



Diakrisis (Australia)

PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld. Australia, 4655.
E-mail: taminist@bigpond.net.au Ph. 0411489472 Fax: (07) 41240915
Website: <http://taministries.cjb.net>

'To Whom Shall He Speak Knowledge? And whom shall He make to understand doctrine...?'

Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol.3, No.4

July/August 2008

PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld, 4655 Australia
Ph. 0411489472 (Mob.) Fax (07)41240915
Website:<http://taministries.cjb.net>
E-mail: taminist@bigpond.net.au

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

Editor: Terry Arnold (Dip. Bib.&Min., Dip. Teaching, Author.)

Sub-editor: Mike Claydon

The editors may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by subscribers in this newsletter.

We welcome comments and articles contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

Articles in this newsletter may be copied or reproduced provided it is in context and proper credit and references are given. We encourage distribution of this newsletter that others might be taught, informed and equipped.)

This Newsletter is distributed bi-monthly *free* of charge. The cost to this ministry is approximately \$20.00 per subscriber annually. Any donations to help with these expenses is received with gratitude.

Contents

- P.1 - Editors' Comments
- P.2 - Is Roman Catholicism Biblical?
- P.3 - Brrrr! Must Be Global Warming!; Professors or Possessors?; *'Another Gospel'*
- P.4 - The Fruit of Apostasy?; Revival, What Revival?; Australia's First Female Anglican Bishop; Anglican Minister Speaks Out.
- P.5,6 - Saturday or Sunday?
- P.7 - Your Comments and Questions
- P.8 - Your Comments and Questions

Editors' Comments

We live in momentous times. The world's money, floating exchange rate and banking industry is in the process of systemic collapse, with the mighty US dollar in freefall and oil and food prices soaring. Subsequently, food riots and transport strikes are breaking out around the globe.

A military strike against Iran looms large. Islamic Jihadists are hell-bent in their efforts to destroy the 'Zionist entity'. There is great pressure upon Israel's leadership to *'divide the land for peace'*. Who can doubt that we live in the days of *'wars and rumours of war'* as depicted in Matthew 24:6?

Many world shaking events are *occurring at once*. Earthquakes, monstrous tornadoes, floods and crippling droughts shake the planet daily. Men's hearts *failing them* as they witness the ensuing massive destruction and death.

In addition to these startling events, I am becoming acutely aware of the growing apostasy and turmoil in the churches that I visit during my annual ministry travels around Australia. The declension in the church at large has reached crisis point and true faith and sound doctrine are simply disappearing. This is the common consensus among many pastors, elders and those who are acquainted with the church scene at large in the western world. The apathy of the many wilfully uninformed Christians, who are simply not watching for the return of Jesus Christ *as scripture exhorts*, is staggering.

That there is a 'generation gap' developing in many churches where the philosophy of ministry between young and old has been polarised, is very obvious. (Differences in music philosophies are just one indication of this). Even more concerning is that many churches are reporting the lack of spiritually qualified elders to teach, pastor and train the young generation in the ways of holiness, in an increasingly influential and evil world.

Pastors and elders report to me that their people's carnality and behaviour often shocks them. Many of their congregants have become demanding, controlling, legalistic and impetuous - a certain cold and unloving madness seems to have gipped the Church. I recently asked my sub-editor what he thought of this last observation: He replied: *'I figure the church assemblies are now chocka with false 'decisional' conversions? It's the end result of decades of unbridled Arminianism, and pastors not calling their charges to account for their lives and behaviour. Little Biblical discernment is evident because sound doctrine is no longer deemed important. Many have discarded scripture for Christian 'fiction'. I am always saying that the 'Church' is but a small and mostly hidden remnant nowadays - but out there in the pews a sort of ecclesiastical nuthouse has been erected - and it is literally killing Godly pastors and their families. The apostle Paul warned us of such a time as this - not outright persecution - but the church finally inhabited by those being evil, sensuous, envious, greedy, unlearned, hateful and disobedient - and we are right in the thick of that scenario now!...'*

This might all be just 'bad news' to some, yet are we discerning the times? Are we watching for His return? Or are we so busy in worldly pursuits or even in 'ministry' that we would be overtaken if the Lord Jesus should come *now*?

We live in exciting times, surrounded by the signs of His soon coming! Look up, for your redemption draws nigh! (Luke 28:28).

Terry Arnold

Is Roman Catholicism Biblical?

Roman Catholic Teaching

Purgatory: A place apart from Heaven and Hell where souls suffer and are purged of sin. (Introduced in AD 593 and decreed in AD 1439)

Indulgences: Prayers and works to release souls in 'Purgatory'. (Introduced AD 1190)

Mass: Christ is Sacrificed *again* - the '*same sacrifice*' as at Calvary. (AD 394 'Mass' instituted)

Transubstantiation: (Bread and Wine actually become the real body and blood of Christ). This belief is '*essential to salvation*'. (Made doctrine in AD 1215)

Images: '*It is lawful to have images in the church and to give honour and worship unto them - Images are put in churches that they may be worshipped*', (Affirmed in both Trent & modern Vatican Councils) (Introduced AD 786)

Confession: Confessing sins to priest, (the Priest has the power to forgive or not to forgive sins). Confession is '*necessary unto salvation*', ('*Catholic Encyclopedia*', P.625). (AD 1215 Confession of sin at least once per year - Pope Innocent III - Lateran Council)

Praying to Mary: ...and other spirits (saints) in heaven. (AD 375 - worship and prayers to saints and angels; AD 431 Worship of Mary; AD 600 Prayers directed to Mary; AD1090 Prayer Beads ('Rosary') - invented by Peter the Hermit)

Mary is a Co-mediator: Mary is '*mediatrix of all graces*' and intercedes on our behalf.

Mary was sinless: The 'immaculate Conception': Mary was sinless all her life. (Introduced AD 1854)

Assumption of Mary: Mary rose into Heaven in bodily form. (Introduced AD 1950)

Bible Teaching

No Scripture supports 'purgatory'. The Bible says there is a '*great gulf*' between *Heaven* and *Hell*, (Lk.16:19-31)

The Bible: '*...Your money perish with you, because you have thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money...*', (Acts 8:20-22); '*None can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him*', (Ps.49:7).

The Bible *condemns* this renewal of sacrifice, (Heb.6:6; 9:26-28; 10:10). It is a '*finished*' sacrifice.

The Bible says to '*do this in remembrance of me.*' Catholic church uses Lk.22:19-20 *literally*. But Jn.6:63 says *The words I speak to you are spirit and life*. Jesus also said *...I am the bread of life*. (Jn.6:48).

'Confounded be all that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him...', (Ps.97:7); *'You shall not make unto you any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above..You shall not bow down yourself to them, nor serve them...'*, (Ex.20:4-5)

The Bible says to '*confess your faults to each other*' (James 5:16). The apostles never heard confessions, (Acts 10:43), or forgave sins. Only God can forgive sins, (Mk.2:5-11; 1Jn.1:9; Matt.9:6).

The Bible forbids contacting other spirits or the dead, (Is.8:19-20; Dt.18:11. There is '*one mediator...Christ Jesus*': 1Tim.2:5; Jn.16:23)

'There is...one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus', (1Tim.2:5; Jn.16:23). Only through Jesus is there access to the Father, (Eph.2:18). It is *Jesus* who is '*interceding for us*', (Rom.8:34).

'All have sinned and come short of the glory of God', (Rom.3:23). Mary brought a *sin offering* to the Temple like all Jewish mothers, (Lk.2:21-24 cp. Lev.12:6-8). Mary said '*my spirit rejoices in God my saviour*', (Lk.1:47). Why would Mary need a 'saviour' if she did not sin?

'No man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven...the Son of man...', (Jn.3:13; Pr.30:4).

'To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them', (Is.8:20).

'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness', (2Tim.3:16).

'See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ', (Col.2:8-10).

'Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add you not unto his words, lest he reprove you, and you be found a liar', (Pr.30:5-6).

'But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed', (Gal.1:8).

Brrrr! Must Be Global Warming!

On January 4th, 2007, the BBC reported that 2007 would become *'the warmest year on record'*. Citing experts in the British government's Meteorological Office, the story announced that *'the world is likely to experience the warmest year on record in 2007'*, surpassing the all-time high reached in 1998.

Instead, 2007 was no warmer than 2006, which was no warmer than 2005...or any year going back to the turn of the last century. Indeed, the warmest year on record remains 1998. What does that mean? It means that there has been no evidence of 'global warming' for almost a decade. Atmospheric carbon dioxide - the identified culprit responsible for global warming, (according to Al Gore) has risen 4 percent since 1998. *But temperatures didn't go up correspondingly.*

This is a fact, despite Al Gore's oft-repeated contention that the *'debate in the scientific community is over'*...Of course, the scientific debate isn't over - it's simply been suppressed...The simple truth is there is no scientific consensus on global warming. In fact, as the media frenzy screams global warming...Last December, more than 100 scientists signed a strongly-worded open letter in which they said that climate change is a well-known natural phenomenon...

...Last winter was among the coldest on record in South America. In Buenos Aires, it snowed for the first time in 89 years. Chile's winter was the worst in fifty years, and was blamed for at least \$200 million in crop losses. A global warming concert in Johannesburg, South Africa, was marked by the first snowfall in that city in twenty-eight years. In Australia, June 2007 was the coldest on record. Snowfall in New Hampshire in December 2007 broke a record that had stood since 1876. The Canadians experienced their coldest winter in fifteen years.

Oleg Sorokhtin, a senior scientist with Russia's Academy of Natural Sciences, says the world is entering into another cold snap, similar to that experienced between 1940 and 1975. [Which followed a warming period from 1900-1940,

which broke a four hundred year cold cycle, which had broken a four hundred year cycle of warming].

...I recall the breathless 1975 warnings of a coming Ice Age with the same clarity that I recall the first breathless warnings of global warming in the late 1980's.

Since losing the 2000 Election, Al Gore turned it into a personal crusade. And now that we're pretty much convinced that global warming is real, it's started getting colder again...

...The whole global warming debate was predicted in Scripture as being among the signs of the return of Christ. *'And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken'*, (Luke 21:25-26).

Notice that Jesus is talking about 'signs' and 'perception' rather than fact. Notice also that the fear is global. Nations in distress and perplexity over those things they see coming upon the earth. It isn't climate change being warned of here, but the FEAR of climate change. Scripture says that the climate is regulated by God, and He promised in Genesis 8:22 that, *'While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease'*.

Well, the earth remains. And so do cold and heat, seedtime and harvest, summer and winter. And so does the distress of nations, with perplexity, at looking after the things they see coming upon the earth, as the powers of heaven are shaken. To the world, it is a terrifying prospect. But unto us who are saved, it is both a manifestation of the power of God and a Promise.

'And when these things BEGIN to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh'. (Luke 21:28)

(Excerpted from 'Apostasy Alert': (Jack Kinsella - 10th April 2008)

Professors or Possessors?

'Senator Barack Obama has told an audience that although he believes Christ died for his sins, those who reject that teaching can also be children of God...in Greensboro, North Carolina, Senator Obama told the audience that he believes he 'can have everlasting life' because Jesus Christ died for his sins. But he then told a questioner that he believes Jews and Muslims who live moral lives are just as much 'children of God' as he is'.

(Excerpted from 'Apostasy Alert': Associated Press, 27 March 2008; Greensboro, N.C).

Editors comment: Many Christians are today gullible enough to believe that these politicians are true Christians? But the substance of their beliefs is evident in what they say. It's convenient and fashionable for politicians to win the votes of Christian evangelicals by professing Christianity. But by their own mouths and in blatant contradiction to Gods Word do they show themselves to be unbelievers. But then, the Bible does promise many professors and few possessors in the last times?, (Matt.7:21-23; 7:13,14).

'Another Gospel'

'Did you ever find yourself wishing you could change things about your life, but felt helpless to do so? Why do you suppose that is so? In every person there is a quality that is in the possession of all, but many people miss it and live frustrated, unproductive lives.

This quality is called potential. It comes back to what you believe about yourself.

In other words, you are rewarded according to what you believe about yourself. God's belief in our potential is clear: 'that you may be filled with all the fullness of God, now to him that is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think', (Eph.3:19-20). I encourage you to start believing it'. Pastor Brian Houston, Hillsong, Australia.

(*'Apostasy Alert'*, Feb.5th, 2008)

Editors comment: Many churches in Australia now have Hillsong music. And what of the doctrine behind it? Apart from the 'Health/Wealth' gospel which they openly teach, this is just a sample of the 'self potential' gospel, which is 'another gospel' (2Cor.11:4;Gal.1:6-9).

The fruit of apostasy?

Australian pop 'Idol' Guy Sebastian married Jules Egan in the well known Roman Catholic Church in Manly in Sydney Australia on May 17, 2008. The couple originally met 13 years ago at the Assemblies of God Paradise Church, Adelaide.

Egan, 28, arrived with her six bridesmaids in three silver Rolls-Royce's. She was wearing a \$10,000 ivory, one-shoulder gown with 3D floral detailing and finished with a demure bow headband by Master/Slave.

The couple have agreed to an exclusive deal with *New Idea magazine*, said to be worth \$200,000. A spokesperson from the Paradise Community church, who did not want to be named, said many church members attended the wedding but that he was sworn to secrecy.

Editors comment: Less than 15 years ago many Australian AOG churches were actively using our materials and our book 'To Catholics Whom I Love' to evangelise Roman Catholics. The Roman Catholic religion was considered at that time by most Pentecostal churches to be a false religious system and something to be shunned - and their adherents in need of evangelising. Such a 'mixed' marriage as this would have been advised against. But how times have changed? 'Apostasy' means to go back on what was once taught. Roman Catholicism has not changed a single doctrine, so who has apostasised?

Revival, What Revival?

'LifeWay Research [says]: '...up from 17% in 2004, and now 22% of Americans, say they never go to church - the highest ever recorded by the General Social Survey'.

(Audrey Barrick, Christian Post Reporter Wed, Jan. 09, 2008)

Anglican Minister Speaks Out

'A Senior minister of a Sydney Anglican parish has made an attack on the High Court judge Michael Kirby, warning he would face the wrath of God if he remained unrepentant as a gay man. The rector of St Stephen's Church in Bellevue Hill, the Reverend Richard Lane, denounced the judge for calling himself a Christian Anglican while living in an openly gay relationship and warned as a 'messenger, watchman and steward of the Lord in the Anglican Church of Australia', he faced God's judgment. To call himself a Christian Anglican was a 'perversion of truth' and to continue to do so without changing his lifestyle would brand him, like Herod, a 'coward, a liar, a deceiver' and a 'lawless one'. 'I appeal to you to cast yourself on the mercy of Jesus...That is admit your sin, confess your wrongdoing and turn in humble repentance to the Lord Jesus, who alone can forgive you', Mr Lane said...

The letters prompted a complaint from Justice Kirby to the Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, Peter Jensen, who also asserts homosexual practices are sinful. 'The archbishop's injunction to me, which was quite sensible I thought, was, 'we'll give this person the benefit of the doubt', Justice Kirby told the audience. 'He probably thinks he's doing you a favour and you should just see whether there is any truth in what he says, and think about it'...

...Urging the judge to open himself to 'God's healing of homosexuality', Mr Lane said Justice Kirby was a hypocrite

Australia's First Female Anglican Bishop

The Anglican church in Australia has ordained its first female bishop. Kay Goldsworthy is now assistant bishop in Western Australia. Goldsworthy, 51, is married with two sons and was ordained as a priest in 1992.

Editors Comment: What does the Bible say about women pastors, elders, bishops, etc? Firstly, there is nowhere in the New Testament where a Christian minister is a 'priest'! The word 'priest' in the New Testament is confined to references to the Old Testament priests, to the high priest Jesus Christ and occasionally to us being priests and kings unto our God, (Rev.1:6; 5:10).

The office of a Christian minister is an 'elder' ('presbyteros'); his function is an 'overseer' (same as 'bishop' - 'episkopos' - 1Pet.5:1-4); and his gifting is to 'feed' or 'pastor' ('poimaino' - Eph.4:11,12). The elder is exactly the same person as a bishop or overseer, as proved in Titus 1:5-7 cp. 1Tim.3:1-3, where the terms are used interchangeably! But he is never a 'priest', as he was a mediator between the people and God of which there is now only 'one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus', (1Tim.2:5).

The Christian minister is male ('presbuteros' not female 'presbutea'). He also must be 'the husband of one wife' (1Tim.3:2; Tit.1:6), not 'the wife of one husband'! Added to this, women are not to 'usurp authority over the man', (1Tim.2:12). If teaching, preaching, pastoring is not having 'authority' over men, than what is? The very word 'bishop' means overseer!

How is it possible that the Anglicans, and now most of the denominations in Christendom today, can so easily ignore scripture to such an extent? This is a gross declension that surely invites God's great displeasure?

for choosing to remain inside the church but claiming that homosexual practice 'or any other sin' was in accordance with God's will...

In reply he argued Mr Lane's interpretation of biblical injunctions against homosexuality...were unreliable mid-19th century translations. Mr Lane appeared to have turned a blind eye to the 'central loving message of Jesus of the gospels'. 'To defy modern knowledge and to stick to uninformed interpretations is truly irrational. To do so selectively is specially so. It is a reason why the churches are losing rational adherents'.

Dr. Jensen [The Rev. Dr. Peter Jensen is Archbishop of the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney] said correspondence between Mr Lane and Justice Kirby needed to be read fully and in context. 'I have a long-standing personal relationship with Justice Kirby and he and I have communicated about these letters in confidence', he said.

Sub-editors comment: Would you ever have thought we would see the day when a high-ranking clergyman would befriend a practising homosexual who claims to be 'Christian'? Then to admit to a 'long standing personal relationship' with him?

The Bible is clear and absolute on homosexuality being an abomination, a 'vile affection' and that it will bring eternal fire, (Lev.18:22; Rom.1:26,27; 1Cor.6:9,10).

Saturday or Sunday?

What does the word 'Sabbath' mean? What day was it kept? Did the early church keep Saturday or Sunday? Has the Sabbath day been changed from Saturday to Sunday?

What is 'Sabbath':

The word 'Sabbath' means 'rest' (from work).

What day was it kept?:

Sabbaths often fell on *different days*. It fell on the first day (Lev.23:39), sometimes on the 7th day (Ex.20:8) and sometimes on the 8th day, (Lev.23:39). This is why we sometimes find two Sabbaths in the one week, (Lk.6:1 '***On the second Sabbath after the first...***'). When Jesus died there were *two Sabbaths in the one week*, one the usual Saturday Sabbath and one a 'special Sabbath', (Jn.19:31: '***for that Sabbath was a high day***')

Sabbaths were also of *different lengths*. Some were one day long, (Ex.16:23-39), some two days long (Lev.23:6-8,15-22), some one year long (Lev.25:4), some 70 years long, (2Chr. 36:21), and some eternity long, (Heb.4:9)!

Did the early church keep Saturday or Sunday?:

Various Sabbath groups (such as Seventh Day Adventists) teach the Sabbath was originally Saturday and was replaced with Sunday by Constantine or the Roman Catholic religion.

It is true that in 321AD Constantine decreed the Christian Sabbath, Sunday, the rest day for the Roman Empire and the Roman church practised this in following years. However, what these Sabbath groups do not tell us is that the practise of keeping Sunday had *already* been observed for nearly 300 years before it was ever observed by Constantine or the Roman Catholic religion! Scripture and History do not lie - from the beginning the Christian church met together to break bread and take up offerings on Sunday - 'the first day of the week'. *It is an historical and scriptural fact that Sunday was kept in the first few hundred years:*

Historical Proofs (Secular):

'Encyclopaedia Britannica' under 'Sabbath' and 'Sunday': '*In the early Christian church, Jewish Christians continued to keep the Sabbath like other points of law...on the other hand Paul from the first days of Gentile Christianity, laid it down definitely that the Jewish Sabbath was not binding on Christians...In 321 A.D. Constantine made the Christian Sabbath, Sunday, the rest day for the Roman Empire, but it was observed by Christians for nearly 300 years before it became a law by Constantine*'.

The 'New International Encyclopaedia' on 'Sunday': '*...before the end of the apostolic period, Sunday, known as the Lord's Day, had thoroughly established itself as the special day to be sanctified (set apart) by rest from secular labor and by public worship...the Emperor Constantine confirmed the custom by a law of the state*'.

The 'Catholic Encyclopaedia' on Sunday: '*Sunday was the first day of the week according to the Jewish method of reckoning, but for Christians, it began to take the place of the Jewish Sabbath in apostolic times as the day set apart for public and solemn worship of God*'.

The 'International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia' on the 'Lord's Day' says: '*...Uncircumcised Gentiles, however, were free from any obligation of Sabbath observance*'...No

observance of a special day of rest is contained among the 'necessary things' of Acts 15:28,29...A given day as a matter of divine obligation is denounced by Paul as forsaking Christ (Gal.4:10) and Sabbath keeping is condemned explicitly in Col.2:16...a man might do as he pleased (Rom.14:5,6) but no general rule as necessary for salvation could be comparable with liberty wherewith Christ has made us free (Gal.2:1-21; 3:1-14; 5:1-4, 13)'.

Historical Proofs (Christian/Church Fathers*):

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, (30-107 A.D) - a disciple of John; lived at the time of apostles): '*...those who walk in the ancient practices attain to newness of hope, no longer observing the Sabbath but fashioning their lives after the Lord's day on which our life also arose through Him...after the observance of the Sabbath (that the Jews kept), let every friend of Christ keep the Lord's day as a festival, the resurrection day, the Queen and chief of all days of the week...on which our life sprang up again, and victory over death was obtained in Christ...it is absurd to speak of Jesus Christ with the tongue, and to cherish in the mind a Judaism which has come to an end...if any man preach the Jewish law unto you, listen not to him...*'. (Vol.1, P.63-82).

'The Teachings of the Twelve Apostles' (80 A.D.): '*but every Lord's day, (Sunday), do ye gather yourselves together, and break bread and give thanksgiving*'. (Vol. V11, P.381).

Constitutions of the Holy Apostles (2nd century): '*Break your fast...the first day of the week, which is the Lord's day...after eight days let there be another feast observed with honour, the eighth day itself*'. (Vol.V11, P.447).

'The Teachings of the Apostles' (105 A.D.): '*The Apostles therefore appointed...on the first day of the week let there be service and reading of the Holy Scriptures and the oblation (Lord's Supper); because on the first day of the week our Lord arose upon the world, and ascended to heaven*'. (Vol.V111, P.668).

The Epistle of Barnabas (120-150 A.D.): '*...we also keep the eighth day with joyfulness, the day on which Jesus rose again from the dead*'. (Vol.1, P.147).

Justin Martyr, (Lived 100-165 A.D., a Gentile; wrote this approx. 110 A.D.): '*And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read...but Sunday is the day on which we hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead*'. (Vol.1, P.186).

In his dialogue with Trypho, a Jew, Justin Martyr says: '*...we live not according to the law,...and do not observe the Sabbaths as you do?...for we too would observe the fleshly circumcision, and the Sabbaths, and in short all feasts, if we did not know for what reason they were enjoined to you...I speak of fleshly circumcision and Sabbaths and feasts...The Gentiles, who have believed in Him, and who have repented of their sins...shall receive the inheritance*

along with the patriarchs...even although they neither keep the Sabbath nor are circumcised, nor observe the feasts...Christ is useless to those who observe the law...the Sabbath and sacrifices and offerings and feasts...have come to an end in Him...but if some, through weak-mindedness wish to observe such institutions as were given to Moses...along with their hope in Christ...they shall probably be saved'. (Vol.1 P.199-218).

Tertullian, Presbyter North African Church, born about **145 A.D.**: '...you Christians have a festive day every eighth day...we make Sunday a day of festivity...you who reproach us with the sun and Sunday should consider your own proximity to us. We are not far off from your [god] Saturn and your days of rest...it follows, accordingly, that, in so far as the abolition of carnal circumcision and of the old law is demonstrated as having been consummated at its specific times, so also the observance of the Sabbath is demonstrated to have been temporary'. (Vol.111, P.70,123,155,313-14).

Bardaism (Born **154 A.D.**): '...Christians...upon one day which is the first day of the week, we assemble ourselves together...'

Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, **155 A.D.**: 'The mystery of the Lord's resurrection may not be celebrated any other day than on the Lord's day.' (Vol 8, P.773.)

Theophilus, pastor of Antioch, **162 A.D.**: 'Both reason and custom challenge us that we should honour the Lord's day, seeing on that day it was that our Lord completed His resurrection from the dead'.

Clement of Alexandria, **174 A.D.**: 'The old seventh day [Saturday] has become nothing more than a working day'.

Irenaeus, **178 A.D.**: 'The mystery of the Lord's resurrection may not be celebrated on any other day than the Lord's day and on this alone should we observe the breaking of the Paschal feast...Pentecost fell on the first day of the week, and was therefore associated with the Lord's day.'

Origen, Approx. **200 A.D.**: '...at the end of the covenant now grown old, which is the end of the Sabbath...'

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, (**200-258 A.D.**)
'The Lord's day is both the first and the eighth day'.

Victorinus, **300 A.D.**, says, 'On the Lord's day we go forth to our bread and giving of thanks, lest we should appear to observe any Sabbath with the Jews, which Christ Himself the Lord of the Sabbath in His body abolished' (Section 4, 'On The Creation').

Eusebius, (**265-340 A.D.**), father of Church History, who made a history of the time between the birth of Christ and Constantine: 'From the beginning Christians assembled on the first day of the week called by them the Lord's day, for the purpose of religious worship, to read the Scriptures, to preach and to celebrate the Lord's Supper...the first day of the week on which the Saviour obtained the victory over

death. Therefore, it has the pre-eminence, first in rank, and is more honourable than the Jewish Sabbath'.

Scriptural Proofs:

'And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them...', (Acts 20:7); 'Now concerning the collection for the saints...Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store...', (1Cor.16:1,2)

'Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week...the disciples were assembled...Jesus came and stood in the midst...And after eight days again his disciples were within...then came Jesus...', (Jn.20:19,26).

'Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross...Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come...' (Col.2:14-17); '...how turn you again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain', (Gal.4:9-11).

'Him that is weak in the faith receive you, but not to doubtful disputations...4 Who are you that judges another man's servant?...5 One man esteems one day above another: another esteems every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind', (Rom.14:1-5).

Has the Sabbath been changed to Sunday?:

There is *no* scriptural command to keep a Sabbath or a 'Lord's Day' on any fixed day! The Bible teaches every man should have his own mind on this, (Rom.14:1-5; Col.2:14-17).

The 'Sabbath' was originally given to Israel. To teach that this Sabbath has been changed to Sunday as a command is contrary to all hermeneutical principles in 'rightly dividing' the Word!

'Speak you also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths you shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that you may know that I am the Lord that does sanctify you...Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath...It is a sign between me and the children of Israel forever...And he gave unto Moses...', (Ex.31:13-18)

'...I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them', (Ezek.20:12).

(Note: All the 10 commandments are repeated in the New Testament except the fourth concerning the Sabbath)

Summary:

Most early Christians commonly observed the 'Lord's Day' as Sunday, called the 'first day of the week'; On this day Christians commonly 'gathered together' to read the scriptures, break bread, and collect monies. Yet, nowhere in scripture has the 'Sabbath' been 'changed' from Saturday to Sunday or to be kept as a command for Christians, (Rom.14:1-5; Col.2:14-17). .

Terry Arnold

* Some sources taken from: The Ages Digital Library Collection

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry...I enjoyed the last newsletter and was particularly interested in the section on the Pope coming to Australia. We would like to know: 1. Is there any organised 'witnessing' during the Catholic Youth Forum? 2. Are there any posters, pamphlets to give to people or churches before/during this time? 3. If there is any of the above we would like to financially contribute to it...

(B.N., Sth.Australia)

Editors Reply: We do not know of any organised 'witnessing' during the World Catholic Youth forum to be held in Sydney soon. But some subscribers have expressed an interest in distributing tracts/pamphlets to give to people during this time. We have supplied information to some. We recommend the one page tract in this newsletter (P.2) be used. This ministry also has two tracts concerning Roman Catholicism as well as our book 'To Catholics Whom I love'. Another good resource is the DVD 'Catholicism - Crisis of Faith' which has good teaching as well as testimonies by ex-priests and nuns. Mike Claydon also produces daily e-mail *Apostasy Alert* bulletins which are currently covering the World Youth Day developments and can be subscribed to free of charge by e-mailing him at apostasyalert@hotmail.net.au

May our desire be to bring the truth of God's word to Roman Catholics that they would no longer be held in the darkness of their traditions which oppose the word of God in many matters including the doctrine of salvation.

Dear Terry, You often state the church is in a sad way today...Do you think this is part of the great falling away?

Editors Comments: Yes! Anyone who does not believe this certainly would if they could witness what I see while travelling Australia and the situation in often 'sound' churches: there is a lack of qualified eldership/pastors, a lack of teaching, a lack of Biblical training for ministers as revealed in woeful hermeneutics, and a huge generational gap developing between age groups.

One thing has to be said about this 'falling away' - it began during and after the days of the Apostles. There were some historical blips where things maybe looked encouraging (e.g. the Reformation), but we have now slipped into an abyss comparable to that of pre-reformation times. Only another reformation could rectify this situation! This may appear negative to many, but the fact is that we have been pre-warned of such a development - in scripture. Our 'positive' reaction to this would be to watch for the coming of the Lord and to *inform, teach and equip* others until we go 'home'.

Dear Sirs, Greetings. Thank you all for the 'Diakrisis' letters posted to me. I enjoy reading them and catching up on the happenings in churches around the world. It might not be surprising to see what happens to the Rome's World Youth Day and the outcome (like the film 'Passion' which was supposed to be a great evangelical outreach to all peoples?). We need to preach the Gospel of the Grace of God and let Him build His church. Regards in the Lord.

(P.E., Sydney)

Dear Terry/Mike, I refer to your recent article 'Legalism - The Scourge of Christianity' in *Diakrisis* March/April 2008 revealing the awful error of Legalism. I commend you for your effort. This truth will not sit well with some but Galatians 5:1 says they are 'free' and should not 'again' entangle themselves with the 'yoke of bondage'.

We all at some stage get caught up in this unnecessary hindrance and see things from a different perspective. However when we come back to Scripture our arguments are feeble and pathetic. All arguments are worthless if not based on Scriptures in context. Upon this realisation, we incur another problem - our pride in admitting we were wrong. But better to suffer shame than continue in the pain.

I especially thank you for your discipling of me while in my sad legalistic state that I have been a slave to for many years, the 'Christmas issue' being a big hang up. I became indignant and argumentative, but am truly grateful to the Lord for your ministry. It is truly worthy teaching. Blessings to you and your wonderful ministry.

(J.F., SE.Qld)

Editors comment: Readers, we do not wish to question your 'preferences' in areas that may not be explicit in Scripture (there is nothing wrong with a preference concerning 'Christmas' - your editors actually enjoy that restful time of the year). The article mentioned above was designed to cause Christians to *think* through the differences between doctrine and 'preference' and to know what is scriptural and what is not, in the light of applied 'sola Scriptura'. We pray this article will not be misunderstood and readers will re-read it and understand the difference between 'liberty' and 'legalism'.

Dear Terry, I understand 'election' to be relevant to the Jews as His chosen nation...I do not see it as relating to the individual, especially not in relation to salvation...

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors reply: Then what do we do with the following scriptures?:

Eph.1: 'To the saints at Ephesus' - Was this written to the Jews only? Were there not Gentiles in the Church in Ephesus? The 'gathering together' in vs.10 shows this is to all 'the saints'. Now read this and tell us that election is not toward any 'individuals'? vs.4 'According as he hath chosen ['eklego'] US in him before the foundation of the world, that WE should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated US unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,...11 In whom also WE have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will'.

Can we say that this is not for Gentiles also? What of 1Thess.1:4; 'Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God'. (Written to all the saints at Thessalonica); Tit.1:1; 'to the faith of God's elect'; Rom.8:33 'Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies'. (Who was the book of Romans written to?); and Col.3:12 'Put on therefore, as the elect of God...'. 'Election' is quite obviously toward 'individuals'?

Your Comments and Questions

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

Webmaster Needed

Our ministry website was once a valuable tool in the dissemination of information, but it is now badly in need of repair and maintenance. We currently have no volunteer who can maintain this site. If there are any readers who would like to volunteer to re-build and maintain the website under the oversight of the editors, please contact us first by e-mail.

Dear Mike, I read the latest 'Diakrisis' - another excellent edition. I really admire the theological professionalism that is a hallmark of the 'Diakrisis' product. You and Terry obviously spend many hours in researching and no doubt also considerable time on your knees to ensure a God honouring excellence regarding both its content and presentation. Terry's editorial was so very apt and so well supported by your article on 'Rome's Olympics'. I never thought I would see the likes of Gordon Moyes and Peter Jensen dancing trance-like to the Pope's tune. How could they, while surely knowing of the innocent blood that has been shed by Biblically honouring men and women in their thousands over the years simply because they refused to march to the insidious beat of Rome's drum (a beat that continues unabated to this very day). And Mike, as for your latest 'Israel Report' [israelreport@hotmail.net.au] - the Jewish festivals and the explained astronomical connection is mind blowing. Having never come upon this phenomenon in all my 22 years with the Met. Bureau I checked it out at <http://jisao.washington.edu/pdol> and found it absolutely legitimate...

(R.P., NT)

Dear Terry, Thank you for coming to Hobart and teaching us more about your ministry and God's Word. We thank God for you and your example and courage in proclaiming the entire Word of God. Your testimony and commitment has made us more faithful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Love and prayers

(A.S., Hobart)

*Dear Mr. Arnold, Thank you for visiting Tasmania!
(6 year old from Hobart who told the editor this year she 'is up to 2Samuel in her reading the Bible')*

Praise/Prayer Points

Praise the Lord for a most encouraging time for the editor in Tasmania recently! The hospitality was amazing and the ministry was fruitful! Thankyou to the Tasmanians.

Dear Terry, We want to thank you for giving us your time and coming to Hobart for the two weeks in April. You have blessed us with the TRUTH of God's Word and shown us that there are still those who are willing and able to teach ABSOLUTES. You have renewed our confidence in the work that God has lead us to do. We will continue with prayer and as the Lord leads we will go.

Your ministry has been uplifting to many but especially for us and it has been our privilege to host you in our home.

Be assured of our prayers for your family and the ministry as we look forward to another visit to our state in the future. With our love and prayers.

(G.S., Hobart)

Dear Terry, We would like to thank you for your time and effort coming all this way to Tasmania to minister to us. We have been so encouraged by your words and wonderful company. In this dark age when the preaching of the Word is rare, we thank the Lord for His blessings and the people He provides to minister and encourage - you have certainly been one of them.

We will continue to pray for you and your ministry and ask the Lord to bless you mightily as you preach His Word boldly. Thank you once again Terry...In Christ our Lord and Saviour.

(A&N.P., Hobart)

Dear Terry, Thank you for sending us 'Diakrisis (Australia)'. We are very much blessed on reading the much needed truths. May our Lord and saviour keep blessing your ministry. Thank you to all that take part in this ministry. God bless you always...

(A.F., Sydney)

Dear Friends Terry & Mike, keep up the top job you are doing; the coverage is excellent. God Bless you. Christian greetings...

(N.M., Qld)

Dear Terry & Mike, Thank you for your consistent faithfulness...

(A.W., Sydney)

Terry's Itinerary

August: Fiji Bible College

Subscription Form

Send this form to:

**TA Ministries
PO Box 1499,
Hervey Bay, Qld, 4655, Australia**

I am interested in receiving the *free* monthly TA Ministries newsletter 'Diakrisis' by *hardcopy* - by *e-mail* - (tick boxes)

Name-----Address-----

E-mail-----Phone-----Fax-----Signed-----Date-----

I enclose \$----- as a donation for costs and postage.

For transfer deposits: National Bank, Hervey Bay 084 705 02737 1856