



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, non-denominational 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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Editors Comments

Within the next few months we will be featuring some strong critiques on various movements, people and events, that we believe affect the church at large. We also would desire to attempt a 'mail out' to over 500 churches and leaders around Australia. This outreach would include vital information and a definite challenge to those who have been involved with such movements as the 'Toronto Blessing'. We need help to do this, (see p.4). We may lose some subscribers because of some articles to come, but we would remind readers that they do not *have* to agree with everything that is written. Indeed we welcome comments and questions.

This newsletter is now one year old and our distribution has more than doubled. We now have requests from as far as the USA. We have had encouraging feedback from pastors and Christians of all persuasions, who have appreciated the information received in various articles. Many are circulating the newsletters at their fellowship meetings. However, our impact is still only a 'drop in the ocean'. We continue to urge people to distribute the newsletter wherever possible. We also continue to offer multiple copies to those pastors and others who wish to display or distribute them in their fellowships. Please also be aware that some new books have been added to the booklist enclosed.

We do aim for our resources to be accurate and for the most part irrefutable. Even so, I have found from experience, that many people when presented with irrefutable facts that contradict their pre-conceived beliefs, will still deny the truth.

I recently heard a pastor comment that those who criticise certain Christian workers should be praying for and loving those same people. While this is true, should we be *supporting* them if they are in error? No Christian worker is above being reproved for error. Even if a popular evangelist is 'preaching the Gospel', yet is in any way supporting heresy or apostasy, should we not consider biblically withdrawing our support of that person and even separating from their ministry? What would Paul do?

I have at times been accused of being anti-Charismatic/Pentecostal. However, I am not anti all that is Charismatic/Pentecostal, as much as the Lord is anti those doctrinally sound and orthodox churches that are lukewarm or 'dead'. I do contend for a scriptural *balance* in spirit and in truth. This is why I am burdened for and opposed to the *direction* the Charismatic/Pentecostal movement has gone, especially in recent years. It is a fact that today's Pentecostalism ('neo-Pentecostalism') is not what classical Pentecostalism was. There has been a massive further *shift* into that which is worldly, ecumenical, experiential, sensational, mystical, and essentially beyond the bounds of the Bible, (Nu.22:18). **Terry Arnold**

The Gospel

'The Son of God left Heaven and, in some incredible and indescribable manner, stopped over for nine months in the womb of a virgin named Mary, (Lk.1:26-38). Here He clothes Himself with human flesh and was born among mankind. Through this fantastic process, He entered into this thing we call human life. Some thirty years later, having never committed one sin, He died on the cross for the sins of Adam's fallen race. Victoriously, He broke the chains of death, the fetters of the grave and rose triumphant over both. Now, seated at God's right hand in heaven, He offers to all who will repent and believe the reality of salvation, forgiveness of all sins, eternal sure hope and a new life amid this old one of suffering and tears. However, the pages of the Holy Bible thunder with another, less palatable, reality: this wonderful new life in Christ will include manifold sufferings and, finally, physical death. This truth is not often preached.' (Henry R. Pike, Ph.D., Preface to '*Suffering & Death: The Saints Highest Calling*').

That Great Hope Answered

Two great philosophers who *predate* the birth of Jesus had this to say about the necessity of the incarnation, '*God will never be known unless He reveals Himself in human form. Oh that someone would arise, man or God, to show us God.*' (Socrates)

Separation or Sectarianism?

The Bible commands us to separate from certain things. The problem with much of the Christian church today is that we are striving for unity at all costs - including the truth. On the other hand, some separate from the wrong things and for the wrong reasons. Worst than this is some of us take separation to its extreme and separate entirely from the church itself - *sectarianism*!

Separation basically means we are not to be involved with, or not to spiritually fellowship with, someone or something that the Bible warns us of. What does the Bible warn us to separate from?

We are commanded to separate from *false teachers* who cause offence to the true and original *doctrine* handed down from Christ and the apostles, (2Thess.3:6; Rom.16:17 Cp. Phil.3:17,18,19, see also 1Tim.6:3-5). We are commanded to separate from *unbelievers* (2Cor.6:14-17), who are involved in *unrighteous* and *unclean things*. The Greek word for 'unclean' here is '*akathartos*' and is used 24 out of 30 times to mean 'unclean spirits or demons' and sometimes of homosexuality, (Eph.5:6). We are also commanded to separate from *fornicators*, the *covetous*, *idolaters*, *drunkards*, and *extortioners*, (1Cor.5:9-14).

We are *not* commanded to separate from Christians unless they be involved with the sins or corrupt doctrine we have outlined above. Separation is not the Biblical answer to every disagreement between brethren! Neither must we cause our Christian brothers and sisters to stumble nor to offend them with a sectarian attitude, (Rom.14:10-13,21).

Essentially we must separate from: 1. *False doctrine* 2. *False teachers*, and 3. *Unclean and unrighteous people or things*.

The Bible states that we must separate from doctrine that is ***not after the tradition which he received of us*** (the apostles), (2Thess.3:6) ..or ...***the Words of our Lord Jesus Christ***, (1Tim.6:3) ...***and the words of the epistles***, (2Thess.3:14). In summary, our doctrine must be the body of truth ***once delivered unto the saints***, (Jude 3).

However, we should separate on *serious* doctrinal issues rather than interpretations on minor issues. The apostle John says in 2John 9:11: ***Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ...receive him not...for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds***. What is this '*doctrine of Christ*'? Previously in verse 7 John tells us that it is: '***Jesus Christ is come in the flesh***'. This is a reference to the incarnation, deity and resurrection of Christ - no minor issues!

Serious doctrinal issues are surely those *essentials* affecting the *salvation* of souls. These essentials should include the doctrine of God - His nature, His person (the Trinity), His immutability and His attributes; The doctrine of man - his nature, condition (the fall); and the doctrine of salvation, (its means through Christ, the cross, repentance and faith). More specifically the above areas could include:

- Belief in the *death, burial* and *bodily resurrection* of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The *deity* of Christ - that God became flesh, (1Jn.4:2,3; 1Tim.3:16; Col.1:14-19; Heb.1:1-4).
- The *finished* sacrifice of the cross of Calvary, (Heb.9:25,26; 10:10-18; 1Pet.3:18; Jn.19:30, etc.)
- That we are saved by grace through faith in Christ *alone*, wholly apart from works, (Eph.2:8,9; Tit.3:5; Acts16:30,31; 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; Col.1:14)
- That with acceptance of the grace (unmerited favour) of God we must, in obedience, *repent* of our old sinful ways and *follow* Jesus as *both* Lord and saviour, (Rom.10:9; 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) and to *test* all *doctrine* and teaching by it, (2Tim.3:16; Gal.1:8; Pr.30:5,6).

The second area of separation concerns *false teachers*. We are commanded to ***mark*** them. This means to 'consider carefully and take heed'. False teachers are those who ***cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned...*** (Rom.16:17), and are ***the enemies of the cross of Christ***, (Phil.3:18.). They will teach *otherwise* to the Word of God, ie. ***another gospel***, (Gal.1:8,9).

The third area of separation is concerning believers (1Cor.5:9-14), and unbelievers (2Cor.6:14-17), who are involved in unclean or unrighteous things. These are listed in the scriptures above and include anything to do with unclean spirits or demons, as well as homosexuality, fornication and idolatry. However, let us not forget that we are to still to take the Gospel to the lost and minister *to* them, (not *with* them). What would some churches say of Jesus who 'associated' with and ministered *to* the prostitutes and the tax collectors?

In summary we cannot fellowship *with* false doctrine (including false religions), false teachers, or uncleanness and unrighteousness. To apply separation further than this is to ***go beyond the Word of the Lord...*** (Nu.22:18).

It saddens me to see Christians with sectarian and pharisaical attitudes to other faithful Christians in various church groups or 'denominations'. There are numerous *local New Testament autonomous* churches in various 'denominations' who are faithful to the Gospel and are often earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints, (Jude 3). This is despite the fact that many others in the same groups have admittedly apostasised from their original doctrinal purity in the Gospel. However, very often these faithful autonomous churches *see themselves* just as 'independent' as those who would call themselves independent and separate from them! We are not saying here that 'denominations' are the norm, for it is likely that much of 'denominationalism' surely stinks in the nostril of God. There will also be many churches who, under pressure, will need to separate from their group as their 'denomination' moves from apostasy into heresy.

However, Jesus rebuked the sectarian attitude of the disciples, (who ***forbade*** other works of the Spirit), when he said: ***Forbid him not...for he that is not against us is on our part. For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward***. Jesus then went on to warn of the seriousness of causing unnecessary *offence* against other believers, (Mk.9:39-42).

May we find the balance in Biblical separation. In the essentials let there be *no compromise*! Doctrinal emphasis on the essentials is the wall that stems the tide of apostasy. In the non-essentials let there be *liberty*. In all things let there be *love*. Let us practice Biblical and only *Biblical* separation. **Terry Arnold**

Holiness

Jonathan Edwards said, 'I went on with my eager pursuit after more holiness and conformity to Christ. The Heaven I desired was a Heaven of holiness'. The preachers strongest preaching should be to himself. Let there be holy sermons in the pulpit and holy lives out of it, and a generation will be won and moulded for God. Without this, holiness will wane and apostasy will invade our churches.' (SBBC No.1, 95)

Mary - Queen of Peace, Mother of Mankind, Sinless, Perpetual Virgin...?

In a newsletter ('Ave Maria', No.22), Roman Catholic Bishop, Henry Kennedy, turns the scriptures into a fairy tale and stretches assumption and logic into a terrorist act, when he writes, '*She is our mother because she is the mother of Jesus who deigned to become our brother through the grace of adoption...Mary is our mother by a solemn legacy executed by the beloved disciple, John, in the name of the human race: 'Behold thy Son...behold thy mother...and from that hour the disciple took her to His own'. When the mortal ties that bound Jesus and Mary were about to be severed, ties that forever consecrated family affections, Mary became the mother of mankind....As a child finds comfort and happiness in the arms of it's mother, only those who are devoted children of their heavenly Mother find true peace and joy in this world of sorrows, passions and doubts. Let us, more than ever, pray as she would want us, 'Mary, Queen of peace, pray for us.'*

Yes, Mary was the mother of Jesus (Acts 1:14), but where does that make her *our* mother? What Jesus said to John does not apply to the world at large. This is *adding* to the scriptures and it brings a curse, (Rev.22:18; Dt.4:2; 12:32;5:22; Pr.30:5,6). Is not Jesus the one in which we find peace, joy, etc.? Is He not the *only mediator*, (1Tim 2:5; Heb. 12:24). Let Mary speak for herself! She, in fact said very little. Mary called herself... '**the handmaid of the Lord**'.

Despite Mary saying all but a few lines in the Bible, now we have Mary bringing so called messages from beyond the grave at Medjugorje. On the 25th May, 1996 ('Ave Maria', No.22), she is supposed to have said, '*I also wish that you all become active during this time that is through me connected to heaven in a special way...I wish that all people convert and see me and my Son, Jesus, in you. I will intercede for you and help you to become the light. In helping others, your soul will also find salvation.*'

Such blasphemy contradicts the Bible and makes God a liar! It is Jesus who is the sole **mediator**, not Mary, (1Tim2:5; Heb.12:24)! It is Jesus who *intercedes* for us, not Mary, (Rom.8:27,34; Heb.7:25)! Only one name (Jesus) can save us, (Acts 4:24)!

The 'Ave Maria', No.4 also states '*Mary's soul was never stained by sin*' and that Mary had '*perpetual virginity*'. If these statements were true why did Mary say, '**My spirit has rejoiced in God my saviour**'? (Lk.1:47). Why does the Bible say, '**All have sinned and come short of the glory of God**', (Rom.3:23)? Why was the teaching of the sinlessness of Mary not made doctrine until 1854? Why was it not openly taught till the twelfth century? Why did the early Catholic church fathers such as St. Bernard, Ambrose, Pope Gregory the Great, Pope Innocent III, St. Peter Lombard, St. Thomas Aquinas and St Augustine all *oppose* this new teaching? The answer is because it contradicts scripture!

Was Mary always a virgin? The Bible states clearly in Matthew 1:18,25 and Luke 2:7 that Jesus was Mary's '**firstborn son**'. The Greek '*Protokos*', (see Rom.8:29; Col.1:15-18; Heb.1:6;11:28;12:23; Pr.69:8; Rev.1:5), is used of the first of many others. Had He been her only son, the word would have been '*Monogenes*', (see Lk.7:12; 8:42; 9:38). James is also called '**The Lord's brother**' (Gal.1:19), and Matthew 13:55,56 and Mark 6:3 also mention '**brothers**' and '**sisters**', (Greek '*adelphos*'). The Roman Catholic Church attempts to explain these away as 'cousins'. But in Greek there is another word '*anepsios*', which means cousins as in Colossians 4:10 - '*Mark the cousin of Barnabas*'. The Bible says that Jesus knew Mary not '**until after**' the birth of Jesus. The idea that Mary remained a virgin is therefore nowhere to be found in the Bible!

What does God say about these traditions that contradict the Word of God? Jesus said:...'**Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?...Ye Hypocrites!...But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men,**' (Matt.15:3-10). **Terry Arnold** (For a full treatment of these topics read '*To Catholics Whom I Love*' by the author)

Worldwide Church of God

Recently we wrote an article on the Worldwide Church of God (See Nov., P.4), and how they have made a dramatic turnaround from much of their cultish teaching to more evangelical teaching. While this is true, it must be stressed that there is still much serious false teaching within this church. An article in their Nov/Dec.1996 '*Plain Truth*' shows that they still hold to a doctrine similar to universalism. In an article titled, '*Is She Lost Forever?*' the writer states, '*Happily the actual doctrine of eternal judgement as the Bible teaches it - is a doctrine of great hope and promise. God has revealed in his word that all who have ever lived will have a full chance for salvation and eternal life in his kingdom*'. This statement contradicts Hebrews 9:27: '**It is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgement**'. They attempt to justify their error by quoting Revelation 20:12 but *omit* the last part of the verse, '**according to their works**'. They also conveniently forget to quote verse 15: '**And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire**'. The Worldwide Church of God is still therefore to repent of false teaching before we should consider it evangelical or orthodox.

(adapted from an article by Sidney Hunter, *Biblical Fundamantalist*, Dec, 1996, P.22)

Pope and Evolution?

'Pope John Paul II in a cautious change of church policy, yesterday acknowledged that Charles Darwin's theory of evolution was 'more than a hypothesis'. But... John Paul condemned 'evolutionary theories which...consider that the spirit emerges from the forces of living matter'. But he said it was now possible to reconcile ideas which had so far appeared to be irreconcilable.' (**'Pope notes theory'**, *Courier Mail*, Oct. 96)

Toronto Experience? Discern For Yourself!

The following is a *true* account of a young man who described his divine encounter with Jesus:

'Immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, as to bind my tongue so I could not speak. I saw a pillar of light over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me'. The young man then saw two divine beings. One spoke in an audible voice and called his name. He came to himself again 'after having been laid out flat on my back on the ground'. This young man shared his experience with Christians several days later. However, they warned him it was not of God.

This young man was no other than Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon church, a cult group! Does this not sound like a 'Toronto' experience'? **Terry Arnold**

Looking and Dressing Like the Opposite Sex

The Woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: For all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God, (Dt.22:5)

Anyone who walks the streets of our cities will notice the departure from this command by God, especially amongst the younger generation. Often it is difficult to distinguish males from females. 1Corinthians 11:14-16 shows clearly the distinction God deemed as necessary between sexes. In Biblical days pagan worship often involved men dressing as woman and women dressing as men, to please the gods and to offer sacrifices. Idols were often represented with the features of one sex but with the dress of the other sex. God made male and female *different* and to attempt to blur the boundaries shows the rebellious nature of mankind. Let us teach our young people to respect God's creation and to be pleasing to Him, who created us in His image.

What God has joined let no man separate but what God has separated let no man join. **Terry Arnold**

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, ...I read your magazine 'Diakrisis' with interest, and appreciate your approach and what you are seeking to do. How important it is to stand with fortitude in a day and age where discernment in some areas has been discarded or downgraded to suit the whims of those who would rather not be scrutinised lest they be seen for what they are.

I sense in part that things for you are difficult at times with the variety of mail you receive, and other factors pressing in. I know what this is like in my own way in ministry here. Indeed sometimes I say to myself and the Lord, 'are you building steel into me?', for some trials we would rather do without - but God has a good purpose.

So I would like to encourage you to be faithful, and to not faint, but to be sure of honestly and openly presenting the truth as accurately and sharply as you can. These things are much needed in our day when the trend is for easy 'take away' sermons that appeal to the senses of man, but not to the holy compassion and truth and integrity of God....Yours in Christ, (Pastor K.S, Innisfail, Qld.)

Dear Terry & all at Diakrisis, We would both like to thank you for your encouragement and prayers. Since we have been in contact with you, it is such a relief to find out that the lies of most leaders in regard to 'non-Charismatics' - was not true. To find believers of like mind and enthusiasm was an answer to prayer. We pray God's will to bless you all as we celebrate God's greatest gift to us all in Jesus Christ. Thankyou again - keep up the great work that you do in the Gospel,

Yours in Christ Jesus, (D.& G. M, Tasmania)

Dear Terry...I am finding your newsletters a great source of encouragement & information. I have long had a question mark over Rick Joiner, for instance, and your October article settled the matter.

I am enclosing a small donation, with thanks for your work, Yours sincerely, (A.B. Mosman, Sydney.)

Can Anyone Help?

TA Ministries would like to mail out approximately 500 letters to churches, pastors and leaders around Australia. The package would contain an open letter asking them to now repent of or acknowledge the errors of the 'Toronto Blessing'. A challenging fact sheet would be attached with irrefutable facts and scriptures for each recipient to study. Some information on the visit to Australia by Benny Hinn may also be included. The cost of this outreach is approximately \$250 of which we must have before commencing. If anyone is interested in helping with finance and mailing out, please contact Terry.

Praise Points

- We thank the Lord for the growth in this ministry in the last year and for those who have been informed, equipped and rescued from deception.
- Thank God for people to help with the monthly mail out.

Prayer Points

- Please pray as we plan what to do with the New Christian class.
- Please pray as Terry meets again with two Mormon missionaries. (These Mormons accepted material they had not seen before.)
- Please pray for the go ahead of the 'mail out' mentioned on this page.

Cut here

Dear Terry, Thankyou for your newsletter - much needed in these times of great decline and an apostacising Christian church. How true believers need that discernment you speak of. May God give his own eyes to see, & ears to hear what he is saying in these closing days & open hearts to receive 'the truth & light'.

...What I wanted to say..namely, the continual use of blasphemy on the television. I wonder if through your newsletter Christians could be organised through various newsletters to continually protest this evil? Are we Christians mute? Don't we care? I believe we will be held accountable for our inaction. Perhaps some of us are able to ignore it and become hardened or perhaps we don't care. I believe you are the one who can do something: Perhaps organise as many editors as possible - get people to write, phone, take petitions - in their churches? You name it. But be careful not to name innocent people.

If these people had the courage to use the name of Allah or Mohammed or the Koran in the same way, they would be placed on a death-list like Simon Rushki, the author who is still in hiding, (and in fear). (D.& M. W., Sydney, Name and address supplied to those who wish to help or support in any way.)

Dear Terry, We have received the October edition of 'Diakrisis'. Thankyou and we thank the Lord for the perseverance he has given you in the face of adversity...May our Lord continue to bless your ministry as you stay obedient to His call. Brother & sister in Christ Jesus, (J.& J. M, Missionaries in Spain)

Review by Terry Arnold

Tract: 'This Was Your Life'

This has to be one of the best tracts ever written. The feedback on this tract has shown much fruit. Written in a comic style, it graphically tells the story of the average unsaved mans life, his death, and what will happen to him when he meets his creator. His life is reviewed in graphic detail and his name is not found to be in the 'book of life'. The results of this are again graphically displayed. The scene then changes to 'This can be your life', where the same man is pictured as a Christian and he dies and meets his Lord and saviour.

All pictures have scriptures attached. I have seen fruit from this tract. Once when I was managing a Christian Bookstore, a lady came into the store who was concerned about her father who was very ill in hospital. He was not a Christian and was adamantly opposed to religion. She had given her father several tracts but he refused them all. I decided to give her the above tract and said: 'try this one'. A good while after this she came into the store and with a beaming face she told me how she had given her father the tract. He was impressed by the comic format and read it. He later received Christ as His Lord and saviour and died shortly after! This tract gets read! (Available from TA Ministries for 25c. each)

Terry's Itinerary

Feb. 2nd. 6.30 pm. Fraser Coast Baptist. Ph. 018183093
Feb. 9th. am. Howard Baptist
Wed. nights - New Christian and Discipleship class at Fraser Coast Baptist. Video night 5th. Feb. Ph. 018183093

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