



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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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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Editors Comments

Last months editorial wrote of love and truth but focused on love and its sister, compassion. That is a *positive* message to all. This week let us focus back on truth, for it is the truth that sets people free! (Jn.8:32) To tell the truth is sometimes *negative*. Are we too negative in this newsletter?... Was Paul too negative?... Was Jeremiah too negative? These men who were few in number preached repentance and warned of God's judgement when the 'positive' (false) prophets promised peace and prosperity! Gods Word burned in Jeremiah's bones and he had to speak it out, (Jer.20). Similarly, Paul constantly exposed false teaching, false teachers and false prophets. He mentioned *doctrine* at least 26 times in his epistles, (at least 13 in the epistles to Timothy alone!). Jesus preached repentance, sin, hell, and judgement to come. He called the religious leaders fools, hypocrites, whited sepulchres and blind leaders leading the blind. He and Paul would be banned from most pulpits today! They perhaps would also have had unpopular *newsletters* today!

Positive or negative is not the issue. The issue is truth and obedience to the purity of doctrine and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ezekiel was another who was not popular and did not have a popular message, but warned and prophesied of judgement, (Ezek.3:17). In his day a remnant were saved, (6:8; 14:22). The book of Ezekiel tells of the prophets of the day prophesying '*out of their own hearts...foolish prophets that follow their own spirits and have seen nothing*', (13:2,3). Because Israel listened to these prophets, Israel became a '*reproach to the nations*', (22:4). The ministers of Israel had neglected to show the '*difference between the holy and the profane...between the unclean and the clean*', (22:26). Because of this, a chosen remnant would '*teach my people the difference between the holy and the profane and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean and in controversy they shall stand in judgement*', (44:23)

I do not enjoy controversy. This ministry never set out to be controversial. It is always first a teaching ministry, but with teaching comes controversy. It is unavoidable. Teaching incurs absolutes because the Bible is full of absolutes. Truth has absolutes, error has none. Truth loses friends and I have lost friends. Some say this ministry is working for the devil, or is bigoted. None that make this charge have entered into face to face dialogue. Others cannot fault the material but do not want certain leaders or their errors exposed. Most of the controversial issues this ministry teaches on are those that affect the Gospel or the purity of doctrine. Yes, doctrinal controversy may cause division but this will be because someone has firstly introduced an *addition* to the '*faith once delivered to the saints*', (Jude 3)! If doctrine divides it is because truth divides!

At TA Ministries and through *Diakrisis* we attempt to alert Christians to false teaching and encourage them to go back to the Bible and to test all things. I believe we are living in days when to preach the Gospel with the usual terminologies may not be enough. Satan has sowed so much confusion and counterfeiting of terms that I believe it is now more than ever before necessary to explain more clearly the terms of the Gospel of salvation. But *further* to this, it is also vital that we show *what it is not*.

Terry Arnold

'If it is not in the Bible, it should not be in the church'

Mark Haville

What Is The Gospel?

The above question should be easily answered by most Christians. However, I have consistently found that many are confused as to what are the key points of the Gospel. Many limit this so much that it becomes 'easy believism'. Others add to it thereby polluting it such that it may well become '*another Gospel*', (2Cor.11:4; Gal.1:6). The Gospel basically means 'good news', but what is not often recognised today is that before one can accept the good news they *must* have revelation knowledge and conviction of the 'bad news'. The bad news is that we are sinners deserving the penalty under a perfect law set by a holy and righteous judge. The good news of Jesus Christ and the work of the cross can only be appropriated and inherited when we first realise what we are saved *from* - ie. '*The wrath of God*' upon sin, (Rom.5:9; Jn.3:36; Matt.3:7; Lk.3:7). Below is a Gospel summary and a study guide. We encourage readers to study the following points that we might know what to share, preach and teach.

The message (the Gospel) of God is: That Jesus Christ came as God (*Deity*) in the flesh and humbled Himself to die (a *substitute*) in our place as a *sinless, perfect, and finished* sacrifice, and through His *blood* to pay the penalty (*redemption*) of our guilt (*sin*). He rose from the dead in the (*resurrection*) power of the Holy Spirit to declare (*impute*) His righteousness to those who will believe and trust Him as *Lord and Saviour*. His offer is *eternal life* to sinners who *repent and have faith in who He is and what He did*.

1. **Deity:** Jn.1:1;14; 1Tim.3:16; Tit.2:13; Phil.2:6,7; 1Jn.4:2,3; Rev.1:8,17,18; 22:20; Jn.8:24,58 Cp. Ex.3:14

2. **Substitute:** Gen.22:13; Heb.9:28

3. **Sinless:** Heb.4:15; 1Pet.2:22

4. **Finished & Perfect Sacrifice:** Jn.19:30; Heb.9:25,26; 10:10-18

5. **Blood:** Heb.9:22; Rom.3:25; 5:9; Col.1:14; 1Jn.1:7

6. **Redemption:** Heb.9:12; Rom.3:24; Eph.4:30; Gal.3:13

7. **Our Sin:** Rom.3:23; 5:9,12; 6:23

8. **Resurrection:** Rom.4:25; 10:9; 2Cor.4:14

9. **Imputed (Credited) Righteousness:** Rom.Ch.4

10. **Lord & Saviour:** Rom.10:9,10; 1Pet.1:4; 2Pet.2:2; 3:2,18

11. **Eternal Life:** Jn.3:15; Rom.6:23; Matt.25:46

12. **Repentance:** Matt.4:17; Matt.3:2; Acts 3:19

13. **Faith:** Heb.11:1,6

Who He Is

God in the Flesh
Deity
Sinless
Perfect
(our) Righteousness
Lord
Saviour
Eternal Life

Sin ~ Death ~ Resurrection

What He Did (The Cross)

Substitute
Finished sacrifice
Death
Shed blood
Redemption
Resurrection
Imputed (Credited) righteousness

Haville on Signs and Wonders

'I was being trained for leadership and was nearer to the leaders than the average man in the pew. We had the most 'anointed' men of God on the planet yet they were none the better for it. I don't think I was ever in a service where someone didn't give their life to the Lord - yet you never saw most of these 'converts' again. I think they had perfected the art of getting people to make a decision; but I don't think they were converted. We used to have what I call the half-Gospel - according to Romans 10. Romans 10 for me says that what a person believes in his heart and confesses with his mouth is what affects salvation. What actually happened was that we would get them down to the front and have them repeat a sinners prayer. Sin was never explained. Nor was repentance - you just assumed that you had done things which were wrong. When mixed together with a highly emotional element - entertainment, music, peer pressure and crowd control - you could easily get people down to the front. But they didn't believe it in their heart, they only confessed it with their mouth....

Its pretty exciting stuff. You experience adrenaline rushes and live off your emotions. The trouble with those 'wonderful' feelings is that they make very good servants but poor masters. It is no different to being a pop singer. You have this crowd literally in your hands, hanging on every word. It is very exciting but not an anointing from God. The Bible is more about holiness than happiness and we found that as long as you create the right atmosphere you can produce the manifestations...When I see some well fed evangelist go to India preaching to crowds of people who are just one meal away from starvation and they take an offering - I just cry. There is a side to these people which their followers don't see. Its heartbreaking...The 'buzz' that people need is not 'power encounters' but to discover Jesus for themselves in the Scriptures; that little nugget which you've mined for yourself and no one has shown you. I want to teach people how to dig and find God in their own lives.' (Excerpts from an interview with Mark Haville, author of '*Signs and Wonders - Exposed*'; cited in *Prophecy Today*, Vol.14, No.1. Mark was originally a Signs and Wonders preacher. On our tape '*Toronto Blessing 3D*', which shows the fruit of this 'blessing', Mark Haville is seen in his old days '*slaying people in the spirit*'. This tape is available from TA Ministries.)

Critic Meets Pensacola Enthusiasts

Recently author Hank Hanegraaff from the *Christian Research Institute* (CRI) accepted an invitation to the Pensacola Brownsville church to speak to the student body. Hanegraaff has been an outspoken critic of the revival and has written books critiquing it as a counterfeit revival.

The Assembly of God and other portions of the pro-Pensacola lobby wrote this up as a 'reconciliation' between the two parties. Other reports stated that Hanegraaff had been 'slain in the spirit' and had experienced manifestations.

Hanegraaff has since set the record straight by stating: '*I continue to be concerned about the physical and spiritual consequences of unbiblical manifestations such as spasmodic jerking and being 'slain in the spirit'...I remain concerned that the Brownsville revival is indicative of a paradigm shift taking place within Christianity - a shift from faith to feelings, from fact to fancy, and from reason to esoteric revelation. This shift is what I call the counterfeit revival...as John Wesley...stated, '...to renounce reason is to renounce religion,...all irrational religion is false religion'. Wesley...attributed enthusiasm such as falling, jumping, and jerking,...to the ploys of Satan. ...'*

Hanegraaff, 12/98, See Internet site: <http://users.deltanet.com/~critalk/meeting.htm>

Pensacola Exposed by Local Journalists

The *Pensacola News Journal** is systematically exposing the Pensacola 'Revival' to be one of the greatest shams of the Charismatic world. The investigations have revealed that:

- The revival was not spontaneous but introduced carefully by Kilpatrick, who threatened to quit if the church refused it.
- Millions of dollars are unaccounted for and Church members are not now allowed to see the church books.

- Claims of support to missionaries are false. Steve Hill gave names of foreign missions to journalists, one of which when contacted had not heard from Hill in *ten years*.

- Hill and Kilpatrick have generated fortunes for themselves, with Kilpatrick secretly building a second house in Alabama. Other houses and buildings have also been bought.

- Steve Hill has been forced to admit lies and exaggerations in his books.

- The church leaders, including the above men have failed to pay due taxes and were under investigation. They have since paid large amounts of overdue previously unpaid sales tax.

- Not one single healing claim has been substantiated with medical proof. Many healing claims have now been proven to be false.

*See internet site: <http://www.pensacolnewsjournal.com/brownsville/>

Flashback: Pensacola - Kilpatrick's Prophecy (6/4/97)

'I want to close by giving ten proclamations...Mr Hanegraaff, and all other devils, listen up'

Number 1: *This revival...I'm saying this for the ears of God...This revival shall not diminish and this revival shall turn into a national awakening.*

Number 2: *..millions in America will come to Christ.*

Number 3: *...Lord hear this one: that God shall give us the necessary lands and buildings and technology to facilitate...*

Number 4: *All moneys needed...shall roll in abundantly...*

Number 5: *That the number that's presently out there on our marquee by the road of over 100,000 people that have made decisions for Christ shall in a short period of time to come, because of the great awakening and because of God's power about to fall in an unprecedented way from the Whitehouse to Pensacola, from Maine to California, and from Washington to Florida, that the numbers shall change in the near future from over 100,000 to millions...I said millions, millions, millions, millions, millions!...*

Number 6: *That no weapon that is formed against Steve Hill or myself or this major outpouring... shall prosper...if a bomb is brought on this campus, I make a proclamation, Lord, it shall never, ever go off, in the name of Jesus.*

Number 8: *..The church...Brownsville AOG shall maintain it's integrity...*

Number 9: *supernatural, divine, Holy Ghost healings and deliverances and signs and wonders begin to drastically increase...*

Number 10: *the hour is drawing nigh for the soon-coming of our Lord Jesus...'*

(Excerpts from: Internet site: <http://www.pentecostal-issues.org/journal/brownsville/pastor.htm>)

Editors Comments: A number of these have already been proven false. The '*national awakening*' is not evident and the opposite is shown in statistics. The areas designated have not seen revival. Hill and Kilpatrick both suffered serious injuries about the same time and were not healed. The integrity of the church is in serious question. The *Pensacola Journal* has exposed a financial scam in at least the area of tax evasion - (Kilpatrick and Hill have since paid overdue sales tax). Healings and signs and wonders have *not* increased. Investigators have found not one single case of genuine healing from the small number of the best cases sent to them by Brownsville. Some have been exposed as outright false healings.

Quotable

Nicky Gumbel is the leader and promoter of the *Alpha* course. People doing the *Alpha* course on a weekend away are told: '*Sometimes when people are filled, they shake like a leaf in the wind...physical heat sometimes accompanies the filling of the Spirit and people experience it in their hands or some other part of their bodies...[or] experience 'liquid heat'...*' (Gumbel, 1994:No.136)

Editors comments: These *imparted* manifestations have simply no scriptural warrant and nothing to do with the filling by the Spirit. The New Testament is absolutely devoid of these things. This is pure auto suggestion and primes the participants to expect unscriptural experiences. (See *Diakrisis* Jan & March issues for more on *Alpha*)

Saved By Faith Or Works?

In a recent nationwide American survey people were asked questions about salvation by faith or works. More than 55% said a good person can earn salvation. A breakdown was as follows: 22% Assembly of God; Baptist 38%; Presbyterian 52%; Lutheran 54%; Episcopalian (Anglican) 5%; Methodist 59%; Mormon 76%; Catholic 82%. (*Moody, March/April 1998*)

Editors Comments: This is one of the burdens of my heart! - that we would again teach Justification by faith alone without works which includes the *imputed* (credited) *righteousness of Christ*. A good place to start is Roman Chapter 4. Those who are interested to be on solid ground in this subject, we encourage the purchase of the recent Sydney seminar tape on '*Justification*', (see *Diakrisis* Aug/98).

The Question of John 3:5,6

'Jesus answered, verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit' (Jn.3:5,6)

This passage of scripture has always intrigued me and I have refrained from a definite viewpoint. There are three main areas of thinking on this verse. 1. That the water is a physical element and that one must be baptised in water to enter into the kingdom. 2. The water is figurative of the Word of God, and 3. The water is the waters of child birth.

The first premise is contradicted by much Scripture that proves that water baptism is not essential for salvation. Scripture must interpret Scripture. The account of the penitent thief is the obvious Scripture to refute the false teaching of 'Baptismal Regeneration', (that baptism is necessary for salvation). Much of this teaching can be traced back to about AD370 when infants were baptised with the intent of salvation. The practise became compulsory in the Roman Empire in AD416. Jesus did not say to be '*born of water baptism*' but of '*water*'. Added to this, although many believe it is a command to be baptised, it is a fact that many were saved or forgiven without water baptism, (Matt.9:1-7,22; Mk.5:34; 10:52; Lk.7:48; 17:19; 18:9-14, etc). Water baptism is not *essential* for salvation, (1Cor.1:13-24; 15:1-5; Rom.1:16; 10:9-14; Eph.2:8,9; Acts 10:43; 13:38,39; 16:31; Jn.3:14-18,36; 5:24; 1Jn.5:1).

The second premise is that the '*water*' in Jn.3:5 is *figurative* of and referring to the Word of God. Indeed the Bible does refer to us being sanctified and cleansed '*by the washing of the water by the Word*', (Eph.5:26); '*by the washing of regeneration*', (Tit 3:5). The Word of God is likened to a washing agent. We are told that we are '*born again...by the Word of God*', (1Pet.1:23-25). Many commentators hold this view.

The third premise is that the water is the water of child birth. In the previous verse (vs.4), Nicodemus had asked Jesus about the absurdity of '*entering the womb a second time*'. Jesus goes on to say that what '*is born of flesh is flesh*' (vs.6) - perhaps referring to natural birth from the womb. The preposition '*ek*' used in this verse is translated '*from*'. A transliteration from the Greek is: '*from the flesh, flesh is*'. This same preposition '*ek*' is used in Matt. 19:12: '*from (ek) the womb of a mother*'. Some translations in fact translate this as '*out of water*'. Without making too much from this, it is at least obvious that the spiritual is being contrasted with the physical in these verses of Jn.3. Jesus also went on to say in verse 12: '*If I have told you earthly things, and you believe not, how shall you believe, if I tell you of heavenly [spiritual] things*'.

In verse three of John 3 the '*of*' ('*ex*') is in *italics* meaning it is not in the original Greek. Thus the preposition '*of*' belongs to *both* 'water' and 'spirit'. Some commentators believe that this perhaps means that no one can be born of the spirit unless they are born in human birth first. Angels cannot be born again and no mention is ever made of such because they are spirit and are not born or saved as we are. Similarly it is false to say, as Word-Faith teachers do, that Jesus had to be born again. Jesus existed prior to birth through Mary but was not just human as we are but both 100% human and 100% God.

Let the reader consider the above three positions. Whatever the 'water' is referring to, we are motivated to be spiritual and to walk in the spirit and not in the flesh, (Rom.8:1,4). Jesus said '*the flesh profiteth nothing; the words I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life*', (Jn.6:63). Terry Arnold

'This I Do Believe'

(The following is from a Catholic publication '*Ave Maria*')
The [Catholic] Church is still the one, true fold

The Pope is still the infallible Vicar of Christ

Our Lord is still truly present in the Holy Eucharist

He still continues his sacrifice of Calvary in holy Mass

The sacraments are still channels of grace

The Church still loves and honours Mary, and wishes her to be loved and honoured

We still believe in Purgatory and pray for the dead

We still honour and pray to the angels and the saints

Private prayer, the Rosary and other approved devotions and sacramentals are still highly recommended

The moral law is still summarised in the ten commandments

And we still dread Hell and look forward to Heaven.

Editors comments: Some of these are Scriptural but some are blasphemy to the Bible and to Gods Word. The following Scriptures are relevant: Matt.23:9; Jn.3:15; Jn.6:63; Jn.19:30; Heb.6:6;9:25,26;10:10,11,12,18; Eph.2:8,9; 2Cor.5:8; Lk.16:26; Is.8:19-20; 1Tim.2:5.

Death by 'Healing'

'A woman in my church died after being told how to obtain her healing in the Lord. She was...administered the 'laughing anointing' necessary for her healing. She fell to the floor laughing uncontrollably and was pronounced healed. Within the year she was dead. She died from the exact same sickness from which she had allegedly been cured. She was a good woman with a lovely Christian husband and family'.
(*'Signs & Wonders - Exposed'* by Mark Haville, P.25)

Marian Literature

Recently there has been a flood of literature and interest in the Catholic Mary and the related apparitions. One booklet '*Mary's Apparitions - 1061 to 1998*', (written by a protestant!), states: '*Mother Mary is indeed the white lily of the Trinity. She serves Jesus her Lord and master, as she did during her earthly lifetime. The Holy Spirit is speaking to us through Mary, and I urge you to put aside man-made divisions.*

In another booklet, '*Mary and the Bible*' by the same author, states: '*To be the Mother of our Lord she had to be a pure soul; free of the stain of sin, for indeed she was destined to become our new Eve...The Devil had him [Jesus] at his mercy... [Jesus] gave us Mary - His mother*'.

At the back of the booklet is a list of the ten commandments with number two *missing* and number ten split into two to make up ten. (Catholic ten commandments are not the same as in the Bible. Number two was deleted for obvious reasons).

Quotable

'*Failure to relate to both God's glory, and Christ's Lordship has reduced the powerful Gospel into a Sunday morning, 'Lets make a deal' crap [lottery] shoot in the houses of religion! All kinds of tactics are used to try to get men to accept the deal offered them by some mental energy they identify as faith! But dear reader, true faith is the gift of God, (Eph.2:8,9), and is provided for the elect in the atonement! (Phil.1:29). The 'Gospel' has been reduced to an 'offer', from the divine mandate that it really is! Thus giving the sinner the impression he is sovereign, and poor old God is weak! But you can't offer Gravy Train to a dead dog! The sinner is dead! Therefore he needs life! And God is the only source of life!'*
(Gene Breed; message preached at East Keyes Baptist, Springfield)

****New Video**** (\$9.50)

TA Ministries has put together a new 3 part video. All are short segments but designed to be informative and to shock the closed minded.

In part 1 '*Clips to Shock*' is a 14 minute segment showing clips from the 'Toronto Blessing', the 'Pensacola outpouring' and various signs and wonders leaders, including Hagin and Copeland. Some of these clips should leave no doubt as to who is controlling these people.

Part 2 is a documentary from the British TV station '3D', in which the 'Toronto Blessing' is looked at for its *fruit*. Several people are interviewed and their stories told.

Part 3 is '*Godstuff*', a cynical look at what the world sees in TV evangelism. Although some might not appreciate this video, there are several important clips that unmask various signs and wonders and TV evangelists, including Robert Tilton saying '*Satan told me*'. This video is hard evidence that could open closed minds.

Benny Hinn - Law Suit

The latest on the civil rights law suit against Benny Hinn is that approximately ten people are suing for around \$1 million each. The case has been deferred to November 1998. A number of officers from the Florida Sheriffs office department have already lost their jobs.

Hypnotism

'People such as Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin Jr, Rodney Howard-Browne, Benny Hinn, John Arnott, together with Sandy Millar and David Pyches and many others are practising hypnotism at their meetings. On seeing the video material of their activities, anyone professionally familiar with stage hypnotism will tell you that that is what is going on'. ('Signs & Wonders - Exposed' - Philip Foster, P.69)

Robert Schuller Charged

Robert Schuller has been charged with physically assaulting an airline flight attendant. Reports from several news organisations report that he became angry when a flight attendant refused to serve him some cheese. Schuller apparently shook the attendant by the shoulders. Schuller was taken to court and fined \$1,200 and apologised to the crew. However, when questioned by reporters he refused to acknowledge guilt and stated that he had not broken one of the ten commandments. (*'Flashpoint'*, USA)

Apostasy Summary

'So many Christians today are (often in ignorance) attempting to attain equality with God - the original sin. They 'reclaim the ground' and 'take on territorial spirits' ('March for Jesus'), they put the Devil 'under their heel' ('revivalism'), they 'pray in their faith' ('Alpha' course) and keep 'steps to belief' ('Promise Keepers'), they 'speak things into being' ('Word Faith'), they claim the 'anointing', the experience that brings them to 'a new level of faith', (Charismatic teaching). Yet they may have no knowledge of God's written Word. But what they are, so they arrogantly believe, outranks anyone who merely believes the teachings of God's Word and puts them into practice. Instead of humble doers of the Word of God, today we are arrogant experience-seekers raging in the face of God' (CRN Journal Spring/98, P.8.)

Holiness

'It is 'the little foxes that spoil the vines', (Song of Solomon 2:15). It is compromise on the little issues that leads to greater downfalls..' ('Pursuit of Holiness' by Jerry Bridges, P.23)

Neo-Evangelicalism

'There is growing concern among many Christians that a wide spread departure from orthodox belief and practice is taking place within the contemporary church. Over the last century the face of evangelicalism has changed beyond recognition as churches have increasingly embraced a variety of non-biblical beliefs and practices. The inerrancy and infallibility of Scripture have been challenged. Justification by grace through faith alone has been obscured. A spurious ecumenism is gathering pace and the importation of New Age thinking and methods is wreaking havoc and confusion.

What is worse, much of it has been smuggled in camouflaged with evangelical language. While Biblical justification is claimed for these new approaches, the truth is that they are light years away from the evangelicism of the reformers and the Puritans. It is a poor imitation accurately dubbed by some a 'neo-evangelicalism'. Left unchecked, it will leave the church unrecognisable and barely Christian in a matter of years.' (Statement by Christian Research Network)

'Near Death Experiences' - Deception?

'Dr.H.Leon Greene, a Christian cardiologist and professor of medicine (Uni. of Wash.), in a new book says the human brain can be induced, (by raising Carbon Dioxide levels in the blood, eg.), to produce the same experiences reported by near death experiences (NDE) proponents: bright lights, a sense of detachment, a feeling of spiritual ecstasy, etc. (World 5/6).

Greene is sceptical of NDE's as proof of the New Age message that death is peaceful; that there is no judgement; that God doesn't care about sin; that all religions get you to the same place. He observes that hardly anybody reports visiting Hell. He says God might give visions, but that NDE's are deceptive and no proof of an afterlife. Christians must rely on the Bible as their authority on the topic - not New Age pop psychologies. Be warned, be wise, beware!' (Remnant, Vol.2, No.7, 7/98)

TV

'The average TV viewer spends 5.5 hours per day watching TV...In the USA children 3-5 years old spend 54 hours every week watching TV, which is 64% of their time awake...With the exception of sleeping, the average American will spend more time in his life watching TV than anything else - yes, even more than working...' (Aust Beacon, Aug/98)

The Christian, the Gospel & the World

Today many churches use worldly methods in an attempt to bring the world to the Gospel. They become like 'PR officers' to make the Gospel acceptable to the world. Many 'decisions' are made for Christ. The fruit of western evangelism in general is an 80% backsliding rate and Christians who see no harm in living and thinking like those in the world.

We need to remind ourselves what the Bible says of the world: ***'If you were of the world the world would love his own but because you are not of the world but I have chosen you out of the world therefore the world hateth you'*** (Jn.15:19); ***'And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...'*** (Rom.12:2); ***'Love not the world neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world, (1Jn.2:15,16); '...friendship of the world is enmity with God. Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God'***, (James 4:4). Has the world come into the church to take the church into the world? **Terry Arnold**

In Christ

. 1John 3:1 says, '**Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us; that we should be called the sons of God...**' Jesus Christ's death for us has shown us His love, as well as made possible our becoming children of God. God did everything. We simply believe that Jesus, God's Son, died to take the punishment for our sins, and we receive Him as our Lord and Saviour. We receive this gift of eternal life with God - as His children - through faith, trusting what God had done.

As God's children our relationship is established, and nothing can separate us from the love of God, (Romans 8:35-39). God is our loving Father. He is going to protect us, provide for us, and help us to grow. We can be assured that God was not going to go to the extent of having Jesus die for us, and then leave everything up to us - for us to have to make it on our own. Rather, we are safe, secure, and provided for; we are loved.

The picture of the developing child in its mother's womb is a good illustration of each of us as a child of God. Surrounded by the sac of fluid, the child is safe from harm. Similarly we are surrounded by God's love. There is a song that says:...'Wherever I am I'll praise Him...For His love surrounds me like a sea...' (Apparently the fluid around the baby is salty too!).

The developing child is attached to its mother by the umbilical cord. We become attached to God - our relationship is established - when we repent of living our own way and turn to Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. He is the vine and we are the branches. His life begins to flow in us.

The umbilical cord has two functions - to provide nourishment and to take out waste products, things that are not of benefit to the child. Similarly, our Lord feeds us on His Word and cleanses us of sin.

Even in this fallen world the child's needs are usually met. Sometimes this means that the mother becomes deficient in some area. With God, there are no deficiencies. Philippians 4:19 says: '**And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus**'. Romans 8:32 tells us, '**He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things**'.

What is the baby's part? Simply to receive nourishment and to give up that which is no good. The baby does not strive and worry. There must simply be a free flow to and from the mother via the umbilical cord. So it should be with us and Jesus. Can you put yourself in the place of the developing child? Safe, secure and developing...loved! Colossians 3:3 says, '**...your life is hid with Christ in God**'.

As with the developing child, our part is to receive. For us this means believing God and accepting what He says is true. Then we will grow as His children, in His ways. We cannot afford any clogging up of things because we will not let go of all that is not of Him. Let us be happy to give them to Jesus and not hide them or defend them.

Another illustration is the Potter and the clay. It is the Potter who moulds and shapes until He completes the vessel He has designed. The clay submits itself to all the turnings, mouldings... of the Potter's hands. This speaks of our obedience to God; believing what He says, which will result in our doing, saying, and thinking the right things.

Philippians 1:6 says, '**being confident of this, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ**'. We can have confidence in God's ability to shape us. Has He not shown us things in the past? Will He not show us things as we are ready to be shown? As parents we show our children things when we think they are ready for them. God knows when we are ready.

What a truly wonderful God! Let us rest in Him as the developing child does in its mother's womb. From the tiniest cell the baby grows into an incredibly complex, complete baby, ready to meet its mother face to face. So with us, we become mature '**unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**', (Eph.4:13), ready to meet our God face to face. Our part is simply to trust God, believe Him and *surrender* ourselves to His work and to the good pleasure of His will.

Colossians 2:6,7 says: '**As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him. Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving**'. We receive Him by faith, and we are to continue living with Him by faith. Everything in our salvation is a gift - from beginning to end. God is the giver and we are the receivers. We cannot earn this blessed life. We need only to believe God for it, receive it, and thank Him for it.

Let us rejoice and be glad. We are God's children - safe, secure and loved. God our Father is in charge. Leave the running of things to Him. We keep in touch with Him and obey Him. We are not to worry or complain, but to trust God and rest in Him. 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 reminds us: '**Rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you**'. It is a real challenge to trust God and give thanks '**in everything**'. When things seem difficult to us, we think things have gone wrong, and we stop trusting God. God tells us that these things are good for us. It is part of His good work in us. Also, suffering for Jesus' sake was promised to us, (John 15:20). Paul suffered much and pointed out that these things had resulted in '**the furtherance of the Gospel**', (Phil.1:12). What victory the suffering of Jesus brought! We need to trust God in all things! He loves us and knows what is best for us, and He has the power to do all that He wants.

We often allow our feelings to be an obstacle in our lives. We must not go by feelings. We must go by God's Word. When we believe His Word and receive it, then good feelings will follow. Feelings other than joy and happiness are an indication that we need to commune with God, to check our receiving of God's ways and our letting go of what is not of Him. Once we believe God and act accordingly, including confession of wrong doings and unbelief, our joy and peace will return. (When we are not joyful, our relationship with God is not broken. God still loves us and does not desire to disconnect the umbilical cord. On the contrary, He will be clearing the obstruction. He longs for you to turn to Him, confess your failings, and believe and accept His ways. He wants the best for His children.)

Isaiah 46:4 says: '**And even to your old age I am He, and even to hoar hairs will I carry you. I have made and I will bear; even I will carry and I will deliver you**'. What assurance God's people have! Let us all be encouraged to really spend time with God - to listen, receive, and give up. And just as the developing child knows its mother's heart, we too will get to know God's loving heart. The more we know we are loved, the more we will respond in love both to God and to others.

God has not made us to be alone in His womb of love. We have many brothers and sisters. Let's be '**kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you**', (Eph.4:32), and let us come together often to praise our God. **Beth Arnold**

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry,...regarding Azusa St. [April article]...It wouldn't be beyond the likes of Mrs. Parham and her husband to be embittered by Seymours departure (and thus render a rather critical, one eyed view), after the resultant outpouring of the Holy Spirit that all classical Pentecostals would call the birthplace of their movement in modern times.

This is simply human nature at work Terry, painting a bad picture because someone left and then later on experiences a move of God in their lives. I too have heard that the Azusa Street mission ended up in division and confusion, but from all accounts, (excluding that of Mrs. Parham), that is not how it started...Was Mrs Parham a dominating personality with a distorted perspective of the facts? The revival in Ephesus (Acts 19 & 20) started off on the right foot as well, but within a short period of time, Paul was warning the elders to look out for schismatics...one thing is common to both of them - the tendency for error and division to creep in soon after the Gospel has been proclaimed...May the Lord continue to bless your word as you keep on exposing error and promoting Bible based truth, Yours in Christ, (A.H. Sth, Aust.)

Editors Comments: Dear A,...You may think the accounts by various people, including Mrs. Parham, were biased, but can they be substantiated with facts, documentation, and eye witnesses? Yes, they can! The records show that Parham and Seymour were not the men that they were made out to be. Not all accounts say that Azusa St. began OK. Several accounts seriously question the beginnings. If you look closely at how it all began you find that a woman had an *unscriptural experience*! She spoke in an '*unknown tongue*' which was a counterfeit of Acts 2. Study Acts 2 and we find that it was a *known human language*, (Acts 2:9,10,11)! Similarly for Acts 10, (vs.45,46, note '*also*'), and Acts 19. These are the *only historic* cases of tongues in the Bible! This is what the students of Parham were encouraged to receive - the *same* experience as at Acts 2. However, the lady (Ozman) instead received an *unknown tongue*. No one knew what it was and no one understood it. This unknown tongue experience is not heard of down through the ages in true Christian groups (before 20th.C.), except in mystics, non Christian groups, and Catholics. The life of this lady was also messy...If Azusa St. was the birth place for unknown tongues and for Pentecostalism, then we are in serious trouble...

Let us be lovers of truth together that many might be rescued from deception. In His service,

Dear Sir,..we find it [Diakrisis] very interesting and informative. We wish we had it around when we were young Christians and maybe we wouldn't have made some of the mistakes we made...many people in churches today are being hurt from the false teaching that is being spread...we are bring told of the massive 'revival' going on in Australia and yet the Christian voice is silent against the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, Homosexuality, abortionism and other evils...their silence is killing them...the reason why the laws are being changed to suit a minority against a majority...is because the so called good people or Christians...have shut their mouths...years and centuries ago - the good people or Christians spoke out against the evil and stood up against it and gave their lives for it. You wouldn't have your freedom or the Bible today without it...now the silence is deafening...Answer something for me. If it says in the Bible that God knew me before we were in our mothers womb (which means we were still in our fathers), how come we go along with the worlds thinking and teaching that even though a baby when it is born has been alive for 9 months...we start it's life off at the day it is born and not conceived, and so give credence to the abortionists who say its not a baby until its born so they can kill it as its only a blob or any other name they use to justify it. (W.B. Childers, Qld.)

Editors comments:...We all should remember that our life does begin in God and before we enter the world. I guess that the reason why we date our age as such is because we commence counting at the time of actual birth and entry into the world. We would never really know exactly the day and hour when the baby began its life as you say. Perhaps it is one of practicality. However, you are correct in your desire that many (the abortionists) should think about the life before the entry into the world.

Mission Request

One of the subscribers to this newsletter is the director of *Family Connections Ministry*, (see *Diakrisis* March/98, P.7). This is a ministry to homeless children in third world countries. He is attempting to set up an emergency refuge in Guatemala. He writes: '*...We are raising some money here in USA but we are urgently seeking 1,000 supporters in Australia to pledge just \$2 per week each to support this Australian ministry. This money could be paid in any way people choose. It is only \$104 per year which is not a lot of money, but when one realises what it can do in Guatemala or Mexico, it is a lot if just 1,000 people, churches or groups, catch the vision we are going to save a lot of children from the degrading, hopeless sub-cultural life on the streets. Can you imagine nine year old prostitutes? We are seeking this help urgently as our funds are getting low. Any donation or ministry support pledges can be sent to family Connection Ministries (Australia), PO Box 1180, Nambour, Qld, 4560, Ph. (07)54467784 or Fx.(07)54467734 (e-mail: fcminter@squirrel.com. au).*

We are also looking at starting a food ministry right here in Sequin...There is a lot of poverty with children starving because of fathers on drugs or alcohol...many of these people turn to drugs out of sheer hopelessness..This is now the world's greatest problem...drugs!...The number of children in need is mind blowing and I just cannot stand by and watch whilst doing nothing. I'll leave you with a Bible verse that means a lot to me...Matthew 25:45. Lots of Love in Jesus name'. Ron Aubrey

Pen Friends?

Increasingly in this ministry we receive calls and letters from Christians who have recently left abusive churches or who have come out of false teaching. Many of these need to talk and share their griefs and burdens. Other Christians are simply in the 'wilderness' and without a fellowship they can trust. Others just simply want to have contact with Christians of like mind.

We in TA ministries are burdened for, and want to encourage these people. Many of the people involved with TA Ministries have themselves had all the experiences as above and want to encourage those who need support and fellowship.

We are setting up 'Pen-friends' whereby those who would like to have contact with other Christians in this ministry can do so. If you desire this service please write or contact us giving some details about yourself. We will have a 'Pen friend' write to you and pray for you. **Terry Arnold**

Your Comments and Questions

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

A note from the editor: We occasionally receive anonymous (unsigned) letters. Some have demanded answers to be printed in this section of the newsletter. We are happy to print letters and delete the signatures on request. However, we may choose not to print anonymous mail.

Dear Terry, congratulations on the July newsletter - the best ever! Diakrisis is the best newsletter...(M.C. Sydney)

Dear Terry & Crew, [from 'Disfellowshipped' - see Aug/98] Thankyou for your encouragement and concern. Rest assured that we are in good spirits and counting it a blessing to be reviled and slandered for the Lord's sake...My wife and I are not in fellowship with any established church at this moment in time. We do not want to put anyone in an embarrassing position by imposing ourselves upon them. Word gets around in Cairns. This issue is not over yet and a lot more people are going to become informed...I look forward to meeting you...We need a few people coming through with the truth. This place is flooded week after week with visiting speakers supporting Toronto/Pensacola and Faith movement theology...COC is possibly the greatest offender.

...Just recently an AOG church...held a tent crusade...I attended on about the fourth night to hear Noel Mann preach. After an eternity of very loud rock music and manifestations at the front, he began the message by blowing the 'rams horn' for about five minutes and then continued on with blatant Restoration/Kingdom Now/Manifest Sons of God heresies. There was much proclamation to suggest that by his coming to Cairns territorial demon entities had been unseated from their thrones over the city. The city was 'this very night' open to be claimed for the kingdom...'we are going to win the city for Christ and pull down demonic strongholds and liberate the city', etc,...The Lord showed me something that night about the hypocrisy and grandstanding of the people promoting this whole 'new move' - something that only causes you to more vigorously stand for the truth of the Gospel and expose the stupidity of what is going on.

Thankyou once again for your encouragement and support. In Christ's service unto those being led to the slaughter, (H.S. Cairns, QLD.)

Praise Points

- Praise God for the responses to the recent newsletters.

Prayer Points

- We receive many calls from those who have left cults and false teaching. Many are hurt and discouraged. Please pray that we can give them direction and encouragement.

- Pray for the Sydney trip in October.

- For years we have coped with an outdated computer system. Praise God for those who kindly donated to help us upgrade. We are praying to have the amount needed before the end of the year.

Dear Terry,

We enjoy your newsletters and pray that God will bless you and your team's work for Him...we refer to your comments [July, 98] about Fred Nile not resigning from the Uniting Church yet...last week he was speaking to a group of Christians (pastors included) at...and expressed his disappointment about the Uniting Church. He stated that he clearly disagreed on the church's stand on many issues and it is reported that he said that he was ready to resign...We would hope that you would be aiming to contact him personally to find out what is happening in this area. Our concern would be that your readers may be left thinking that he is supporting gays and other issues connected with the Uniting church....(B.& L.S. Cairns,)

Editors Comments: I appreciate your concern. However, I find it difficult to believe that our article would give anyone the impression that Fred Nile supports gay and lesbians, etc. Nile has never shifted in his views on the gay issues. Our article was simply four lines stating two facts and without any editorial opinion whatsoever:- (A) that he has promised to resign; and (B) has still not done so yet. I cannot see the point in contacting anyone when he has already stated publicly his intentions and the information is freely documented from the Uniting Church's own magazine.

Dear Terry,

...your last Diakrisis - a bonza blessing to read. I just love your material..I'm staggered at the depths to which the Pentecostal movement has sunk. It's absolutely mindblowing to hear of the unbiblical practice and teaching that people are blindly believing, with a total lack of discernment. It's unbelievable how quickly churches are sliding into a chasm of chaos, confusion and compromise. The old-time standards have been swept aside by an ecumenical Charismatic tidal wave. Disguised wolves are financed to fleece the flock. Solid Bible truth, together with the fear of God, holiness standards, and forsaking worldliness is not popular or profitable in the Pulpit. Sadly, genuine churches that do hold to the truth are also declining - not in stand but in numbers. Many churches lack shepherds, and sheep are straying. Lord do a work in us! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!...(Editor 'Fairdinkum' newsletter, 19 Washington Drive, Craigmore, 5114 Website: <http://www.iweb.net.au/~dinkum>)

Sydney Trip

We are soon to prepare an itinerary for the October Sydney trip. Any fellowships wishing to be included please contact Terry on 0411489472

Terry's Itinerary

Sept. 6th 9.30am Gympie Community Church Ph. (07)54823535

Sept.11th pm. Howard Baptist - Youth

Sydney Oct.14-16th.: New Tribes Mission, Seminars on J.W.; Mormons; Seventh Day Adventism.

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