'Christian'. We refer to the writings of Hannah Ruth (*Hannah Ruth Ministries*) in her e-mail bulletin titled 'Two Edged Sword'. Many of our readers have received this newsletter and have found it to be useful. However, Hannah has not fully revealed that she is in fact an adherent of the Seventh Day Adventist cult and attends their Saturday Sabbath meetings - and we would want our readers to be aware of this fact. She wrote to us recently to answer some questions we posed after eventually discovering her affiliations. She said: 'I go where God sends me. Personally I feel that God has assigned me to the SDA's as the PRIMARY flock for ministering to. Yes, there can be some fanatics who give SDA's a bad name but I know them as people - not just a denomination. I have met and fellowshipped with some truly lovely Christians in that church; any 'cultish' type behaviour is attached to the individuals who portray their own beliefs. But I have found them generally to be a people who are willing to listen and learn. Were I to attend any other church I would find the same degree of bonafide Christians mixed in with stiff necked sorts content with their own agenda. Jesus died for SDA's no less than any other sinner. I have learned some good truth

from them, and I believe a harvest is underway with seeds I have sown in this past three years to people who have an ear to hear'. 'I am convicted by the Bible to keep the seventh day Sabbath, there are a few truths amongst what the SDA's teach that I am absolutely convinced of - by the Bible - that these things are true (ie. seventh day Sabbath, state of the dead; and their version of end time prophecy makes the most sense to me than any other scenario I've ever heard.'

However, Seventh Day Adventism demands that one keep the Sabbath and Jewish dietary laws. They declare that Jesus is the Archangel Michael; that God has discarded the Jews; that the dead are 'asleep'; and that Sunday worship is the biblical 'Mark of the Beast'. They teach some truth, but this is mixed with great and blasphemous error such as the 'Investigative Judgement', which strikes at the very heart of the finished work of Jesus on the cross. It is a very clever counterfeit of Christianity founded by a demonstrably false prophet, Ellen G. White. Additionally Hannah's ministry also teaches Pentecostal doctrine such as a believers 'baptism of fire', and a secondary baptism in the spirit accompanied by the speaking of unknown tongues.

(For further information on the SDA movement please view the video 'Seventh Day Adventism - the spirit behind the church' available from this ministry; also 'Diakrisis' articles July/Aug 2001; Nov/Dec 2001; Sept/Oct 2002)

'Evangelical Speak'

I meet many who say such things as 'but Seventh Day Adventist pastors don't believe that any more...they agree we are saved by grace alone' or...'but Roman Catholics don't teach that any more...they say we are saved by grace through faith'. This deception on salvation doctrine is increasingly evident in para-church groups, including even some in organisations which teach valuable truth such as *Answers in Genesis*, (see *Diakrisis*, May/June 2002, P.4). When clear evidence, even from the SDA website itself, (*Diakrisis*, Nov/Dec, 2001) confirms the error of SDA salvation doctrine, one wonders why some continue to believe the 'evangelical speak' of such groups as Adventists and Charismatic Roman Catholics.

Ask an SDA and a practising Roman Catholic if they are saved by grace alone and they may well say 'yes'. But in many cases *the wrong questions are being asked*. If one were to ask them if they have to do anything to *keep* that grace and faith, they would also have to say 'yes'.

Both Roman Catholicism and Seventh Day Adventism do not teach the same 'grace alone' and 'faith alone' as Scripture and evangelical Christianity. A look at their official teachings will show that to keep that 'grace alone' they must keep sacraments, works or the law. Added to this, such

organisations *add* to the 66 inspired books of the Bible.

Roman Catholicism and Seventh Day Adventism say only 'God's word' is 'inspired' but what is 'God's word' to them? Roman Catholicism believes in the written word *as well as* the 'oral word' of 'traditions'. The Adventist website (see *Diakrisis* Nov/Dec 2001, P.3) *also* clearly teaches Ellen G. White as a 'prophet' and her writings are 'inspired'.

Roman Catholicism itself curses anyone who teaches faith alone without works and through the imputed righteousness of Christ. Seventh Day Adventism says the work on the cross was 'finished' yet officially teaches the blasphemous doctrine of the 'investigative judgement' which clearly adds to the finished work of Christ on the cross.

Ask an SDA if they can forgo their 'Sabbath keeping' for a few weeks and how this affects their salvation; or the Roman Catholic to forgo their Mass or the Sacraments for 12 months.

Evangelical terminologies are being misused and hijacked (see *Diakrisis* May/June 2000) by groups who *were never evangelical*. 'Evangelical speak' is on the increase.

There is a need to be informed and if needs be, to ask the right questions. The great commission demands no less.

Terry Arnold

Quotable

'If we are to obey the truth, we cannot, we must not cooperate with, associate with, make common cause with those who deny the faith, misrepresent the faith or dilute the truth.'

How can we make our close companion those who associate with them? (2Thess.3:6). We must obey God.'

Graeme Hulls

Your Comments and Questions

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

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

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Diakrisis is available to our readers by e-mail in Acrobat pdf format. A link to download Acrobat reader is provided with the e-mail. This is an easy to read format similar to the hard copy presentation. If you presently receive the newsletter by hard copy and have e-mail facilities, you may like to consider receiving the newsletter by e-mail. This will assist us in distribution and alleviate costs. E-mail us at: **taminist@bigpond.net.au**

If you experience any problems with this e-mail service please contact us.

Hello Terry, Mike, Just a quick note to thank you for sending me 'Diakrisis'....I praise the Lord for you and TA Ministries. I know the Lord is working in many, many lives through your ministry; many lives are being changed by the 'gospel of Christ, the power of God unto salvation'. I pray for you and your families and the ministry daily. The newsletter and your ministry are a blessing to me.

The Lord continue to bless and keep you and use you for the glory of His holy name, for the salvation of souls and the edification of the saints. With Christian love, and prayers,
(M.G., Qld)

Dear Terry...I want to thank you again for your wonderful ministry of preaching truth and exposing error. I awoke early this morning, spent time in prayer for you and your ministry and then listened to your tape 'Stairway to Deception'. Fantastic. God bless you all,
(N.H., Victoria)

Dear Terry,...we have been richly blessed by your ministry here and are so appreciative of your efforts in faithfully teaching the truth from God's word. We are excited to help and support in little ways to enable people to discern and live in obedience to Christ...
(M.R., Cootamundra, NSW)

Prayer Points

Please pray for continued support for the ministry. Pray for Terry, Mike and the voluntary workers, that they will continue to look to God for provision and for the needs of the ministry. Pray for discernment and strength.

Pastor/Elder Required

A position is vacant for a fulltime or part time pastor/elder in Hervey Bay, Queensland. Any who might be interested contact Terry Arnold.

E-mail: **taminist@bigpond.net.au** Ph.0411489472

Dear Terry, some folks ask whether the late Pope will be in heaven because he read parts of the New Testament, especially the Gospel each day...Perhaps you would be interested in the late Pope's last Will and Testament as published in the Courier Mail, Brisbane: 'I desire that everything making up part of my earthly life should prepare me for the moment the Lord will call me home. Entrusting that decisive moment to the mother of Christ, the mother of my hope. Victory when it comes will be victory through Mary.' (Name withheld on request)

Editors comment: This should be no surprise to those who know Roman Catholicism. It is staggering that 'Evangelicals' could assume the Pope to be a Bible believing Christian. Rome officially curses anyone who teaches faith alone through the imputed righteousness of Christ (Rom.4). The late Pope has publicly entrusted his soul to Mary. Rome's gospel is diametrically opposed to the Biblical Gospel. Where are the Protestants today?

Dear sirs,...Your ministry is serving all of us with much needed information on the situation regarding Christian aspects of living. Thankyou so much...I was particularly pleased to have the article on the Reformation in the May/June 2005 newsletter. It was so informative that I intend to distribute copies to people I know who need to have this history in front of them...

(P.E., Vict)

Dear Terry, Always look forward to your newsletter, and appreciate you keeping up to date with happenings in the church...We are so blessed to have teaching like yours, and we do have a great pastor here who is on the same wave length as you, so we are well informed. Our whole church moved from being a Pentecostal church some years ago now...(J.A., SE Qld.)

Dear Mike,...There is a need for more young people to hear Terry. I have seen him speak to young people and when he speaks about doctrine or something that is troubling them (such as Charismatic/Pentecostal issues) he answers questions and holds their attention so well. I have seen large groups of youth left in silence, wanting more. (G.C., Sydney)

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