



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.

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Sin & Holiness

*Sin is missing the mark;
Holiness is getting closer to the mark.*

Editors Comments

I wish to thank all those people who faithfully support this ministry. We get so busy that we sometimes fail to thank those who help us. I also thank those who from time to time contact me just to encourage. Gods timing seems always to be perfect and I believe it is often encouragement that spurs us on. I am the first one to admit that I need encouragement, firstly from the Lord Jesus Christ, and then from the brethren. We surely need to '*...exhort one another: and so much more, as ye see the day approaching*', (Heb.10:25).

If we are true Christians and lovers of truth, (2Thess.2:10), we *will go 'through much tribulation'*, (Acts 14:22). In this ministry, we have plenty of people to tell us we are wasting our time, or that we are too critical, too judgemental, too negative, unloving, and other excuses that some use to avoid truth. Therefore, exhorting one another helps us to '*continue in the faith*', (Acts 14:22), and to '*cleave unto the Lord*', (Acts 11:23). Let Paul have the last say here: '*...It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints*', (Jude 3).

I believe this ministry has come to a crucial stage. Our audience is ever widening and increasing. The mailing list has many hundreds of subscribers, in Australia and now overseas, all from a surprisingly broad cross-section of churches and denominations. As a result of the expansion, several urgent needs have arisen, (see P.4). Please pray for wisdom and a clear vision as to the leading of the Lord. **Terry Arnold**

The Tragedy of Ecumenism - a Tale of Two Sisters

With heart so kind and gentle,
And sympathetic eye;
With touching, deep affection,
And loyal tender tie -
Was LOVE betrothed to DOCTRINE
To hold him all her days;
And walk the path of gladness
United in His ways

Her younger sister also
Had qualities as fair,
Of caring, selfless, kindness,
And warmth beyond compare;
Thus UNITY was drawn to
The husband of her youth;
And pledged herself forever
To be the bride of TRUTH.

But time with bitter envy,
Across the testing years,
Pursued the slow erosion
Of happiness to tears;
Till LOVE began to weary
Of DOCTRINE'S pleasant voice,
And UNITY grew cold to
The partner of her choice.

Then LOVE began to notice
The charms of HERESY,
And awed by his opinions,
She wanted to be free;
And UNITY perceived that
Her virtues were desired
By many, many others
Whose ways she so admired.

At length two precious unions,
So promising, so blest,
Were darkened by delusion,
Disloyalty, unrest;
Till came the day of sorrows,
And rending vows of youth,
When LOVE divorced her DOCTRINE
And UNITY her TRUTH.
(Anonymous, from newsletter 'Anakrino')

The Sovereignty of God
*What God claims, I yield;
What I yield, He accepts;
What He accepts, He fills;
What He fills, He uses;
What He uses, He blesses.*

The Fraud of a 'Man with a Mission'

In the Sunday Telegraph, March 2nd, 1997, Father Dennis Madigan writes in a column titled 'Man with a Mission'. At the end of his usual social Gospel he quotes a text of scripture titled 'Today's Text'. Exodus Chapter 20 is quoted which is the passage detailing the ten commandments. What most readers do not know is that his text conveniently misses out the second commandment! The second commandment reads : **'Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God...'** All this is not in Madigan's text! Why is this so? The answer is because the Roman Catholic Church has deleted the above second commandment, (Ex.20:4,5; Dt.5:8,9), in their Catechisms and books, and split the tenth Commandment into two separate commandments, thus still maintaining ten commandments! Very few Catholics reading this column would be aware of this trickery. This is why Christian bookstores can sell plaques and gifts with ten commandments that can differ from each other. The Catholic plaques, while still having ten commandments simply have number two missing! When one considers the multi-million dollar Catholic industry created from the sale of images, it is not difficult to understand the reason for the deletion! In my opinion this is crookery, fraud, and something that God will punish. The Bible clearly says not to add or detract from His word, (Rev.22:18; Deut.4:2; 12:32; Pr.30:5,6). **Terry Arnold**

Revival & Morality

'...It is deceptive to link revival to a prophetic viewpoint.

The belief that the church will bring about a great revival ushering in the return of our Lord is 'dominion theology', which parallels the aims of the New Age Movement. The coming world wide revival long awaited by the Charismatics and Pentecostals is based on Charismatic/Gnosticism, not true Christianity. It's another Jesus, another spirit, another Gospel (2Cor.11:4), and hence is the great apostasy leading to the false New Age Christ and His false kingdom.

In the Jewish wedding custom it is the groom who prepares the marriage house - not the bride. Therefore it is not the task of the church (bride) to prepare the kingdom so that Jesus (groom) can return.

This is spiritual feminism...What's changed? Don't Baptists read their Bibles anymore?' (An extract from a letter by Laurie Adison to the editor of The Old Baptist, 5/97, P.11)

More Messages from 'Mary'?

In the 'Ave Maria' No.24, supposed messages from Mary at Medjugorje were announced: (25/9/96) *'...I am your mother and I wish to help you by seeking for you the grace from God...'* (25/10/96) *'...I love you all and I call you to be closer to me and that your love towards my immaculate heart be more fervent. I wish to renew you and lead you with my heart to the heart of Jesus, which still today suffers for you and calls you to conversion and renewal. Through you I wish to renew the world'.*

Can Mary really intercede or seek the grace of God for us? What does the Bible say?: **'For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus'**, (1Tim.2:5, see also Heb.12:24). Jesus alone is our **'advocate with the father'**, (1Jn.2:1). The Bible never mentions Mary interceding for us yet consistently mentions only Jesus interceding for us to God, (Rom.8:27,34; Heb, 7:25). Can Mary really therefore **'lead us to the heart of Jesus'**?

Likewise, who can **'renew'** us but the Spirit of God Himself? Can Mary really **'renew the world'**, when the Bible says that after Jesus came and completed the finished work on Calvary, that the Holy Spirit alone was given for this express purpose.

Some try to widen the gate when it is already narrow and set by God.

Quotable

'But God's justice stands forever against the sinner in utter severity. The vague and tenuous hope that God is too kind to punish the ungodly has become a deadly opiate for the consciences of millions. It hushes their fears and allows them to practise all pleasant forms of iniquity, while death draws every day nearer and the command to repent goes unregarded. As responsible moral beings we dare not so trifle with our eternal future.' ('The knowledge of the Holy' by Tozer, P.95)

Blasphemy?

The following is an advert that was put into a local newspaper in Hervey Bay. (Bold type is in the original). This man has since written several letters in the 'Your say' column denigrating and mocking churches and Biblical Christianity. TA Ministries has had some replies printed contending for the Bible and the Christian churches.

'Hervey Bay God Awareness Centre'

'My name is Graham Hansen, I am the 'Spirit of Truth' and the 'Helper' who the Christ said would guide the people into all the truth. That truth centres around the actuality of the God presence and the universal life and being extending from His presence.

My integrity in declaring I am the person the Christ spoke of, is demonstrated by the sanctity and seminal nature of my teachings, which are embraced by a publication I compiled, entitled, 'A truth document on God, Life & Being'.

*Those wishing to know more, can contact me at the Hervey Bay God Awareness Centre on (071)253396 Fax (071)253396 or by writing to PO Box 330 Torquay, Qld, 4655, The centre is a **Non-Religious** organisation of the highest virtue, and is dedicated to the furtherance of all knowledge with the God presence.*

Pat Boone

Christian Singer Pat Boone has produced a new album 'In A Metal Mood'. He reinforced his new heavy metal image with a bare-chested appearance in leather complete with fake tattoos and a spiked dog-collar for the American music awards in January, 1997. The look has outraged some Christian groups. (Source: *The Sunday Telegraph*, 9/3/97 - complete with a revealing photograph of the above description - on file at TA Ministries)

Controversy?

'Controversy will be necessary so long as error exists, but two things are strictly forbidden: first, unprofitable contention, the tendency of which is 'to subvert the hearers'; and secondly, angry contention, for 'the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle to all men'. (Prof. Archibald Alexander, Princeton's Founding Professor, 1812-1851)

In Times of Brokenness

'Behold I go forward but He is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive Him: On the left hand where He doth work, but I cannot behold Him: He hideth Himself on the right hand, that I cannot see Him: But He knoweth the way that I take: When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold. My foot has held his steps, His way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. But He is in one mind, and who can turn Him? and what His soul desires, even that He does. For he performs the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with Him...Because I was not cut off before the darkness, neither has he covered the darkness from my face.' (Job 23:8-17)

Decade of Decline!

On the 7th. and 14th. of December 1986, Frank Houston, founder of (AOG) Christian Life Centre, Waterloo, Sydney, (and the driving force behind the planting of Christian life Centres throughout NSW), preached two sermons on the errors of the Roman Catholic Gospel. These were titled '*Who is the Holy Father?*' and were meant to combat the many damning doctrines being espoused by the media as well as Protestant and Catholic leaders during the Pope's visit to Australia at that time.

He made clear, (sermon tapes on file at TA Ministries), his stance: '*I am talking tonight [7/12/86] about the system that I believe to be extremely wicked and anti-scriptural. I hope that people will get saved tonight as a result of this message*'. He then plainly says that he in no way is vilifying Roman Catholics, but only the system they are involved with. The error of the continual sacrifice of the Mass, the Pauline curse against such a Gospel, and the absence of salvation in Roman Catholic sacraments, are thoroughly and Biblically set out. The next week, continuing, he says, '*I am having a go at a wicked, pernicious system known as Roman Catholicism which is condemned in the Bible and has its origin back in heathenism, in the days of Nimrod. Babylonianism is the very root of Roman Catholicism. It is a system that has brought a tremendous amount of suffering and hurt to countless millions down through the centuries. A system that is spoken about in the Word of God*'. Space does not permit a full account of his exhaustive treatment of the Papacy. His hearers could have only come away with the informed opinion that the Vatican and all it stood for was Antichrist.

Just over a decade (of harvest?) later, the Assemblies of God in Australia have had a change of heart. Brian Houston, senior pastor of Hills Christian Life Centre, Sydney, (son of Frank, and now National Superintendent of the AOG in Australia), has endorsed the '*Share the Holy Spirit*' conference to be held in Sydney, September 30th. - October 5th., 1997. His co-endorsees include: Pope John Paul II, Nelson Mandela, Bishop Brian King (Anglican), Cardinal Edward Clancy (Catholic), Phil Pringle (Christian City Church), and Gordon Gibbs (Founder Pastor, Christian Life Centre, Penrith, NSW).

The speakers at this conference are listed, (eg. Dr. Tony Campolo, John and Paula Sandford, Guy Chevreau), and encompass Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, Lutheranism, and a field of selected sporting stars. Joseph Chircop (Roman Catholic) is the conference convenor and he says: '*The aim of these conferences is also to spiritually prepare ourselves for the 2000 Olympic Games, to make a local response to global evangelism as we approach the new millennium, as well as to break down barriers between peoples, (Gal.3:26). This year we have some famous sports people as well as having a more exciting youth programme. On behalf of my wife Julie, the leadership of the Servants of Jesus Community [ecumenical Roman Catholic], and the Catholic Charismatic renewal, I invite you to once again join us in our 1997 conference*'.

Many Assemblies of God pastors of my acquaintance who have closed a blind eye to, gone along with, or been thoroughly deceived by the 'Toronto Blessing', Rodney Howard-Browne, Benny Hinn, and finally Pensacola, have nevertheless, a sound Biblical approach to the 'gospel' of Rome. Although warned by many of their brethren of the ecumenical spirit behind these people and their movements, they have to date chosen not to take heed.

Now finally, many of them will be challenged face to face by the glaring fact that their leadership are fully prepared to identify their denomination with Roman Catholicism and join with this false religious system in world evangelism.

It is simply staggering that Brian Houston could align the Assemblies of God in Australia, and Hills Christian Life Centre, with an organisation that pronounces *anathema* on Christian beliefs such as Faith, Scripture, and Christ alone; and is responsible for the martyrdom of millions of fellow saints; and a system that argues for purgatory, Mary as co-redemptrix, conferred sainthood, and a salvation found only within her precincts! It can only be a profound ignorance of history and scripture that would allow this.

Long and truthfully has it been said that the bridge between Rome and true Christianity would be finally built using the shared and spurious Charismatic and Pentecostal experience. After all, if Roman Catholics speak in tongues, prophesy, and fall about laughing, God must approve of their doctrines too...right?

The glaring need for a recovery of the Biblical mindset has never been clearer or more urgent. Leadership is now being weighed, and is found wanting. Disaster looms just ahead. An enormous shift has taken place within the church and only repentance and a return to Biblical discernment will produce a church that God will use for revival and genuine conversions.

God's great and terrible judgement is upon all those that would lead His dear sheep toward Rome, and it is our fervent prayer that those in positions of authority within the individual assemblies demand an explanation and repudiation immediately.

Mike Claydon

Ecumenism

(The following extracts were taken from an article in the '*Australian Beacon*', 5/97)

'Adelaide churches are preparing for what could be the biggest Christian event since the Billy Graham rallies of the 1950's. Franklin Graham, the son of the famous evangelist, is to hold rallies...next year...which is expected to involve thousands of volunteers...[and] would demonstrate the unity of the church to the wider public. 'We want to rally people around the fact that we love the same God'...Training courses for volunteers will be held...Churches involved...include the Anglican, Catholic, Assemblies of God, Baptist, Lutheran and the Uniting churches.'

Our nation is already in the grip of apostasy and unbelief, which has been promoted not only by the ranks of liberalism, but also by the mass of evangelicals who appear to have lost their moorings. Evangelicals have capitulated on the question of whether or not Roman Catholics are Christians. This is highlighted by such 'evangelists' as Bill Newman and Billy Graham.

On April 5th this year a question was put to Bill Newman Crusades, 'Does Mr. Newman believe that the Roman Catholic church is Christian or pagan?' The answer from Gordon Lawson on behalf of the Bill Newman crusades (on April 11th) was 'Whilst you have requested answers to...you will appreciate our reluctance to do so'....Sadly we will find that Franklin Graham adopts the same attitude towards Rome...Included in the churches supporting the 1998 Franklin Graham meetings are Roman Catholic, Anglican, Uniting, Baptist, Assemblies of God and Lutheran!...Woe to anyone who dares to speak against it. The men and women who gave their lives in the history of the Christian church that we might have a Bible and clear Biblical teaching, such would be horrified at such trends today...all in the cause of 'love'. But the Bible reminds us that true love always tells the truth... 'What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness, and what communion hath light with darkness?...'(2Cor.6:14-16). The call is for separation.' (Australian Beacon, 5/97)

Responses to 'Mail-out' Conducted in May.

(This mail-out consisted of an open letter and papers on the 'Toronto Blessing'; (see 'Diakrisis' 9/96), the 'Word Faith' (see 3/97) and Benny Hinn, (see 4/97). These papers were included in the above newsletters and are available from TA Ministries.

Dear Arnold, Bless you in Jesus Name. Be encouraged. Keep on keeping on.. The cost is always high. Our Lord paid the highest price. We also must pay the price to see men's souls set free. There is only one way to see men free. Jesus said 'You shall know the TRUTH and the TRUTH shall set you free'. (Lk.14:27-33). Be encouraged for great is our reward in Heaven, not so much down here, although he will never leave us or forsake us. Luv Ya! (AOG pastor, SE Qld.)

Dear Terry, [our] Church supports the ministries and men that you have criticized and attacked in your letter to us. I still find it very hard to understand why Christian brothers need to undermine and devour each other, for whatever reason.

It is times like this, that the community around us must shake their heads with disappointment. Who would want to be a part of a Christian community who cannot learn to love and accept one another?

Please do not send any more literature or correspondence of any sort to our address. Thankyou. God bless you. (AOG Pastor, Vict.)

Editors reply: I received your letter dated 8 /5/97. I could not help but to comment. If you support the men and their ministries as you have stated, then do you not support some error? Also, we see ourselves not as criticising and attacking, as you have put it, but rather defending, (Jude 3).

When you 'find it hard to understand why Christians brothers need to undermine and devour each other, for whatever reason', we too find it hard to understand why Christian brothers support error and false teaching and why they do not purge the leaven out (1Cor.5:6-8), and defend the faith.

Yes, many in the community 'shake their heads with disappointment' when we see churches like yourselves supporting error and accepting 'leaven' into the lump of truth. This is not a matter of just 'love and accept one another' as you have put it. This is a matter of truth and error!

You are not on our mailing list and we will not send you any more literature as this was a once only exercise in an attempt to defend truth and show you facts which you have not yet refuted in any way. If we are in error in any of our facts please show us. God bless you.

'And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove (expose) them', (Eph.5:11)

**Grace: Getting what we don't deserve.
Mercy: Not getting what we do deserve.**

Can You Help?

We have two urgent needs in this ministry: 1. Each month we send out an increasing amount of free literature, tracts, and books, to the unsaved or to those in cultish or false teaching. We have seen some fruit from this. We need people who will help financially support this work by pledging an amount each month. 2. We have many requests for more information and teaching to be put in the newsletter 'diakrisis'. We would like to add another A3 sheet, (an extra 4 pages). We have much recent valuable material that we cannot find space to print. Again, we need people who will help financially support per month. Contact Terry.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Bro. Terry,..I was interested re. the mention of Finney. I've heard him criticised by only one other source, and I didn't really understand why. I can see your reasoning and that some of his contribution to Christianity has not been good. This is a shame. I guess he has done a lot of good, though? (A.C. Sth. Aust.)

Editors Comments: While Finney is cited as introducing some extra-Biblical practices and excessive or unorthodox doctrines, he was a fine preacher of the law and was skilful at using this to see conviction in the hearts of many believers.

Dear Terry, once again bless you and 'Diakrisis' in your newsletters and attempts to get the body of Christ back on track! Many years ago I was involved in the 'Faith movement' and still have the Kenneth Copeland tapes under the house. I don't know what to do with them (apart from use them to tape over) - you are very welcome to have them if you need to listen to what is actually being taught in order to correct these false concepts. Don't waste money in buying them. I practically have them all. Yours in Christ Jesus, (E.W. Gordon, NSW)

Dear Terry, Thankyou very much for your assistance in this work, ['Community Notice' handouts May/97]. I really pray that we can prevent some folk becoming victims of the watchtower Society. I really feel the Lord is moving on this as it has been amazing just how many doors have been opened up to us since we started to distribute the leaflet locally. May the Lord continue to bless your work also. In His name, (Ray Beharrell, 'Free in Christ ministries', Kingswood, NSW.)

Dear Terry,...Please find donation enclosed for your ministry. We look forward to your newsletters and appreciate them here in Sydney. Keep up the good work. Your sister in the Lord Jesus Christ, Psalm 91. (S.B., Sydney)

Dear Terry, Just a little note to thank you very much for your very helpful article on 'separation and sectarianism'. It is so easy these days to feel boxed into a corner. I have been reading a very interesting book 'Spurgeon vs. Hyper Calvinism', (Ian Murray, Banner of Truth). One of the crafty strategies the enemy uses is to take a truth and then polarise it and blow it out of all proportion so it becomes offensive. In a way one can see this actually happening today...Once again thankyou for your very informative and encouraging newsletter, (E.W. Gordon, NSW)

Praise Points

- Praise God! We have recently had several reports of people coming out of Catholicism and false teaching, as a result of this newsletter and other books & articles distributed.

Prayer Points

- Please pray for our two needs below and for wisdom in how best to fulfil the needs. Pray for souls to be set free.

Subscription Form

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