



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-profit interdenominational faith ministry, teaching, informing and equipping the church.

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The members of the advisory panel may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed 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.

This newsletter is distributed free of charge. However, because we are a faith ministry, we ask for donations of up to \$12 per year to cover the cost of production.

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'Did You Know?' - (Copy & distribute!)

Editors Comments

This month was again a blessing to us. The Lord has surrounded us with caring and supportive family who have greatly ministered to us. To those who sent offerings both in prayer and finance, the Word of God says: *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints and do minister,* (Heb.6:10).

In this newsletter I encourage those who are in the areas of the John Arnott visit to please distribute the paper advertised on P. 3. Some churches are taking a stand on this issue. *Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins,* (James 5:19,20). Terry Arnold

'Apocalypse'

Oh man your listening days are o'er
Why closed you fast your ear?
You never hearkened to God's truth
That to him you were so dear

The time has come, judgement is here
The bowels of wrath come forth
The message has gone from man's ear
Tribulation comes from the north

And God looked down upon the land
It burned with searing heat
Fire was upon the plane
And fire on the street

And men did gnaw their tongues with rage
And blasphemed cursed and swore
It was the finish of the age
The grinding of the law

Men who neglected for to pray
Who shut out God's pure Word
They beat their chests and tore their hair
And wished they'd never heard

God's elect had left ere this
In raptures glorious dawn
With angles they did greatly praise
While those left behind did mourn

A trumpet sounded from on high
An earthquake tore the ground
Cities fell and mountains moved
And trouble did abound

The sun it seemed, forsook the sky
Darkness was on the land
Pain and suffering everywhere
And strife on every hand

A pure white steed came riding down
Ten thousand by it's side
The rider bore a two edged-sword
It was the last, the greatest ride

The hoof upon the ground did stop
The land was split in twain
The rider from Zion's mountain top
Drew sharply on the rein

A thousand years have swift passed by
It seemed like Satan is dead
Peace and prosperity around us lie
But judgement looms ahead

Satan is loosed now from the pit
Two hundred million come
The horses mouths bite fast the bit
They think that they have won

Fire from heaven like dawn does break
It consumes all God's dread foes
And Satan is now within the lake
Where brimstone forever glows

All heaven and earth has fled away
From the great white judgement throne
Here men may plead, and men may pray
But man must stand alone

On new earth now Jerusalem stands
Time forever gone
The river of life now laps the sands
All thanks to Gods dear Son.

Even so come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

By James Hamilton, Hervey Bay, Qld.

What is Good Christian Doctrine?

Doctrine is the truth *once delivered to the saints*, (Jude 3). The word '*once*' has largely been ignored today. The '*once*' has a reference to the closure of the canon of scripture, as agreed to by the early church, which gave us the Bible. This body of truth is not to be added to without the threat of a curse, (Rev.22:18; Dt.4:2; 12:32; 5:22; Pr.30:5,6).

Good doctrine is not extra-Biblical material that one has difficulty in explaining from the Word of God. Good doctrine is not based on single verses or scriptures taken out of context. Sound doctrine is not matching a scripture to an experience that is supposedly from God. Truth has bounds, error has none. Extra-Biblical teaching has a history of being made into doctrine, becoming 'essentials', and then causing division in the body of Christ. Anyone who examines the reasons for church splits should come to the conclusion that in most cases it is caused by *extra Biblical teaching* or *extreme emphasis* in a particular area. We have got to be satisfied with the main things within the bounds of the Bible! The main things are the plain things and the plain things are the main things!

What are the main things? This is where some disagreement or disunity enters. Some Christians have a longer list of essentials than others. Other Christians have almost no list and will compromise important essentials to accept almost anyone into their 'unity'.

A possible list of 'essentials' are those beliefs that are necessary to becoming a 'Christian.' What is a Christian? In brief a Christian is one who accepts the **One Lord** Jesus Christ, (Eph.4:5), for *who* He is and *what* he did, and then *receives* the person of the Holy Spirit, (Eph.1:13; 4:4), by *faith* alone. This should involve the following essentials of the Gospel:

- Belief in the *death, burial and bodily resurrection* of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The *deity* of Christ - that God came in the *flesh*, (1Jn./4:2,3; 1tim.3:16; Col.1:14-19; Heb.1:1-14). (Unless one believes Jesus is God there is no salvation! - Jn. 8:24; 8:58).
- The *finished* sacrifice of the cross of Calvary, (Heb.9:25, 26; 10:10,11,12,18; 1Pet.3:18; Jn.19:30, etc.)
- That we are saved by *grace* through *faith* in Christ alone, wholly apart from our own deeds or works, (Eph.2:8,9; Tit.3:5; Acts 16:30,31; Rom.4:5; 2Tim.1:9; Acts 20:21).
- That Christ bore our sins on the cross and that His *blood* sets us free, (1Jn.1:7-9; Heb.9:22).
- That with acceptance of the grace (unmerited favour) of God we must, in obedience, *repent* of our sinful ways and *follow* Jesus Christ as *both Lord and saviour*, (Rom.10:9,10; Acts 2:38-47; 1Cor.12:12-27; Matt.18:15-17).
- To follow Christ is to follow the Bible as the *inerrant and infallible* Word of God, (2Tim.3:16,17; 2Pet.1:19-21; Pr.30:5,6). **Terry Arnold**

Toronto Testimony

I'm an ex-satanist (came out of it in the 80's)...I recognise the spirits behind the Toronto experience as being the same spirits we unleashed on the church (to deceive) when I was against Christianity. These are counterfeiting spirits, and they are being so blatant about it that I am amazed that people can't see what is going on...For others who have the light, please don't keep quiet. (If you saw a house on fire, wouldn't you try to warn the inhabitants? If you saw someone about to fall over a cliff, would you keep quiet?)...If a madman had to break out of his asylum cell to find himself in a Toronto experience hall, he'd surely think he was in the madhouse....Have you ever visited an asylum? I have friends who have landed up in an asylum for life. They yielded their minds and bodies once too often (to the same spirits active in the Toronto experience) while in the occult. They let go and gave over control just once too often, and are in that position permanently now. They have been controlled for years, some of them, and have never resumed control over their own faculties. Satan does not play games over his victims, it is just a matter of time. I challenge people to do some investigation into what goes on in the maximum security wards of mental hospitals. Jerking head movements is old hat there, because something else is in control of the central nervous system (when demons control people through the central nervous system, the movements are very robotic. I've seen it countless times in the occult).

*People in madhouses (who have been put there by demons and not there by physical brain damage or true psychological causes per se) also scratch like cats, hiss and bark, shake uncontrollably, and this is a favourite: they laugh continuously and uncontrollably. If you've heard of maniacal laughter, they get that term from people who have to be institutionalised. Town Hill Hospital is a prime example of the same kind of 'wonderful disorder' as found in Toronto experience meetings. And I just wonder (with deep regret) how many people who are still in the honeymoon phases of surrendering themselves to these spirits, will later land up in these hospitals....If non believers had to observe everything that Toronto experience entails (if they had to watch very carefully), they would be convinced that God 'has a sick sense of humour' - (with people manifesting as spastics, dogs, pigs, deaf and dumb, cripples, etc. coupled with hysterical laughter...)...In my years of worshipping Satan and his demons, I discovered that forces of darkness thrive on symbolic irony, with the purpose of mocking God. It is as if they have searched the scriptures for every abomination in God's sight, and then sought to coax believers to accommodate those abominations while bearing the name of Christ. Isaiah 28 and 29 clearly depicts the abhorrence of God for drunken leaders of His people. He warns Israel against drunken prophets, (Is.28:1-5)...(Is.19:9)...Would God (who is ever the same) warn about drunken prophets, who are drunk even without having drunk wine, and then use this same symbolism (drunkenness) to prove a revival by His Spirit? God is not like a man, who is prone to contradiction...Does the same God who abhors drunkenness, suddenly use drunkenness as a symbol of His Holy Spirit?...Satan is having a good laugh at God's people, who, in a drunken stupor ('drunk in the spirit') are praising God that they 'stagger without drinking a drop'....I just pray that more people (who have the light) will stand up and drive this evil out of the body of Christ. (This blasphemous counterfeit spirit, which comes as an angel of light, with all kinds of signs to deceive)....And the people who are deceived, are opening their minds and bodies more and more to these spirits...it is still the honeymoon phase for those Toronto experience followers - they have no idea what monstrous spirits they have opened themselves to...**For we are not unaware of Satan's schemes...**(2Cor.2:11). Yours in Christ, C du P. (From Charismatic magazine, 'Prophecy today', 11/95).*

Church slams non-Christian role at service

The Presbyterian church has criticised the inclusion of non-Christian faiths at the Port-Arthur state memorial service in Hobart....the Reverend David Jones said the involvement of non-Christian faiths at St. David's Cathedral ...'*obscured and compromised*' the clear Christian message of hope in Christ.

Hindu, Buddhist and Islamic faiths were represented at the service....*to include such beliefs alongside the Christian Gospel, is, to say the least, confusing*', Mr. Jones said. '*Reincarnation, Nirvana, and the Gospel are contradictory....now was not a time for the church to water down its message...*' ('The Mercury' 7/5/96).

Bunyan's Computer

John Bunyan's name is familiar to most Christians. Some months ago I came across one of his short books, *'The Acceptable Sacrifice'*. It was originally a sermon based on Psalm 51:17, *'The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God. Thou will not despise'*. It was his last book.

My heart was deeply moved by this book. Not only is the content impressive, weighty and convincing, but Bunyan's grasp and use of scripture is amazing. The book is absolutely compelling simply because of his knowledge of the Word of God. This was no contemporary sermon consisting of a joke, three points and a poem; this is a cobalt bomb in hardcover and the reader stands at ground zero.

My heart began shouting questions at my mind. How did he write such a sermon? Where did he get such substance, such wisdom, such power? What did he use for study aids to be able to compile such a masterpiece? In the midst of these questions I realised Bunyan had almost none of the resources we use every day. Strong's concordance was two hundred years in the future, Cruden's a hundred. Thayer's, Gesenius, Robertson, Wuest were all unknown. Bunyan's biographer's mention Luther's commentary on Galatians, Foxe's book of martyrs, and an anonymous concordance. We suppose that Bunyan, the prolific writer, would be a voracious reader. But there is the one resource book, his chief study aid he mentions again and again. Hear him: *'As I was sitting by the fire...suddenly...this word sounded in my heart, 'I must go to Jesus'. I said, 'Wife, is there ever such a scripture, I must go to Jesus?' Thus unexpectedly questioned, she cannot tell.'*

'Therefore' says Bunyan, *'I sat musing to see if I could remember such a place. I had not sat above two or three minutes but it came bolting in upon me, 'You are come to Mt. Zion...and to Jesus the mediator of the New Testament...'* (Heb.12:22-24)". This then was Bunyan's chief resource, his chief study aid, the Holy scriptures themselves, taught him by the comforter, the Holy Spirit.

He thoroughly knew the scriptures. He memorised long passages. He meditated much upon the Word. He looked and longed and lingered until the Holy Spirit brought to mind the needed truth for each crisis. He knew by daily experience the truth of John 14:26, *'But the comforter which is the Holy Ghost...He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance...'*

Bunyan used this resource when discouraged. He used it when he prepared sermons. He used it when he stood before the magistrates, accused of preaching without a license. He used it in jail when he began writing *'Pilgrim's Progress'*. He used it when he preached from his cell window. He used it when he pointed the lost to Christ. This is Bunyan's secret: the Spirit and the Word - the sufficiency of scripture! The comforter, who is our tutor, was Bunyan's best study aid. His utter dependence upon the Word of God and its author is what gave his life and literature their impact.

What a contrast he makes with the modern minister! Somewhere between the TV sports show, the trip to the airport, and the golf game, he must prepare his message. No problem! Just light up the new IBM (Inspired Business machines?), and open up the super sermon Maker Program. Memorisation, meditation and midnights are displaced by gigabytes, nanoseconds and mousey sermons. No blood, no sweat, no blessing, no people, too bad, so sad! ('No message tonight, folks, the computer is down'). Study aids? Sure, but used sparingly, remembering that no man's thoughts, programs, floppies, or CD Roms can ever compete with the Word and the Spirit.

Bunyan's computer is still available, but it's expensive. It will cost the user time. Time in the Word. Time on your knees. Time waiting on God for truth.

Is the price too high? Not if your sermons are to be a blessing after 300 years!

Pastor Buddy Smith, Malanda, Qld.

Telstra Woos Homosexuals

A press release by Telstra read in part, *'And to commemorate all the celebrations, Telstra has produced a unique Mardi-Gras \$10 phonecard which features Gay and Lesbian symbols. We are especially proud to produce for the first time a Telstra Phonecard to commemorate Australia's largest gay and lesbian community event'*. A spokesman for Telstra defended telstra's actions by citing other companies that *'have been active in the gay and lesbian market for quite some time'*. He included messages of support for the mardi-gras from Michael Lee, MP NSW; Vic Smith, Mayor of South Sydney; John Fahey, Premier of NSW; Peter Baldwin, MP NSW; Paul Keating, Clover Moore, MP NSW; Frank Sartor, Lord Mayor of Sydney; Elizabeth Kirkby, MLC NSW; Bob Carr MP NSW; Anthony Albanese, ALP; Ernie Page, Member for Coogee; Eacham Curry; Leonie Burke; Julie Peters; John Thwaites; Nicholas Gold; and Nicky Kepert. An inclusion also read *'Gay and Lesbian Catholics will always be welcome at Sunday 11 am Mass, St. Josephs, Fitzgerald st, Sth. Yarra. Father John Barry and June Cochrane 98274689.'* (**'Biblical Fundamentalist, 6/96**).

New*&Important

'A Paper Concerning the Visit of John Arnott To Australia' This paper, (12 pages), published by concerned Christians, details why many Christians are concerned about the visit to Australia in October by the Toronto pastor, John Arnott. Who is John Arnott? What is his background? What does he teach? Why has his church been removed from affiliation with the Charismatic association of Vineyard churches? This paper needs to be copied and circulated to Pastors and Christians before the October visit, that they might be equipped and informed to discern truth from error. Price: \$1.95 (includes postage) - Order now.

AOG Takes Christian To Court & Tries To Ban Book

Former AOG Secretary general of Australia Philip Powell, writes, *'Henry Sheppard, author of 'The Evidence' (the shocking story of the AOG Insurance scandal), when accused of publishing defamatory statements offered to meet with his accusers to discuss the objectionable parts. Instead Andrew Evans & six of his AOG colleagues (not the entire national executive), through their lawyers issued a summons, the charge of which is scheduled to be contested in court. The initial pre-trial meeting is set down for April 19, when we understand that Pastor Evans must appear, along with Mr. Sheppard in the presence of a judge. The other plaintiffs viz Pastors Philip Hills, David Cartledge, Brian Houston, John Lewis, Alun Davies & John Warwick must be available for telephone discussions or meet with the judge in Chambers.'* The article goes on to say... *'It is rumoured that \$50000 has been set aside by the AOG for this case....the question: 'Why did AOG issue a summons without first responding personally to Mr. Sheppard's offer?'...The Evidence' is available from the author, (Henry Sheppard), 5 Wood Rd, Paradise, SA 5075 at \$17.95 including post & package.'* (CEFTF, April 96)

Editors note: After reading the report, including various related documents, it appears to be a sad and shameful state of misunderstandings and poor dealings. Henry Sheppard is a Christian who was formerly involved in teaching at pastor Evans AOG church and worked with another pastor in AOG insurance. Regardless of what has happened or where the blame lies, does not 1Cor. 6:1-8 cf. Mtt.18:15-22 state clearly not to take a Christian to court?

Your Comments and Questions

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

Thankyou

Thankyou for Diakrisis. I am encouraged by the overall presentation & thought presented on the newsletter. It's great to get more of an overview of what's happening around the world. Plus the personal application of applying God's Word in every situation

Phil Wilson, Blacktown, Sydney.

J.W.'s Leave Group

Many thanks for your literature and video 'Witnesses of Jehovah' which was used by the Lord to make quite an impact on a couple of Chinese students who had become involved with the J.W.'s. They have ceased their contact as a result.

Manager of a Sydney bookshop.

Roman Catholic Paganism

'The commemoration of Good Friday among the Filipinos brings out the paganism of Roman Catholicism. It is reported that last April fifth, 'Eleven people, including a Japanese, were nailed to wooden crosses while dozens of others whipped their own backs to a bloody pulp as the Philippines exuberantly observed Good Friday'. Those impaled were left on the cross about 15 minutes.

How did those who watched respond to this 'act of worship'? A newspaper report reads: 'Vendors did a roaring trade in the sale of soft drinks, skewered bananas, grilled potatoes and hard boiled eggs along the narrow two lane road leading to the crucifixion sit....Thousands of tourists and backpackers scrambled for positions in the humid rice field and video cameras rolled as the crucifixions got under way.' (**'Biblical; Fundamentalist'** 6/96)

Pope John Paul's Dream

'Pope John Paul II has a dream for the new millennium. It goes like this: It is the year 2000 and the leaders of the world's great Judeo-Christian-Islamic religions have gathered in the Sinai desert...At the appropriate time, John Paul II accompanied by the leaders of the Jewish faith, other Christians and Islamic imams and muftis would climb Mt. Sinai where God passed on laws to Moses to mark a new age of spiritualism for mankind...The Pope according to his closest advisors, strongly believes that there will be a powerful sign from God to mark the third millennium since Christ's birth.' (**Adelaide Advertiser** 6/4/96)

Praise Points

- 'Diakrisis' continues to increase in circulation. We praise God that more people are now being informed and equipped.

Prayer points

- A new ministry begun in Hervey Bay called 'Pathfinders', (For people with difficulties relating to alcoholism, depression, etc.), has brought many unsaved people to us. Some have been affected by cultic or false teaching. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead them to be set free in Christ Jesus.

- Please pray that the paper concerning John Arnott, (see P.3), will be widely distributed, and that many will see the deception and false teaching involved with this event.

Cut here

Book Review by Mike Claydon

'Answers: A series of follow up Bible Studies on Life's Key Questions' by Kieth Piper. (648 pages) \$20

This is not a book, it is a tome, a life's work! Eighty-two Biblical subjects are discussed in this 648 pagebook and it is a must for the library of any serious Christian scholar!

Over a period of time I have read Keith's writings on such subjects as tongues, New Bible Versions and their errors, and the cults, etc. Now he has brought all these manuscripts together in one volume with chapters dealing with such diverse doctrines as 'proof of Christ and the Bible', 'Heaven and Hell', Daniel's 70th week prophecy' and '14 Mystery Doctrines of the New Testament'

I cannot agree with all of Kieth's conclusions, and on occasion he strays into personal opinion and generalisations without alerting the reader. Examples would be the use of alcohol and that the drinking of alcohol in moderation encourages others to drink also. This is simplistic in the extreme and does not reflect the biblical attitude to alcohol. The approach to evangelism borders on pyramid selling and has an arminian flavour - laying out the old chestnut of discipleship by multiplication. You know, if we led one person to Christ a day, and they led another, the world would be converted to Christianity within 2 weeks!

But they are minor irritations. This work has been painstakingly written and to read the book from cover to cover would benefit anyone seeking sound doctrinal teaching on subjects more timid souls would not touch!

To be fair the author states that he is unashamedly an Independent Baptist and reformed in theology, and the material has to be read with that in mind.

I recommend 'Answers' to every new Christian I meet, knowing that they will grow from studying it - and for what it offers, the price is ludicrously low!

In my Christian life I have not found such a comprehensive writing in one volume and I would urge the reader to order a

Terry's Itinerary

- **Aug. & Sept.** - Every Wed. night 7pm, Hervey Bay Church of Christ - Teaching series on **witnessing & the cults**, (J.W., Mormonism, Freemasonry, etc.). Ph. (071) 252258

- **Sept. 1st.** am. Hervey Bay Church of Christ. Ph (071)289375

- **Sept. 7th.** (Saturday) Hervey Bay Church of Christ. 1.30 - 5.30pm. **Seminar on Evangelism and witnessing**, followed by BBQ. Admission free. Contact Terry 018183093 or Ps. Bruce Murray (071) 289375. Billets available.

- **Sept. 8th.** pm. Fraser Coast Baptist Ph. (071) 283223

- **Sept. 15th.** pm. Hervey Bay Church of Christ Ph. (071) 289375

- **Oct. 13th.** 10am; 11.15am; 1.30pm. Inner West Baptist Church, Punchbowl, Sydney. Ps. Peter Rahme (02) 7425719

- **Oct. 20th.** am. Hills Community Church (Nazarine), Kenthurst, Sydney. Ps. Ian Davidson (02) 6791989

- **Oct. 27th.** am. Allowera Baptist Church, Doonside, Sydney. Ps. Dan Proctor (02)8372536

Further details of Sydney itinerary next month. For ministry appointments contact Mike Claydon (02) 6892635



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