



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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PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld,
Australia, 4655 Ph. 018183093
Fax (07)41240915

Website:<http://www.cyberalink.com.au/>
tam Email: tam@cyberalink.com.au
TA Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational faith ministry, teaching, informing and equipping the church.

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

Advisory Panel:

Ps. Steve Sauvageot (Assoc. Pastor, C.B.A., M.Ed., M.A.)

Ps. Bruce Murray (Senior Pastor; Dip. Min.)

Ps. Buddy Smith (Senior Pastor, Former Bible College principal)

Mike Claydon (Christian Welfare Worker)

Ps. Ian Davidson (Senior Pastor, Dip. Min.)

Ps. Keith Piper (Senior Pastor, Author)

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Guest Editors Comments by Mike Claydon

It has been, and always will be, the desire of this ministry to inform our supporters of the rapid rise and growth of the prophesied one world syncretic religion, and the very necessary deception of our leaders to allow this to occur.

This can, absorbed in isolation, lead to spiritual depression. It must not be taken without heavy dilution! That dilutive substance is none other than the Word of God. Too many today are addictive to discovering apostasy and deceit within Christendom without taking the time to learn that it *must* and *will* happen as God foreplanned.

Information regarding the world spiritual scene at present can only be absorbed safely when one realises with joy, praise and yes - some sadness, the nearness of our Lord's return and our being with Him forever! That event *cannot* take place before the great apostasy engulfs the visible 'church', (2Thess.2:3).

An example is 'Funday '98', a combined churches' community festival held on Anzac Day 1998 by 'The Forest Churches' (Frenchs Forest NSW), who at the Frenchs Forest Showground, 'with one accord' presented: thong throwing, water balloon catching, sack races, plaster pastor, reptile display, and clowns. Bands performing were *BLEET*, *Journey of the Space Cow* and *Cash Addicts*. A prayer (to whom one may ask?) tent was available, and the day culminated in an 'Anzac Sunset Service'. Attendees are cautioned: '*it would be an appropriate conclusion for the day for all to pause and remember*'.

A sampling of the 'Forests Churches', (labelled 'Christian' in their brochure), confirms our worst fears: Forest Alliance, Frenchs Forest Baptist, St. Andrews Presbyterian, on and on it goes, Anglican, Church of Christ, Christian City Church, Christian Life Centre, and Community Bible Fellowship*. Their co-presentators of this 'unity' are Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic (Father Frank Meck), St. Anthony In the Fields Catholic (Father Tom McDonough,) and St. Martin de Porres Catholic (Father David Taylor). Times for each church meetings are listed as are the Mass times for the Roman Catholic. The headline banner over this reads: '*We extend to you a warm welcome, come and join us to learn about Jesus*'.

An explanation of this appalling apostasy is unnecessary. Why do these leaders stand in 'union' with a religion that has pronounced a curse upon them and their Gospel of Faith alone? - Because they have been seduced by Rome and are now fully active in helping to bring to maturity the world religion of Antichrist. Even Buddhists, Hindus and Moslems have more gentleness with Christians than does Rome.

To these men, bold enough to have their names printed on this literature, the Reformation and the resulting loss of Christian life was all a terrible mistake!

Put this situation alongside 2Thessalonians 2:3 and you have the fulfilment in our day. But put it alongside Scripture we must if we are to preserve our spiritual sanity and balance.

We do not highlight these events in an effort to stop them. No, they are an appointed thing, a matter of certainty if God's Word is truth. In this our spirits must rest - in joy and eager anticipation! We must warn, and separate from those who will not listen. **Mike Claydon**

* Ministers names here have been deleted at editors discretion.

'...The greatest obstruction to reaching nearly one billion lost Catholics is an Evangelical Church uninformed or misinformed about the false Gospel of Catholicism...' (T. McMahan, *The Berean Call*, Dec.1997)

AD 2000 Missions Conference

On May 27-29, 1998, the AD 2000 Missions Conference was held at the Canberra Exhibition Centre. The brochure was entitled '*Completing the Task*'. The speakers ranged from Psychologists to Protestant to Catholic. Assemblies of God Churches were represented by Missions Director, George Forbes, and pastor Tim Edwards. A list of supporters and '*networks*' represented included the '*Catholic Charismatic Network*'. The brochure stated: '*We hope they*[Catholic Charismatic Network] *will run a seminar on Catholic-Protestant reconciliation*'. The conference included an '*all night youth concert*' (8pm - 6am) run by Youth Alive (AOG). The brochure also included remarks from various Catholic, Anglican, Baptist (Union), Salvation Army and Assemblies of God ministers. The above is all part of elaborate plans being made to celebrate the year 2000 and to reach every people group in the world by that year with the help of an ecumenical unity.

Many people involved in the AD 2000 seem oblivious to the fact that the world is not getting better, contrary to the false reports of 'revival' around the world. The statistics prove a falling away, exactly as the Bible warns: '**Let no man deceive you by any means for that day shall not come unless there come a falling away first...**', (2Thess.2:3). '**By any means**' includes false revivals, signs and wonders, and mans ecumenical endeavours. Meanwhile, the crime rate in western countries is soaring. Prisons are overflowing. In Britain in 1930, during the great depression, there were 213 robberies; in 1996 there were 73,000. Britain has seen a 600% rise in marriage breakdown since 1961. The same figures are evident in USA and Australia. World events may well be climaxing towards the end of this century. Syria is now arming itself with modern warfare at an alarming rate. Israel is on alert as Russia supplies Syria with MIG jets and missiles with chemical and biological warheads. The Arabs are losing patience with their attempts to have Jerusalem handed over to them. Most observers say war is imminent unless a miracle peace agreement comes soon. The Arab states in fact will not recognise Israel. The word 'Israel' does not occur on their maps - they call it '*Palestine and vicinity*'. The only thing that unites all Arab nations is the destruction of Israel. One by one other countries are pulling away from supporting Israel. Even USA may be distancing itself and seemingly has less of a controlling force.

Every time we go to church on the weekend there will be one million more lost people than the week before! The world is in fact reverting to heathenism 30 times faster than it is being evangelised! (The good news is that there are 100,000 estimated souls being saved every day). However, Hinduism and Buddhism are the two fastest growing religions in Australia, followed closely by Oriental Christian churches. In the UK Islam is the fastest growing religion, while the Christian church declines rapidly, despite them having been greatly impacted by the now failing 'Toronto Blessing' for several years. These are *facts* that prove there is a 'falling away' as predicted. It is arguable that the last two years of this century will see an increase in the already many false christs and false prophets with their false prophecies and teachings.

AD 2000 may have some good motives in reaching lost people groups. However, the so called 'unity' they are generating is in fact helping to build Satan's one world church via the ecumenical movement. Never are we told to make unity, but rather to '**keep the unity of the spirit,**' (Eph.4:3). We already have unity! All those who are indwelt with the Holy Spirit are in union with Christ and with one another. Unity without truth is a false unity. The AD 2000 is a conglomeration of mixtures including false religion. God hates mixtures! He never allowed Israel to mix with other false religions without the result being judgement and calamity. The New Testament is no different. God will not tolerate '*leaven*' in His lump of truth!

Many churches involved in this current wave of ecumenical apostasy are using the scripture in John 17:21,22: '**That they all may be one...that they may be one even as we are.**' However the scripture quoted above is too often misquoted! I have yet to see the people who falsely use this scripture use it in context. The full context is: '**They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth. Thy Word is truth...that they also might be sanctified through the truth...for them also which shall believe on me through their word. That they all may be one...**', (Jn.17:16-21). This scripture speaks of *separation* ('sanctify') through the Word of God. It is the *truth of the Word* that makes us as one.

I am all for unity and I have good fellowship with pastors and church people of various affiliations who have basic sound doctrine. However, unity without truth is treason and is not scriptural. Unity has a boundary - that boundary is truth. You cannot have true unity without truth, or else you have deception. Today's churches involved in the false ecumenism are often worldly, accepting of false teaching and teachers, and have a love but without truth. Jesus said to have unity '**even as we are one**'. Jesus and the Father had no worldliness in them, nor untruth or deception, and no compromise. They may have had different works and different functions but they both had the same truth.

AD 2000 unashamedly accepts Roman Catholicism and its leaders as Christian, despite Catholicism being a '**different Gospel**' to the one that they supposedly espouse. The two Gospels are diametrically opposed on how a man must be saved! For example, the Catholic Church damns to Hell ('*anathema*') those who say that God imputes His righteousness to our account by faith alone without works. This was one of the pillars of the reformation! Instead they add sacraments and works to the salvation Gospel, including the blasphemy of the Mass where Jesus is sacrificed again, contrary to Hebrews Chapter 9 and 10. Where is the unity in truth? We are commanded to avoid those that have false doctrine, (Rom.26:17). We are told to '**come out from among them**', (2Cor.6:14-18), and to have '**no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them**', (Eph.5:11). AD 2000 has *leaven* in the lump of truth and it must be *purged out*. The call is for separation and holiness and to call what is clean clean and what is unclean unclean! Terry Arnold

Death At Church

'One of Melbournes leading Uniting Church ministers collapsed and died...during a service to mark the beginning of the Masonic year. The reverend Kevin Green, AM, retiring superintendent of Melbournes Wesley Mission, had just welcomed about 350 Freemasons to Melbournes city's Wesley Uniting Church. Mr. Green, 57, returned to his seat after addressing the congregation, stood momentarily, then fell to the floor.' (STGW, 4/98)

Other Churches and Pensacola

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Pensacola has stated that the Pensacola 'revival' has not affected or impacted his church. Although people from his church had been to the revival they remained in the Catholic Church. Other church leaders in the area have either not been affected or are opposed to the movement. Statistics are showing that most of the people who come to Brownsville are from out of town.

On Healing

(The following article is taken from 'An Alphabetical Analysis' concerning certain topics (here healing) in the Bible.)

'It is not enough to claim that certain undiagnosed diseases have been 'cured' while the sufferer was in a highly emotional condition which so often characterises 'healing campaigns' today. Such cases of 'healing' should be sent to the local doctor for a certificate even as Christ sent the leper to the priest. My youngest sister and her husband worked for fifteen years among the lepers of India. Never, throughout that period did a 'Pentecostalist' venture to demonstrate the reality of his claim to share in the commission of Matthew, and so far as we have knowledge no healing campaign has ever been organised by Pentecostalists among lepers. We ask 'why'? And the answer is evident...the raising of the dead is also included in these gifts, but there is no accredited instance where such a power has been possessed or exercised.'

Editors note: While I believe that God can heal whoever He wills to, I have investigated many claims of healing over the years only to come to at least one conclusion. I have not found one single person who has the gift of healing as in the days of Jesus and the apostles. I have issued this challenge to many - to show me a person who has this gift. In the Gospel of Matthew alone it is clear that Jesus healed 'all', (Matt. 23:24; 8:16; 10:1,8; 12:15; 14:36; etc.), and 'every sickness' that came to him were *immediately* and *completely* healed, (12:13; 20:34;). Jesus healed 'all' whether they had faith or not! Today's 'faith healers' in my opinion are imposters in comparison to Jesus and the apostles. The many 'healers' of today (such as Benny Hinn, Cerrullo, etc.) have repeatedly been exposed and challenged to show one authentic case of healing of an organic disease and they have failed every time. Yet signs and wonders continue to be marketed daily. Catholic churches are now getting into the act. A Sydney Catholic Church had the following notice at their church advertising signs and wonders: '*Revival' - Signs and Wonders Service - International evangelist - Martin Morelli... 'The kingdom of God is not in Word but in the power of God in your life.' Jesus can heal all manner of diseases including deafness, deformities, blindness, cancer, MS, arthritis...enquiries to Sister Maria'*

I simply do not find people today who have the true gift of healing as it was manifested in the first century. Jesus never failed in the area of miraculous healing. This is not to say that God cannot move sovereignly in the area of healing but if one studies the use of this gift and the results in the Gospels, there is no escaping the fact that what is called the gift of healing today does not stack up with the true gift as in the persons of Jesus and the apostles.

Rodney Howard-Browne

On May 12-15 1998, Rodney Howard-Browne held a conference in Melbourne billed as a '*Holy Spirit Encounter That Will Change You Forever!*' In the brochure Brian Houston, National Superintendent of the Australian Assemblies of God, writes of the '*power of renewed thinking*'...'*The dream that God has given you will never seem right to a 'reasonable man'. 'Reasoning is limited to our finiteness. It inevitably falls short of God-given potential. Dare to stretch yourself beyond the boundaries and inhibitions of reason and believe to accomplish something quite beyond reason...words have a dynamic and creative power. Few people realise the power behind their words. If a dreamer is to see their vision become reality they have to be committed to speaking words of life..In God's plans the end is always better than the beginning'*

Editors Comments: How long will the followers of this man and those in AOG put up with such New Age, metaphysical and non-Biblical rubbish! Anyone who knows and has studied Word-Faith teaching will see this as classic Word-Faith and positive thinking heresy, of which the AOG Church warned their people against only some years before.

When I was born of the spirit of God and became a new creature in Christ I already had '*renewed thinking*', if we should call it that. Why denounce the ability to 'reason'? Did not the Bereans reason and examine the scriptures, (Acts 17:11)? Are we not already to have '*the mind of Christ*'.

Words have no power in themselves as is taught by Word-faith teachers such as Houston.

Since when in God's plan is the end always better than the beginning? The Old Testament and God's treatment of Israel should put the axe to this kind of teaching. The New Testament continually warns of a '*falling away*' and great deception with many false christs, false prophets and teachers coming with *lying signs and wonders*, (2Thess. 2:9-11). The word for '*Christ*' means the '*anointed one*'. Many today are supposed to be specially 'anointed'. These may well be *false Christs* ('anointed ones')! Be warned, our video and research evidence shows Rodney Howard-Browne is dealing in false spirits, false teachings, false prophecies and is dangerous. Leaders who condone this man do so at their own peril.

Healing Claims

Benny Hinn, Steve Hill and Kilpatrick (Pensacola), Morris Cerullo, Reinhard Bonnke and the late John Wimber have all been challenged to produce one single authentic and documented case of an organic healing. None have been verified as miraculous. In England a Dr. May, a Christian who does believe that God heals, challenged Morris Cerullo to produce one case of healing. Dr. May who spoke at a gathering in 1992 to over forty doctors stressed that '*the healings of Jesus were miraculous in as much as they were instantaneous, complete healings of incurable disease...those cases [today] which appear to be instant can be explained and mostly belong to the realm of the psychosomatic...Jesus healings were immediately effective...He needed no 'work up' and used no techniques of relaxation or states of altered consciousness...**

With great difficulty Dr. May eventually received cases from Cerullo. On examination there was nothing to substantiate the claims. Cerullo has recently been expelled from India because the people saw that he was unable to do what he claimed to do.

Dr. May also cited Jennifer Rees Larcombe whose best selling book and video make extravagant claims not borne out by her medical case notes.

Many have died because of false healing claims to do with Benny Hinn, Cerullo and others. Many stop taking pills for a life threatening situation, believing they are healed by 'Word of Faith' teaching espoused by popular TV evangelists today, only to die soon after. ** Leigh Samuel in his book, '*Time to Wake Up - Evangelical Fantasy vs Biblical Reality*', cites one sufferer, Dick, who was told he was 'healed', so he set out to climb his favourite mountain. A few hundred yards up he had a haemorrhage and barely escaped with his life. **Terry Arnold** *'*Reformation Today*' March/April, 1993

** The '*Signs and Wonders - Exposed*' videos (Parts 1&2) document the devastation caused by Benny Hinn and others.

Billy Graham

- In 1948 Graham said, '***The three gravest menaces faced by orthodox Christianity are Communism, Roman Catholicism and Mohammedanism***'.
- 1963: '***I admire Pope John tremendously...I felt he brought a new era to the world***' (*Chicago Tribune*, 8/6/63; *Michigan City News [Christian] Dispatch*; 6/8/63)
- 1967: Billy Graham was awarded an honorary degree by Catholic Belmont Abbey College. Graham told a predominantly Catholic audience: '***Now we can speak to one another, work with one another and be brothers to one another...That gospel that founded this [Catholic] school, that gospel has brought me here tonight is still the way of salvation***'. (*Gastonia Gazette*, 22/11/67; '*Evangelical Action*', 1/2/68)
- 1968: '***I believe there is a great deal to learn from other religions in the Far East, especially from Buddhism***'. (Graham, Japanese Press Conference; *Christian Beacon*, 1/2/68)
- 1972: On April 21st, Graham received the Franciscan (Catholic) International Award for Ecumenism.
- 1973: In the *Key 73* Crusade, Graham recommended Roman Catholic literature, including a biography of Pope John Paul VI, which contained many pages of devotion to Mary, saint worship, the Mass and salvation through sacraments, etc. Graham advertised this book as '***a classic devotion***'. (*Key '73: Congregational Resource Book; The Gospel Standard*, 2/86; Brown, '*Billy Graham: Custodian of the faith or figure of compromise?*' P.14)
- 1977: '***We have received wondrous support from the Catholic Church.***' (*Christianity Today*, 30/12/77)
- 1978: October - Graham preached in Poland at Pozan's Catholic Church. He prayed that '***The Holy Spirit would unite the hearts of the Roman Catholics and Protestants***'.
- 1978: '***I praise the greatness of the present Pope Paul the sixth***'. (Poland, 1978)
- 1978: '***I am far more tolerant of other kinds of Christians than I once was. My contact with Catholics, Lutheran and other leaders...has helped me, hopefully, to move in the right direction. I found that my beliefs are essentially the same as those of orthodox Catholics. We only differ on some matters of later church tradition.***' (*McCalls Magazine* - interview, 1978; *The Baptist Challenge*, 1/95)
- 1979: '***The visit of Pope John Paul II to the United States is an event of great significance...for all Americans - as well as the world...A new interest in spiritual matters could be the beginning of a new wave of spiritual revival in our nation...The Pope's visit comes at a critical time in our world...My prayers and the prayers of countless other Protestants will be with him as he makes his journey***'. (Billy Graham, *Religious News Service*, 27/9/79 - made available by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association)
- 1979: Billy Graham appeared on the Phil Donahue live show and said of the Pope: '***I think the American people are looking for a leader, a moral and spiritual leader that believes something. And the Pope does...Thank God, I've got somebody to quote now with some real authority.***' (*Phil Donahue Show*, 10/11/79)
- 1980: '***Pope John Paul the second is one of the greatest moral and spiritual leaders of this century. He is an evangelist. He has sought to speak to the spiritual hunger of our age in the same way Christians throughout the centuries have spoken to the spiritual yearning of every age!***' (Written by Graham in the *Saturday Evening Post*, Jan/Feb., 1980)
- 1988: '***World travel and getting to know the clergy of all denominations has helped mould me into an ecumenical being***'. (*US News and World Report*, 19/12/88)
- 1993: '***That's why its so important for us to have prayer groups and prayer meetings, and join hands together, whether we're Protestants, Catholics, or Jews, and pray, because we're praying to the same God***'. (Jan. 1993 interview with David Frost)
- 1993: '***I'm delighted the Pope is coming [to Denver]...I admire the Pope even though I don't agree with him on everything...***' (Graham, 7/12/93 interview by Joan Lunden, ABC - TV, '*Good Morning America*'; More fully documented in *Christian News*, 9/6/93; *Australian Beacon*, 10/93, P.8; *Calvary Contender*, 1/10/93)
- In 1948 Graham commented about the World Council of Churches meeting: '***I believe they are going to nominate the antichrist***'. Yet since 1968 he has attended all WCC assemblies!
- 1972: Graham said, '***There is a great need for an ecumenical Christian body much broader in scope than either the World Council of Churches or the National Council of Churches***'. (FEA Nov, 1972) A 1966 poll showed that Less than one quarter of the NCC leaders believe in the virgin birth and many do not believe in the deity of Christ. The NCC is also pro-abortion and pro-homosexuality. More than 100 of its leaders have been cited for aiding communists organisations. (Report documented by Darrell Turner, *RNS Associate Editor*, 17/8/91)
- 1991: At a National Council of Churches (NCC) meeting on 27/8/91 Graham praised the group as follows: '***There's no group of people in the world that I would rather be with right now than you all...we follow with great interest the things you do...And I love everybody equally and I have no problem in fellowship with anybody who says that Jesus Christ is Lord***'. (*Foundation*, June/August, 1991, P.34)
- Preaching in Episcopal Bishop James Pike's Cathedral, at a Council of Churches meeting, Graham prayed for the '***success of the current assembly of National Council of Churches***'. (This same Bishop Pike denied the virgin birth, the incarnation, the Trinity, claimed ghostly contacts with his suicide son and was unofficially charged with heresy. In the San Francisco Crusade Graham had Pike on the platform and asked him to lead in prayer.)
- '***Astrology is all right as long as it is not taken too seriously***'. (Graham in response to a question about Nancy Reagan's association with astrology, BBC Radio '*Sunday*')
- '***I believe that a miracle can happen in these children so that they are regenerated, that is, made Christian, through infant baptism. If you want to call that Baptismal Regeneration, that's all right with me***'. (Graham, '*Lutheran Standard*' 10/10/61; Cited fully by John R. Rice in '*Dr. Graham's Daring: Facing Both Ways At Once!*', P.3)
- 1993: '***When it comes to a literal fire, I don't preach it because I'm not sure about it***'. (Graham, *Time Magazine*, 15/11/93)
- 1997: When asked the question: '*What do you think of the other [churches]...like Mormonism, Catholicism...*' Graham replied: '***I have wonderful fellowship with all of them...I like him [the Pope] very much...he and I agree on almost everything.***' (*Larry King - Live show* (video evidence available) 21/1/97).

Some Thoughts On Music

Music is a language of its own in that it speaks to the soul and has a definite and traceable effect on the spirit and the body. Sound affects the entire body including every nerve cell. Natural sound or sound from natural instruments *cannot* hurt the ears, yet when mechanical or electronic sound is turned up it can seriously or permanently damage the ears. Music affects children emotionally, intellectually, and in the psychomotor areas. Music can affect babies even *before* birth. When classical music is played in maternity wards it keeps the babies quiet. Yet the same babies will not settle to pop, jazz or rock music. Certain styles of music have also been proven to help children to be 'smarter'.

Music is the language of the emotions. Experts believe that music does not have to go through the brain to touch the heart and that music is largely (up to 95%) *innate* within us. Music is communication and as Christians the music we have and how we use it is surely our expression of our communication with God. The Bible says to **'take heed what ye hear'**, (Mk.4:24) and to **'take heed how ye hear'**, (Lk.8:18).

Is music *'amoral'*? The dictionary meaning of the word *'amoral'* is: *'without a sense of moral responsibility'*. It is interesting that this word was only invented *this century*, and especially with the arrival of the term *'contemporary Christian music'*! All the music experts that I know of do not say that music is *'amoral'*. Is music really neutral?...Is speech neutral? In speech we have the alphabet and the individual letters are neutral but combine them into letters and can they not take on a moral quality? Lines and circles are also neutral, but combine them and you have *'art'*! Can we really separate the *medium* from the *message* in music? The fact is that music can range from philosophical to orgiastic! It has power for evil or for good!

Is God musical? Perhaps He is if we consider that music was in Heaven before man. Does God really care what kind of music we use? Perhaps we need to look carefully at our Christian music and spiritually discern (judge), lest we forget Isaiah 5:20: **'Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet...'**

How powerful is music and what effect does it have on our Christian walk and the presentation of the Gospel? One professor of social thought in Chicago says, *'TV compared to music plays a comparatively small role in the formation of character and taste...Rock music has one appeal only, a barbaric appeal to sexual desires'*. This statement comes from an *unsaved* man! As with so many false things within the church today, the secular experts have to tell many in the church the truth! Another secular writer says: *'The concept that music affects character was the one great inspiring force behind the lives of the great composers'*. Aristotle said: *'If one listens to the wrong kind of music he will become the wrong kind of person. If he listens to the right kind of music he will tend to become the right kind of person'*. Arguably there is some truth in this statement. Yet, why is it that many of today's Christian musicians and church leaders cannot see nor understand the powerful effect music has on Christians?

Music reflects a philosophy. When songs were being sung about free love and sex, we had free love and sex in society. Today we have songs that encourage suicide and suicide is at an all time high, particularly amongst teenagers. Many suicides have been *directly* linked to the music the victims have listened to. So too New Age music reflects a mindset: it has what some call *'ambient sound'*: short repeated patterns, a lack of variety and form, little melody and no rules. New Age magazines write: *'for the purposes of occult dominion, minds must be rendered passive.'* Another example is varieties of disco music. This music attracts the homosexual element. Nth Africa had the strongest church in the world in the first three centuries but they turned to heathenism which was reflected in their music with its excessive rhythm and beat. In short, musical styles reflect a school of thought.

In church I am convinced that worldly music breaks down separation between us and the world. Music reflects our view or our philosophy and therefore *reflects our view of God*. Christian rock is Christian lyrics (at best), mixed with *rebellious* music. Rock music is steeped and rooted in rebellion and drugs, sex, and rock-'n'-roll. I do not have to prove this - the secular artists, the media, and the world admits it! The underlining premise is: you cannot escape the *way* something is said!

Some Christians may say that the quality of any Christian music and the judgement thereof is *subjective*. What about the drunk who says he is sober and then passes out soon after. Yes, the judgement is subjective but the condition is not! We live in an age when it is a crime to believe in absolutes. The Bible offends so many because it is full of absolutes! The fact is that there is such a thing as *good and bad music*.

An orchestra may have 100 musicians with only 3 or 4 rhythm instruments, (1-2%). However, Christian rock music and much of today's contemporary music is more than 75% rhythm! Contemporary world star, Paul Simon says *'Rock is rhythm'*.

We are *tripartate beings* made up of a spirit (Matt.6:33), soul (mental - mind, will, emotions, 2Cor.10:5), and body (Rom.13:14), as *one being*. We should be careful to put these in their spiritual order of priorities: spirit, then soul, then body. Music is made up of three sections making one: melody, harmony and rhythm. The spirit is affected by the melody, the soul by the harmony and the body by the rhythm.

Whatever appeals to the flesh opens the door for *more* flesh. Ephesians 5:18 says we are not to be in the flesh wherein there is excess but that we are to be filled with the spirit. This scripture is showing a definite contrast between the flesh and the spirit. The word *'filled'* denotes a *control of* - that we are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit which is already in us. Interestingly the verses following speak about music, (***'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs'***)! The word for melody is *'psallontes'* which literally means *'psalming'*. *Melody is the character of Christian music and is the vital ingredient. Good music is always made up of melody as an integral part, rather than rhythm or beat.* To psalm means *'to play a string instrument with the fingers'*, (Vines Dictionary). Psalms are words of Scripture set to music. Hymns are singing praise to God. Spiritual songs are songs of testimony - stories of what God has done.

Much of today's music also has a *'slurring pitch'* such as in Jazz music. Jazz musicians admit that Jazz *'knows no absolutes'* and admit that jazz has no place in worship. The slurred pitch can also be seen in *breathy* or *intimate* sounds. It often violates the *'acoustical zone'*, (similar to a *personal zone* we have if someone gets too close). Proverbs 5:3 says that the ***'Lips of a [sensual] woman drop...'*** This sound is increasingly seen in contemporary Christian music and is often an exact replica of its worldly counterpart. Several top Christian singers are knowingly or unknowingly copying the world's style in music. Indeed many of these stars are now highly rated in the music charts of the world and being signed by secular record companies.

'Torch singing' is another style that is seen in nightclubs. This is the use of voice inflection to transmit provocative thoughts.

Many believe the popular Christian singer Amy Grant has increasingly become more worldly in her style of singing, particularly with the way she uses voice inflection. It has been shown that voice inflection can transmit sexy thoughts. A rock magazine stated: '*Some female vocalists invite sexy thoughts because of voice inflection...vulgar lyrics supported by provocative sound results in music pornography*'.*

Another encroachment into the church is '*Crossover songs*' - using the world's tunes and setting them to Christian lyrics. One Christian advert for this music boasted: '*This sounds as hot as the secular counterparts*'. Much of Christian music today in fact starts with the secular.

Most popular secular music today is very much rhythm and has a profound effect on the body. Enthusiasts of contemporary Christian music and Christian Rock sometimes cite the Old Testament scripture where David led the people in a dance. A close examination of the passage should warn any against taking too much out of this scripture. David simply beat time with his feet! This was not a sensual dance! The music of that day was not sensual like much of today's contemporary music! If it were, then David would have defied the boundaries of the lusts of the flesh. The fact is that rhythm affects the body immediately. This is not to say we should have no beat in music for there needs to be *some* pulse or the music is dead. However, such events as Christian rock concerts step way over the boundaries of the use of *some* beat. Preaching the Gospel through this medium is not effective. It has been said that the bait you catch them with is the food you have to continue to feed them with. *Time Magazine* writing of some contemporary Christian music stated: '*New lyrics for the devils music*'... '*the sound of a swarm of angry insects amplified several thousand times*'. Why should it be that the world can see and admit to the dangers of our contemporary music or our 'Christian Rock', yet the church slumbers on with very few voices being raised against such evils? Jesus said: '**The children of this world are in this generation wiser than the children of light**', (Lk.16:8).

In one Christian Rock concert in the USA where the Gospel was preached, follow up at a later date showed not one person to be committed to their original decision for Christ. Similarly, I have personally before written of similar results where the Gospel has been polluted in some way. It very often becomes '**another gospel**' and '**another Jesus**' and many can receive '**another spirit**', (2Cor.11:4; Gal.1:6,8,9). Today, we have youth organisations such as *Youth Alive* (AOG) openly using Christian Rock music and even secular bands as a means to bring the Gospel to youth. The results of this are a huge 'backsliding rate' and 'carnal Christians' of whom many should question if they are Christian at all. The problem with this music is that it is a mixture of a beat that has come out of the world and its roots of rebellion, drugs, sex, and rock-'n'-roll, are unquestionably rotten! Can we 'Christianise' this with (debatable) Christian lyrics? God hates mixtures! He never approves of '**leaven**' (symbol of error) in His lump of truth. It must be '**purged out**', (Matt.16:17; 6-12). The term 'Christian Rock' is a misnomer since something that contains evil cannot be Christian. Rat poison is 99.995% nutritious but .005% poison. Truth plus error is poison!

I am not here advocating 'dead' music or only old hymns sung with little life. If the music is dead, young people will unfortunately add their own 'artificial' life. I have no problems with lively choruses and a variety of musical instruments. Many churches could well learn from some aspects of so called 'Charismatic' worship. However, the beat must be controlled and minimised in comparison to the melody and the harmony. Songs should not be repeated over and over so as to introduce the hypnotic element so prevalent in many churches today. (Rhythm can be a useful tool for hypnotic induction). The lyrics should be Christ centred, doctrinally sound, and meaningful enough to cause people to think about who the Lord is and what He has done for us. The music and the words should glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. In my opinion, these things alone should make Christian music *different* to the world's music. The problem with contemporary and Christian Rock music is that the world has come into the church to take the church into the world - this ought not to be. It has been said that music is the last leap into the world.

The devil perverts the Gospel, adds to it, and therefore detracts from it. The word 'music' comes from 'muse' - to think. The word 'amusement' comes from 'amuse' - *not* to think! Secular writer, Neil Postman says: '*When it is delivered as easy and amusing it is a different kind of religion altogether*'.

Music used in worship should make us think and thus affect the spirit rather than appeal directly to the flesh. Worship is always vertical to God, not horizontal for the benefit of man. Music such as in '*Jesus Christ Superstar*' and '*Godspell*' appeal to people of the world and are counterfeits. The person who wrote '*Godspell*' himself in fact said it was blasphemy.

Romans 12:1-2 says the first thing to give to God is the *body*. If He has the body He has you. The second thing is the mind, which is the battlefield of the Christian. In 1 Samuel 16:14 an evil spirit affected King Saul with depression. In verse 23 David refreshed Saul with music and the evil spirit departed. One of the best ways to cure depression is to praise God and music can be a help, (Ps.104:33,34; Zeph.3:17; Ps.40:3). Music affects spiritual lives. Good music refreshes the body but bad music adversely affects the muscles and the nerve cells. At least 50% of rock music is '*stopped anapectic beat*' - i.e. *opposite* to the heart beat. *This is proven to be damaging emotionally and physically*. It actually destroys muscle strength. Added to this if the music is loud it will damage ears. Volume decibel levels are as follows: Speech 70, traffic 90, jet engine 120, and rock concert 130. Above 100 and we enter near the dangerous zone.

Music affects the mind. Music is controlled by one part of the mind. Bad music causes changes in the brain and can reverse desires and cause rebellious attitudes. Added to this, subliminal messages introduced above normal sound levels or by backmasking can control minds. One *Newsweek* article included an article: '*Stop Pornographic Rock*'. It seems that the world is well aware of the dangers of bad music.

When we come to Christ we do not adapt our old music and 'Christianise' it. We replace the old with the new, (2Cor.5:17; Eph.4:22-24). Whether we listen to secular music or Christian music it needs to be good music. Certain kinds of classical music are healthy, (e.g. '*Light Classical Gold*' - Readers Digest) as are Christian productions such as '*Beside Still Waters*' - (includes Pan flutes etc.). Other Christian Music companies (e.g. 'Majesty Music') provide good music in both hymns and choruses. I have personally found that a careful selection**of some choruses from '*Mission Praise*' and '*Scripture in Song*' books are beneficial.

Is my music God's music? Does it honour God and his ways, (1Cor.10:31)? Does it help me to think on what is right and true, (Phil.4:8)? Does it reinforce my faith, (Rom.14:22,23)? Does it approve what God condemns, (Pr.19:27)? Do the words displease God, (Eph.4:29)? Can I listen to this song in the name of the lord Jesus, (Col.3:17)? **Terry Arnold**

(Some of the above material was extracted from the video series, (6 videos), '*The Language of Music*' by Frank Garlock, *Majesty Music*)

* '*The Secret Power of Music*' by David Tame. ** A caution here - unfortunately some of these songs are unscriptural.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Book Review

'The Gospel According to Jesus' (Revised edition)
by John MacArthur (\$14.90)

As I read this book I became increasingly excited in my spirit. It has got to be some of the clearest and most concise teaching on such topics as salvation, the Gospel, and easy believism, that I have ever read. The Gospel is clearly defined and any with a heart for evangelism need to take heed of the warnings and exhortations concerning the purity of the Gospel today. Added to this are excellent teachings on the parables.

Some may not appreciate or agree with the authors emphasis on certain issues of salvation but it is a book that will make people *think*. This is one of those books you could not read just once - it is packed with thought provoking issues and solid teaching. For pastors and teachers there is ample material for several sermons. I recommend this book highly and every Christian needs to read this book at least once in their lifetime. **Terry Arnold (This book now available from TA Ministries)**

'The world has a right to expect more from a Christian than from anybody else. He says he is 'bought with a price', he says he is God's, he therefore claims more than others, and he ought to render more.' (Spurgeon's sermon *'Bought With a Price'*)

Benny Hinn - Another False Prophecy

As I dig deeper into the record of Benny Hinn it amazes me that this man has deceived large sections of the church for so long. His false teaching and false prophecies are numerous. Some years ago he prophesied to a pastor Dye of Kensington Temple in Britain, telling the congregation that in three months the church would be so big that a new building would be needed. He said, *'I can see construction taking place'*. However, the church is still meeting in Kensington Temple!

Benny Hinn Tragedies

Many people have died due to false claims of healing or have been physically and mentally injured as a result of Benny Hinn's bizarre healing campaigns. In 1986 a Mrs. Ella Peppard was 'slain in the spirit' amongst a crowd of people who fell with her. She broke her hip and cried out near the front of the stage for 20 minutes with excruciating pain. They refused to call a paramedic as this would have looked bad in a healing campaign. *She died* from complications afterwards. Why could not Benny Hinn heal this lady?

Report On Sydney Trip

The recent Sydney trip was to me the most demanding yet successful and inspiring ministry trip I have ever undertaken. I was encouraged by the hunger in the remnant of Gods people who are 'lovers of truth'. I thank all the elders and pastors who encouraged and ministered to me while I was in Sydney. In all there were over 20 meetings in 21 days including an all day seminar. The question and answer times were quite challenging for me and I thank the Lord for the answers given. There was great interest in the books and tapes we presented as most of these are simply unavailable in bookstores.

Several people were converted from false teaching and extremes even during the meetings, and more reports are coming in of such testimonies. I had opportunity to meet with several people in their own homes and lovingly discuss and convince on many issues. The mailing list has grown by several hundred and several churches and Bible colleges have already requested a return visit. I have made many new and personal friends and was greatly blessed by the support given. Some of the home groups particularly impressed me while others encouraged me to pray for God to give them direction and to raise up those who can teach. There were those who I met who ministered to me and gave me great encouragement to keep going. Special thanks must go to those that provided venues and to Garry and Mike who ceaselessly prayed and supported in practical ways. There were also many others who helped in various practical ways towards the success of this trip. It is obvious that God's people were found in many different local churches and that there is a real separation taking place within the church. God is calling people out of false teaching; out of the current false signs and wonders movement; out of the failing 'Toronto Blessing' and Pensacola 'revival'; out of the Word-Faith Movement; out of the neo-Pentecostal excesses and extremes - and into the simplicity that is in Christ, through the living Word of God! **Terry Arnold**

Review: The Movie 'Titanic'

I rarely go to the movies but this year I was invited to see the movie 'Titanic'. Thinking it was for general exhibition, or at least lowly rated by the censors, I was surprised to see the higher rating. This is obviously due mainly to its profanity, nudity, vulgarity and sex. The 'spitting scene', (the boy teaches the girl how to spit), I personally found to be repulsive. The sex scene as well as the nudity scene left little to the imagination.

This movie cost over \$200 million to make and in the first two months it grossed over \$700 million worldwide. It is no doubt a masterpiece of suspense, action, amazing photography and realistic footage. However, we must remember the story of the two main characters is totally *fictitious*.

The young man in the movie 'saves her (the girl) in every way a girl can be saved'. The girl rejects her parents, casts aside all morals (and clothes), and all her sexual inhibitions. She lies, cheats and finally betrays her fiancée. We are in fact left with several commandments broken. The theme might well be that *sin has no consequences*. What does this say to our teenagers who over 80% have already had unmarried sexual relations by age 19. Many of these get pregnant and half of those (in USA) get abortions.

If people are not reminded of these things we will be gradually sucked down into a lower standard of moral decline. We are already losing our children to the world and its subtle ways. Hollywood hates Christianity and Satan disguises his plans with attractive and exciting clothing. Although there is much that interested me in this movie, the display of sin spoiled what could have been a great movie. Let us not be *'conformed to this world'*, (Rom.12:2); for we no longer *walk according to the course of this world'*, (Eph.2:2); and *we have received not the spirit of the world but the spirit which is of God'*, (1Cor.2:12). In my opinion, Christians should not be excited about this movie. **Terry Arnold**

Pensacola Being Unmasked Further

The local newspaper *'The Pensacola News Journal'* has blasted the 'Pensacola Revival' and accused Hill and Kilpatrick of lying, misusing funds, breaking the tax laws. The journal suggested Hill's testimony of deliverance from drugs and crime as phony. Hill has admitted some exaggeration. Yet *'Charisma'* magazine has defended these men; but they also defended such fallen Pentecostals as Bakker and Swaggert, before they were fully exposed.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry,...I am trying to explain from a readers point of view the way you use the word 'holiness' in the newsletter and articles under discussion. I know that the root word in Greek is 'hagios' and that it applies to both English words [sanctification & holiness] equally. It is just that you stated that without holiness no one will see the Lord with the implication that it could be gained and lost, (salvation that is!). Maybe you don't read it that way but that is how it sounds! I agree with an ongoing sanctification in that we are growing more Christ like every day by the power of the Holy Spirit, but our holiness is declarative from conversion...you infer that without ongoing sanctification being evident a person will not see the Lord - that is not true! People mature or are sanctified at different speeds - but I suppose one could doubt anothers salvation if they were habitually sinning. Then we are back to subjective judgement again. That is why I want nothing to do with holiness teaching...(name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors comments: This is an observation I take note of. If I have given any readers the impression that salvation can be gained and lost with any degree of holiness, then this is not the impression or the intent I want to give. When God gives justification he *also* gives sanctification. One cannot have justification without at least postional sanctification. As explained in previous articles they are both linked to salvation but are different in characteristics, theology, and their effects.

Yes, I take note of your statement that people do mature and are sanctified at different rates. It is difficult to judge anothers salvation as it is often a subjective affair from the viewers eyes. I personally am not interested in judging anyones salvation, (although I sometimes might have a private opinion at best).

However, I believe that many people are sick of the excuses of 'carnal Christians' when many of these people perhaps should be examining themselves as to their salvation, (2Cor.13:5). If there is no evidence of holiness then there may well be no justification and salvation. Holiness comes with justification. This is what the apostle Paul and the greats like J.C. Ryle, Martin Lloyd Jones and the puritans preached. '*Without holiness no man shall see the Lord*', (Heb.12:14). In my opinion holiness teaching may well be the antidote to much of the fleshly extremes we see in the church today. Some of these extremes are bordering on antinomianism which Paul refutes strongly in Romans 6:14,15.

I realise that teaching holiness is fraught with misunderstandings, traps, and extremes and excesses of its own, but the theme of holiness (sanctification) is hardly an uncommon theme throughout the New Testament and I could not ignore the writings of the teachers from Wesley to the Puritans. I take note of the above comments, much of which I believe are a worthy contribution. I pray that I have not gone beyond scriptural bounds and that the Lord would in future give me more clarity in writing and speaking, such that the subject would be better understood.

Dear sir, I really enjoy your magazine. Please keep sending it. I will send money when I can afford to. Please can you send info which explains why tongues etc. is not for today. In Christian love, (V.B. SA)

Editors Reply: The book that I highly recommend on the subject of tongues is '*Tongues*' by Spiros Zodhiates, (see our catalogue). At the risk of being too simplistic, there are basically two types of 'tongues': known tongues and unknown tongues. Perhaps the more important question is not whether the gift has ceased but what is or was the true gift of tongues, and is it what many churches practise today? I hope soon to be doing a seminar on 'tongues' in Hervey Bay. We expect to have tapes available for distribution. I will send you a copy...Thankyou for your interest...

Praise Points

- Praise God for a most successful Sydney trip. Souls were set free from deception. Much material was distributed.
- Our internet servers went into liquidation and we lost 100 hours of pre-paid time. However, we have been able to relocate with another company using the same net addresses.

Prayer Points

- Please pray for those we ministered to privately in Sydney. Pray that they will become lovers of truth.

Dear Terry,...I wholeheartedly agree with your comments in the Feb. 'Diakrisis'. I have come to appreciate a lot more of the goodness, wisdom and sovereignty of God and the faithfulness, truthfulness and completeness of the Word of God. Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life', (Jn.8:12). He has given us everything we need to know to discern and to stand firm in this perilous time...I can clearly see how God is using this end time confusion and deception to teach us the fundamental truths of the Scriptures which I must admit were a bit hazy and clouded by the banner of love and unity in my case, but are now sharply focused by some of the material I have read.

God still raises his watchman and...But for the grace of God, I would still be lost and blind...I would have been misled and deceived. Even eternity is not long enough for me to sing God's praise. The Lord is truly our great God and deliverer..Thankyou for being a faithful child of God. May God bless you all and guide you in your ministry,..in Christ, (C.Y., Cairns)

Terry's Itinerary

June 14th 9.30am & 1.30pm Grace Bible Church, Ocean Shores (Brunswick Heads), NSW Ph. (02)66801078

June 21st 9.45am Howard Baptist Church, Qld. Ph. (071)294292

June 28th 10am Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Ph. (07)41289375

June 28th 6.30pm Fraser Coast Baptist, Qld. Ph.018183093

July: 5th 9.30am Hervey Bay Presbyterian Ph. (07)41247018

July: Gympie Community Church, Qld. (tentative - dates to be set)

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