

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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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

This ministry is now nearly twelve years old and this newsletter now four years. It has grown beyond anything we ever imagined. 'Diakrisis' began with less than 100 readers and now has a readership of many thousands worldwide.

The ministry was started without any grand vision from the Lord but rather a simple passion and a leading to teach, inform and equip readers with Biblical truths in a day of apostasy. We continue to see many come to Christ and many more rescued from cults and false teaching. We praise God for the fruit, the encouragement, and the opposition in that time.

The close of the 20th. Century saw the increased merging of the signs and wonders, the Pentecostal/Charismatic and the ecumenical movements. Roman Catholicism now looks more and more 'Christian' to more and more Christians. The neo-evangelical movement continues to shake hands with most of the above. False prophets such as Hinn and Copeland continue to draw millions of minds to the slaughter. The world conditions and the church climate are being made ready for the return of the Lord Jesus. Our cry is 'Oh Lord come quickly!' At times we also cry 'Lord, send a reformation!'

The Great Reformation restored the truths of '*Sola Scriptura*' (*Scripture Alone*) and '*Sola Fide*' (*Faith Alone*). However, within a few centuries we have had these truths almost eroded away! The modern church largely continues with such things as church Growth, Psychology, 12 Step programmes, signs and wonders and *Alpha* Programmes - all of which cut at the very heart of the sufficiency of Scripture. *The reformation pillars desperately need to be taught now, and especially to our youth - the next generation!*

Today the very foundations of what people believe are being shaken. The church is polarised and a remnant is separating from the worldly ecumenical signs and wonders church that seeks to entertain its followers. The *few* are being driven back to the narrowness of the Word while the *many* are riding the latest wave that will dump them on the shores of deception.

Our foundations must be rooted in Christ alone, in His Word alone, and because of grace alone through faith alone. To know the Scriptures is to understand the foundations for His salvation. Indeed, to know the Scriptures is to know the power of God! (Matt.22:29).

We in this ministry express our love and commitment to all our readers. May you '*study to shew thyself approved unto God...rightly dividing the Word of truth*', (2Tim.2:15); that you may '*know the excellency of the knowledge of Christ*', (Phil.3:8). **Terry Arnold**

Quotable

'The preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,' said the apostle Paul, because it does not fit the questions - much less the answers - of secular wisdom.

But in our day preaching cannot be foolish. It must be 'relevant', which is the word we have drafted into the service of market driven approaches. In contrast, the message of the cross assumes the terror of the law, divine wrath towards sinners (and not just their sins), and the need for a substitutionary sacrifice to assuage divine justice. It assumes that the greatest problem facing humanity is original and actual sin - personal rebellion against a holy God - not stress, low self esteem, and a failure to realise one's full potential.' ('Sola Scriptura' - by various authors, Foreword. XVII)

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Demons, Deliverance And Spiritual Warfare

Theologian and Christian author, R. C. Sproul, writes, 'Within Christian circles there has arisen a new concern for ministries of deliverance. Some of these deliverance ministries have developed a bizarre and radically unbiblical view of demon possession and deliverance...I have listened to tapes from well known deliverance ministries in which they teach the signs of a departure of the demon. A sigh, for example, indicated the departure of the demon of tobacco...There are demons for every conceivable sin. Not only must each one of these demons be exorcised, but there are necessary procedures to keep them from returning on a daily basis.

I know of no polite way to respond to this kind of teaching. It is unmitigated nonsense. Nowhere in sacred scripture is there to be found the slightest hint of this kind of demonic diagnosis. These teachings cross the line into the sphere of magic and results in serious harm to believers who are duped by them. Sadly, too much concern with Satan and demons means that we focus less of our attention on Christ. That must please Satan, though it certainly is not pleasing to God...All this emphasis on Satan and demons tends to distract us from another very real menace, our own sin...We cannot pass the blame and responsibility for our sin to a controlling demon...We can say that we are tempted or incited or seduced by Satan, but

not that we are controlled or coerced by him'.*

Ephesians chapter six clearly tells us how to do spiritual warfare and deal with Satan and demons: '**Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; Above all taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit...**'

This scripture gives us a list of armour by which we can live in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is sufficient for us. When Satan came to tempt Jesus after His wilderness experience, Jesus did not do any spectacular warfare type prayers or feats as we so often see today. Rather he simply and effectively quoted the Word of God! This coupled with holy living will make the devil flee from us! Terry Arnold

For sound and proven teaching on demons, possession, oppression, etc. see the video 'Delivered From The Powers of Darkness' - available from TA Ministries.

* 'Pleasing God' by R.C. Sproul, P.90-92

Faith and/or Repentance For Salvation?

Many today would say we only need *faith* and not *repentance* to trust Jesus Christ and to be *saved*. Is this true?

Perhaps it is both true and false because it is a half-truth. (It has been said that a half-truth is worse than a lie). Many might quote Scriptures which mention faith alone in salvation. However, the same could be done for repentance. Although we are saved by Grace through faith alone (Eph.2:8,9), true salvation *includes* both *gifts* of faith and repentance. *It is a packaged event*. You cannot have one without the other. Faith without repentance would mean the 'faith' was not a true faith. Repentance without faith is equally untenable.

Although there is nothing specific about 'repentance' in the summary of the Gospel in 1Cor.15 or in the entire Gospel of John, could it be because repentance is already implicit in believing the Gospel? Repentance is a *gift from God*, (Acts 11:18; 2Tim.2:25; Acts 5:31), and it comes at salvation.

Jesus called '*sinner to repentance*', (Mk.2:17); and warned: '*except ye repent, you will all likewise perish*', (Lk.13:3). The apostles repeated this, (Acts 2:38; 17:30; 26:20). We are to preach '*repentance and remission of sins*', (Lk.24:47). The result is '*repentance unto life*', (Acts 11:18). John the Baptist preached '*...repentance for the remission of sins*', (Mk.1:4). Jesus said '*repent ye, and believe the Gospel*', (Mk.1:15). (Repentance here actually comes *before* faith; '*pisteuo*' - '*believe*').

The *first* message of John the Baptist was '*repent!*', (Matt.3:2). The *first* message of Jesus was '*repent!*', (Matt.4:17). The *first* message of the disciples was '*repent!*', (Mark 6:12, Acts 2:38).

A person who has been justified in the sight of God through faith, will be sanctified, will repent and will bear the marks and fruit of a Christian life, (Gal.5:22). We are told to '*bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance*', (Matt.3:8). We are not talking about perfection but rather repentance.

Modern evangelism is rife with unrepentant lives.* The problem too is that many of us mistake 'conviction' for 'repentance'. Conviction is seeing the problem and under-

standing the need. However, repentance is a step further - it entails not only the above but a complete *turning* away from the sin or error and a *movement* in the *opposite direction*. *It is possible to have conviction or sorrow without repentance*. I have personally seen alcoholics, drug addicts, homosexuals and others convicted of the Gospel and their sin, yet never truly repent and change. What seemed like repentance was really much religious activity (works), which perhaps made them feel good about themselves. There is a vast difference between *Godly repentance* and the *sorrow of the world*: '**For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation...but the sorrow of the world worketh death**', (2Cor.7:10). The current signs and wonders movement with its easy believism is a mecca for unrepentant and false 'conversions', and the warning of such deception in Matthew 7:21-23 should be heeded.

In Judges 10:10-14 we see a 'false' repentance by Israel. The children of Israel cried to the Lord and admitted their sin. However, God knew their hearts and revealed to them their 'false repentance'. He in fact told them to go back for help to the gods they had been serving. (How many of us would do that today?). In verse 15 the Israelites realise the depth of their sin and ask God to punish them and to deliver them. To *prove* real repentance they put away their false idols and began to serve the Lord again in purity and holiness.

When a person truly repents before God, they despise and repudiate their own self, (Lk.18:13). This is not a 'work' but a condition of salvation. Faith without repentance is like faith without works - it is a dead faith and not a true one, (James 2;14). We are saved by faith alone but that faith will have the gift of repentance with it.

May we preach '**repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ**', (Acts 20:21). Salvation without repentance is not the Biblical salvation but a terrible deception.

Terry Arnold

*For further reading see '*The Greatest Deception?*', P.5,6 of this newsletter and the book '*Bride of Heaven, Pride of Hell*' with the tape '*Hells Best Kept Secret*' by Ray Comfort.

Prophecies?

We recently received copies of two 'prophecies' from subscribers:

Prophecy 1: The 'prophet' and author is Stanley H. Fordsham who delivered the following message 'from God' at a camp meeting in 1965:

'When I visit my people in mighty revival power, it is to prepare them for the darkness ahead. With the glory shall come great darkness, for the glory is to prepare my people for the darkness. I will enable my people to go through because of the visitation of My Spirit...'

...For many whom I shall anoint mightily, with signs and miracles, shall become lifted up and shall fall by the wayside. I do not do this willingly...hearken diligently concerning these things, for in the last days shall come many seducing spirits that shall turn many of my anointed ones away. Many shall fall through divers lust and because of sin abounding. But if you will seek me diligently, I will put my Spirit within you...there shall be a mighty outpouring of my Spirit upon many cities. My people must be diligently warned concerning the days that are ahead....'

...but I warn you of seducing spirits...I warn you with great intensity that I am going to judge my house and have a church without spot and wrinkle when I come. I desire to open your eyes and give you spiritual understanding....'

Editors comments: This is a typical example of 'prophecies' that abound today. A close look at this message will show that much of what is 'prophesied' here is *already* clearly prophesied in the Word of God!

The first paragraph is repeating what already happened in Acts 2 - the Holy Spirit came to earth and indwelt men and women for the first time.

The second paragraph is *error!* We all have the *same* anointing, (1Jn.2:27,28)! God does not now 'anoint mightily with signs and wonders' but predicted 'lying' and false signs and wonders in the end! (Matt.24:24; 2Thess. 2:3,9)

Prophecy 2: The following 'prophecy' was titled 'The Anointing Increase' and was 'a Word from God given to [Pastor] Terry Walker' of the Tribe of Judah Motorcycle

Ministries and delivered at a crusade, 23/4/97: 'You have sown the anointing bountifully, now you shall reap the anointing bountifully. You are now entering the greatest harvest. I, the Lord, will do great things. Things you will have to see with your own eyes. Things that if it be told to you, you would find it hard to believe.'

Time is short. Where Satan's sin abounds, my grace and unmerited favour is going to abound much more. Now is the time for the great harvest. The time of the vision has approached. Leprosy (sin) like...never seen before, will explode before your eyes. But my anointing will increase, increase!

Lay hands on the sick, heroin addicts, alcoholics, blind eyes, the lame. I the Lord, with my anointing, will deliver the one who is not innocent - the one for whom you have interceded. I will make him clean! I will heal him!'

Editors comments: Nowhere in the Bible do we 'sow' 'the anointing' and nowhere do we 'reap' it. The anointing is a metonymy for the Holy Spirit and comes only from God. It abides in the believer and we all have the same anointing which does not 'increase'! (1Jn.2:27). If anyone 'sows' the anointing it would be God and not us!

The promises of 'the greatest harvest' and 'now is the time' are lies that are now over 100 years old! There will be *no* world wide end-time revival as this would defy the Scriptures! Although local revivals are a historical reality, in general there will be a 'falling away', 'lying signs and wonders', 'many' false prophets, false teachers and false christs, (2Thess.2:3; 9?; Matt.24:24).

It is never the 'anointing' that delivers one who is 'not innocent' but rather the blood and the righteousness of Christ!

Why do we have such 'prophecies' through men when we already have such detail in the Bible from God?! These are extra-Biblical revelations, additions to the Word of God - and would be cursed! These 'prophecies' repeat what God has already spoken; but worse, they contain *false doctrine!* Such 'prophecies' are dangerous, entice people beyond the Bible, and lower a high view of Scripture.

John Newton

John Newton wrote 'Amazing Grace', a hymn that has reached across nations and touched many hearts.

Newton was born on 24th. July, 1725, the son of a captain of a merchant ship which sailed the Mediterranean. At age six his saintly mother died. She had taught him much but when she died Newton took it hard and blamed God.

At 11 years of age he went to sea with his father until his father retired. In 1744 Newton was forced into service on a man of War ship. He deserted but was recaptured and publicly flogged and demoted from a midshipman to a common seaman. He was eventually released from service and became the servant of a slave trader. He was brutally abused until 1748 when he was rescued by a sea captain friend of his fathers.

Eventually Newton became captain of his own slave ship. He was a tyrant to the slaves and it was reported that even his own crew regarded him as more animal than human. Once he fell overboard and his crew refused to drop a boat to him but instead threw a harpoon at him and dragged him back on board. It is also written that he once slaughtered a slave woman's baby by flogging the child against a mast.

On May 10th, 1748 his ship encountered a violent storm. The livestock was washed overboard and the crew lashed themselves to the deck to prevent the same fate. When it seemed the ship would be lost Newton cried out 'Lord have

mercy upon us!' The ship and the crew survived the storm.

From that day Newton began to treat the slaves with kindness and left the slave trade a short time later.

In 1750 he married Mary Catlett. After five years of marriage he became ill and retired from the sea. Between 1755 and 1760 He taught himself Greek and Hebrew. He came to know the great evangelist and preacher George Whitefield and later to know John Wesley. He applied to the Archbishop of York for ordination but was refused. However, Newton persisted and was eventually ordained by the Bishop of Lincoln and pastored a church in Olney, Buckinghamshire. His church grew so much that the building had to be enlarged.

'Amazing Grace' was probably composed between 1760 and 1770 in Olney.

In 1780 Newton became rector of another church in London. He continued to preach until he was blind and died in 1807 at age 82. Before he died he said: 'My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things - that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour.' He left instructions to write his epitaph: 'John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long laboured to destroy.'

The Greatest Deception?

'We are surrounded by unconverted people who think they do believe in Jesus. Drunks on the street who say they believe. Unmarried couples sleeping together say they believe. Elderly people who haven't sought worship or fellowship for 40 years say they believe. All kinds of luke warm, world loving church attendees say they believe. The world abounds with millions of unconverted people who say they believe in Jesus.'
'Desiring God' by John Piper, P.42

True Evangelism

'They seek to make the man stand up; we seek to bring him down, and make him think that there he lies in the hand of God, and that his business is to submit himself to God, and cry aloud, 'Lord save, or we perish'. We hold that man is never so near grace as when he begins to feel he can do nothing at all. When he says, 'I can pray, I can believe, I can do this, and I can do the other', marks of self sufficiency and arrogance are on his brow.' **Charles Spurgeon**

... 'I want to make man feel his sins before I dare tell him anything about Christ. I want to probe into his soul and make him feel that he is lost before I tell him anything about the purchased blessing... The Spirit comes to convict before He comes to comfort.' (*'Holy Spirit Power'* by Charles Spurgeon, P.24,25)

Pope Is Graham's 'Man Of The Century'

Evangelist Billy Graham said in a recent interview that he would pick Pope John Paul II as the 'Man Of The Century'. He said the Pope 'has brought the greatest impact of any pope in the last 200 years. I admire his courage, determination, intellectual abilities, and his understanding of Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox differences, and the attempt at some form of reconciliation.' (*Religion Today*, 20/12).

What The World Thinks Of Benny Hinn

**(The following appeared in the *Sunday Mail*, Qld., 12/12/99)
'Faith Founders On The Rock Of Wages'** by Terry Sweetman

'Benny Hinn, American Faith healer and beggar extraordinaire, honoured Queensland by choosing to set up his Australian headquarters in the Sunshine State. Or maybe not, depending on how much faith you put in the charismatic showman.

So, it is only fair Queensland should be at the head of the queue when it comes to financing his 'World Healing Centre', which is to be built in Dallas according to one of the slickest cadging letters I have ever seen.

An outraged Christian, who still nurses the quaint idea that faith is not necessarily measured in dollars, sent it on to me, his/her faith in Mr. Hinn severely tested by the claim that followers should 'obey the Lord' and kick in big time to finance his grandiose plans.

'Do your best', admonishes Mr. Hinn, but 'best' apparently takes on a whole new meaning when you live in a \$1 million home and preside over an \$85 million a year enterprise.

Adherents, it seems, will be 'memorialized' in many different ways through the 'World Healing Centre' and 'International Partner Headquarters'. A cool \$150,000 will put your name on the cornerstones of the 'people's Cathedral'. With due Christian humility, I would expect my name up in lights or embossed in gold for that sort of money.

But if that's a bit steep for you, \$30,000 will put your name on a plaque in the 'Hall of Faith', \$15,000 will put it on the wall of the 'Healing Gardens', and \$4,000-\$8,000 will inscribe your monicker on the 'Fountain of Healing'. A lousy \$2,000 will put your name on a rock in the 'Healing Stream', for

Vineyard

'Reporter Douglas Todd of the 'Vancouver Sun' visited the Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Langley, British Columbia, and found that Tattoos are the newest 'in thing' for Vineyard Christians. Amy Blonde, who is a staff member at the Vineyard in Langley, has a large Celtic Cross tattooed on the small of her back. Encircling the cross are Hebrew letters that allegedly mean, 'I am my beloved's, and He is mine.' Blonde says the tattoos signify that she looks upon Jesus Christ as her 'lover'. Another Vineyard member, Peter Davyduck, has a tattoo of the Word 'sin' on his ankle. He says this is a message to 'judgemental Christians that everyone is a sinner and should be accepted in spite of it.'...Amy Blonde admits that she got a tattoo 'partly out of rebellion against the normal Christian stereotype...' ('Watch Unto Prayer'*, Timothy Aho)*

Billy Graham - Heaven Wrong Place For Him?

In a Jan. 2 Fox News interview, Tony Snow asked Billy Graham: 'When you get to Heaven, who's going to speak first, you or God?' **Graham** replied: 'When I get there, I'm sure that Jesus is going to say that He will welcome me. But I think that He's going to say: 'Well done, our good and faithful servant.' Or He may say: 'You're in the wrong place.' **Snow**: 'You really worry that you may be told you're in the wrong place?' **Graham**: 'Yes, because I have not - I'm not a righteous man. People put me up on a pedestal that I don't belong in my personal life. And they think that I'm better than I am. I'm not the good man that people think I am. Newspapers and magazines and television have made me out to be a saint. I'm not. I'm not a Mother Teresa. And I feel that very much.'

Evangelism is one dying creature telling another how to obtain a life which will last forever.

\$1,500 you will be remembered at the 'Eternal Flame For Healing', and \$150 will get you a guernsey at the 'Prayer Tower'.

The Pastor expects his followers to cough up by December 31 so he can pay the \$7.5 million for land, plans, and building permits.

For the record I don't believe Hinn could cure a mild case of dandruff, but if he brings comfort to his followers, good luck to them. And they can demonstrate their faith however they like, even if they have to mortgage their houses to do it, (and some probably will). But I can think of a million more Christian ways to spend money. Just take a walk down the street and look about you.'

Editors Comments: For years we have been warning, pleading and begging those held sway by this man, to look at irrefutable evidence of Hinn's numerous *false prophecies*, lies and heretical teachings! The unsaved world sees the falseness, yet professing Christians increasingly are led to the slaughter and made merchandise of! *'...The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light,' (Lk.16:8)!'And through covetousness, they shall with feigned words make merchandise of you.'* (2Pet.2:3).

'Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men... They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly', (Matt.6:1-3).

The Greatest Deception?

Today there is an *increasing* number of people who once professed to be 'Christians' or who made 'commitments' at crusades and churches, but who now no longer fellowship with believers. They are sometimes perhaps erroneously termed 'backslidden' or 'carnal Christians'.

Many who have made 'decisions' and claim to be Christian tragically live in open or habitual sin, having none of the repentant inherent power over their sin nature, as *promised* to believers in Scripture. Even worse, many believe they are 'saved' because of their one time 'decision'. There is in fact a documented 80% 'fall away' rate of people making professions for Christ. Statistics in the USA show *most* people making 'decisions' remain in churches *less than a few months*. Even Billy Graham, in an interview with *Time Magazine*, admitted that he did not believe that half his converts are really Christians. (1) The tragedy of this 'low retention' rate is ignored by most leading evangelists and church leaders who prefer to focus on the *initial numbers* of 'decisions' and church attendees. As one experienced pastor/evangelist privately confessed to me: *there are many professors but few possessors.*

In recent years I have investigated and tested the 'fruit' of several crusades and tent meetings. In one instance a tent crusade was conducted by some local Pentecostal churches and the para-church organisation called the 'Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship' (FGBM). A Pastor, writing in a Pentecostal magazine, claimed there were *'...30 first-time decisions for Christ and 15 re-dedications...All those who made commitments are now in churches and going on in the Lord...'* (2) This same writer claimed people were saved, healed and *'set free'* of alcoholism and other addictions.

I personally investigated and followed up the above claims and found the results to be vastly different! Many of those who made 'decisions' later themselves admitted they were never truly 'converted'. On questioning them it was obvious they did not understand the Gospel, nor the reason *why* they needed to be saved and *what* they were saved *from* - their *sin nature*. Less than one year later many were still openly practising New Age teaching, alcoholism, drugs, etc. Some did attend church for many months but almost all quickly went back to their old ways. Yet some of these same people were used as 'testimonies' at later crusades when they were still living with habitual and serious known sin - sin that would put most ministers out of the pulpit and out of ministry.

When the above pastor was challenged as to the real results, although he originally claimed dozens saved and *'in churches and going on in the Lord'*, he falsely claimed *six* people still in churches after less than one year. However, *the truth was that only one person was now regularly attending church*. He and other organisers refused to look at documented results or to retract the claims made in their magazine. The following year they conducted another crusade with the same results!

When today's leaders are politely challenged to show the results from such evangelistic endeavours the result is either a wall of silence or an angry reaction. Clearly there is a lack of integrity, truth and *results* in much modern evangelism.

The more we investigate the tragic results of such evangelism the more I wonder about the parables of the 'wheat and the tares' and the 'parable of the sower'. The tares grow alongside the wheat until harvest time and are cut down and *'thrown into the fire'*, which speaks of Hell and judgement. Perhaps the greatest deception of our times are those who are *tares* and false 'converts' (as in the parable of the sower). They look and act like Christians and think they will get to Heaven,

yet will not. Perhaps the Devil rubs his hands with glee when such 'converts' spring up. *It is surely the ultimate deception if one thinks he is saved and is not!* That this is a reality is stated clearly in the Bible. The Bible says many who have been ensnared in the current false signs and wonders movement with all its healings, miracles and prophecies, Hell will gladly receive, as Christ utters those terrible words: ***I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (lawlessness)***, (Matt.7:23).

Are we prepared to look at the problem of such alarming results from modern day evangelism? Do we care about the majority of people who fall away from their 'decision'. What is the cause of the problem and are there solutions?

The problem is not the Gospel for '...the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...' (Rom.1:16). The problem is rather three fold. Firstly, that the Gospel is being *added to*, which thereby *detracts* from the *understanding* of the hearer. Secondly, the heart of the hearer has not been *prepared* to understand *why* he needs to be saved and *what* he is saved *from*. Thirdly, *the emphasis must be taken off the 'decision' or whatever the recipient can do.*

The first problem of adding to the Gospel not only produces a 'mixed gospel' thereby diluting the message, but gives an *impure gospel* which may well become **'another Gospel'** and even **'another Jesus'** that the apostle Paul spoke of. A mixture of *leaven* (symbol of sin, error) with truth corrupts the *whole lump*. God is against mixtures! When you add something to truth you pollute and detract from it!

When the Gospel is mixed with unbiblical manifestations, signs and wonders, rock music, worldly methods or any false teaching, the understanding of the Gospel may well be confused. I have met many hearers who have made 'decisions' in such circumstances who either fall away or become entangled in the very mixtures above. When these mixtures are used as 'baits', then the following is often true: *the bait you catch them with is the bait you will have to continue to feed them with.*

Many also confuse the Gospel with *sanctification*. The Gospel is God's work *FOR* us (justification). Sanctification is God's work *IN* us. The former is *objective* and *outside* of us. The latter is *subjective* and *inside* us. *The Gospel does not take place within us but is Christ's work outside of us 2,000 years ago.* We cannot be involved in any way in the finished work of Christ. The Gospel is separate to us. The Gospel is mixed when we turn peoples attention to what happens *in* them by the Holy Spirit. An example of confusing the Gospel with sanctification is: *'Ask Jesus to throw the bad out of you and give you his Spirit.'* But the Gospel is not the Holy Spirit living in us but Christ's work *apart* from us! We do not trust in the Holy Spirit's work *in* us for salvation, but in the death, burial and resurrection - Christ's *substitutionary* work *FOR* us. It is only *His* righteousness that God accepts!

The second problem is more obvious and is dealt with superbly by Jesus in the parable of the sower, (Matt.13:1-23; Lk.8:4-15). Unless the heart of the hearer is *prepared*, the seed (the Gospel) will fall on infertile ground and not bear fruit. The necessary soil (heart) preparation includes preaching what we are saved *from* - i.e. *the wrath of God upon sin*, (Matt.3:7; Jn.3:36; Rom.1:18; 5:9; Eph.2:3), *before* preaching what we are saved *to*. *The sinner must know what the disease is before he is told of the cure! The disease is sin and the sinner must see the very depths of it before he can ever be saved.* The great preachers of old were all great preachers of *the law*. By the law is the knowledge of sin and its depths, (Rom.3:20; 7:7; 15:56). ***The law is a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ***, (Gal.3:24). The law was made for sinners,

(1Tim.1:9); and **'is perfect for converting the soul'**, (Ps.19:7).(3) Anything less than this preparation is 'cheap grace' and 'easy believism' and will lead to *no understanding*, (Matt. 13:19). The seed (the Gospel) will be snatched away, or the person will wither or be choked, as described in the parable of the sower.

The parable of the sower well describes such false 'converts'. Many give the appearance of true believers and may even **'for a while believe'**, (Lk.8:13). However, like many of the Jews and the pharisees, although they **'believed'** in Jesus, *Jesus did not believe in them!* (Jn.2:23; 12:42: **'commit-pisteuo'** - **'believe'**). Many for a short time may even show signs of growth and spring up quickly, (Matt.13:5,20-23). However, the growth is superficial rather than real and lasting fruit. The supporters of these false 'decisions' claim Scriptures such as: **'There is no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus'**, but *omit* the rest of the verse **'...who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit'**, (Rom.8:1). (4)

Increasingly there are people who claim to be Christian yet habitually live in the flesh. Many swap worldly addictions and behaviours for religious counterfeits. Christian Rock takes the place of rock music. Addictions of various kind continue. Excuses are made for unbiblical sexual activity. In general, a lack of holiness is increasingly evident among the fruit of churches that promote a mixed gospel or fail to *prepare the heart* to an *understanding* of the demands of the Gospel. Yet, if one preaches holiness and sin to these people they will brand you as judgemental, negative, bigoted, or simply 'too narrow'! However, the Bible is clear that true conversion will bring repentance and the holiness of the Lord, (Heb.12:14).

Even more deceptive are those who may have changes of outward behaviour. Psychological methods can produce changes in behaviour for a time, particularly with addictive or manic people.

Today the seed is being sown in unprepared hearts. *The main point of the parable of the sower is that good seed grows well and bears fruit only in prepared soil.* The soil is the human heart and the seed is the Word of God. Man's natural heart is evil and selfish and is not well prepared to receive the seed of the Gospel.

While people are filled with self righteousness and their hearts are unprepared it is useless to force the Gospel on them! This fact is opposed by many evangelists who contest that the Gospel itself *'is the power of God unto salvation...'* (Rom.1:16). However, they forget the rest of the verse! To *who* is it the **'power unto salvation'**? - **'to those who BELIEVE'**! Man's heart must be prepared to *believe* and for this he must see the *depths* of sin.

Gods role in this is as Jesus said: **'No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me drawn him...'**, (Jn.6:44). Our role is to be witnesses and light to a dark world, to assist in the sewing of the seed - the Word of God. The hearer must become like Job who said: **'Wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.'** (Job. 42:6); and like Isaiah: **'...woe is me for I am undone. I am a man of unclean lips...'** (Is.6:5). We must first teach the holiness, righteousness and the wrath of God so man can *accurately* judge themselves in true light. The Gospel is like a precious pearl. God warns of casting **'pearls before swine'**, (Matt.7:6).

Tell the Gospel to the prepared.

The third problem is sometimes called 'decisional regeneration'. One missionary author sums this up well: *'We distort and confuse the Gospel in people's understanding when we try to present the Gospel using terminology which turns people's attention to what they must DO rather than outward*

to what God has DONE on their behalf in Christ. We should use terminology which directs repentant sinners to trust in what has been done FOR THEM through Christ, rather than directing their attention to what must be done IN THEM.

'Accept Jesus into your heart.' *'Give your heart to Jesus.'* *'Give your life to Jesus.'* *'Open the door of your heart to the Lord.'* *'Ask Jesus to wash away your sins.'* *'Make your decision for Christ.'* *'Ask Jesus to give you eternal life.'* *These modern and commonly used phrases confuse people's understanding of the Gospel...We must bring people to the point where they see they can do nothing. But even when People do understand their inability to do anything... many [then] tell enquirers things such as 'Now you must give your heart to Jesus'. Having told them they are unable to do anything they then tell them what they must do!...People's interest and concern is turned inward to their own experience instead of outward to trust only in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection on their behalf...*

The Gospel is not man accepting Jesus as His Saviour but that God accepted the Lord Jesus as the perfect and only Saviour 2,000 years ago. The Gospel is not man giving his heart or his life to Jesus but that Christ gave His life in the place of sinners. The Gospel is not man receiving Christ into his heart, but that God received the Lord Jesus into Heaven as the mediator of sinners. The Gospel is not Christ enthroned in the human heart, but that God enthroned the Lord Jesus at His right hand in Heaven.

Do we see the great distinction between these two messages? One is subjective and puts emphasis on what man must do. The other is objective and puts the emphasis on what Christ has already done.' (5)

I have agonised over printing this article, but as Paul said, **'Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...'**, (2Cor.5:11). There is a massive delusion upon us! My plea is to bring holiness, integrity, accountability, truth and results back to evangelism in the church of the living God! The heart of the hearers must be prepared *before* we give them the pure and unadulterated Gospel.

The answer given by those who would defend modern evangelistic methods is that we should praise God for the few that are 'saved'. However, this is sheer *pragmatism!* Pragmatism says that results prove truth, or *if it gets any results it works and must be of the Holy Spirit.* However, the real test for such logic is to *push the premise to its limit.* In other words, do we support a satanist camp if someone gets saved from it? I know of a person saved while still in the Charismatic Catholic Church - does that mean that the Catholic Church is OK and we should support it? Do we see the peril of such thinking? The cult groups use such false pragmatism and have better 'results' (numbers) than Christians! The pragmatic view that only looks at the thin veneer of so called *results*, blinds the minds of many.

The Gospel is that Jesus Christ came as God in the flesh and *died* as a substitute for us, paying the full price for our sin. He was *buried* and *rose* from the dead that God would credit *Christ's righteousness* to those who will *repent, believe* and trust Jesus as *Lord and Saviour.*

However, the above is *only* fruitful in a *prepared heart drawn* by the Father, one that is *undone*, stripped of anything he can *do*, and who will *trust Jesus for Gods saving grace!*

Terry Arnold

(1) *Aust. Beacon*, 8/97, P.5. (2) 1996 'Full Gospel' magazine. On file at TA Ministries. (3) See our tape 'Hells Best Kept Secret'. (4) The latter phrase is in the majority of Greek texts yet missing from many modern Bible versions. (5) *'Firm Foundations - Creation To Christ'* by Trevor Mellwain - highly recommended.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Brother Arnold,..I'm a 25 year old male Swedish Christian from Finland. I was saved by the Lord Jesus Christ in late 1997 in the middle of the night as I read my first Christian book ever: 'Inside The New Age Nightmare'. Before conversion I was a New Ager. I had got the book from the city library by mistake...in the midst of the 'Occult' section!...I was first sad and without any joy whatsoever that night.

A week prior to this I had been to a four day New Age seminar where a strong medium 'fuelled' me by the laying on of hands 'in Christ's name.'...[later] a demon stared at me from the mirror..I was depressed. For 23 years I walked as an enemy of God and not once did anyone clearly preach repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, not even during a one week confirmation school in the Lutheran Church.

In 1992 I was walking the street in a state of drunkenness when a Charismatic gave me a 'Chick tract' titled 'This Was Your Life'...but it didn't speak to me at all. However, the night I began reading the above book God granted me repentance unto life and I was illuminated by the Holy Spirit...I knew I was a dammed sinner as the law hit my conscience and I realised I deserved to be cast into burning Hell...I read onwards and I saw the Gospel of Christ. I believed it. The Holy Spirit led me to understand I had to consciously repent and trust Christ alone for salvation...I confessed my sinfulness, my faith in His blood atonement on the cross for me and his burial and resurrection from the dead...There was an overwhelming joy and peace in my heart...I was right with God for Christ's sake...I wept tears of happiness.

But I didn't know anyone who had been born again and I was totally alone as a new born babe in Christ. I had a yearning for fellowship...so I attended an evangelistic 'Gospel meeting'. It turned out to be Charismatic...At the end of the meeting everyone was asked to come forward for prayer. I went forward because they seemed like nice happy people and I wanted new friends. Instantly there was a man laying his hands on me and speaking in some unknown babbling language. He didn't interpret or speak anything understandable to me...I saw a young girl fall to the floor but I didn't quite know what to think of it. Then a 'prayer circle' (common in Occultism and New Age) was formed and a verbal crescendo erupted. Another man came up to me and asked: 'Are you in the faith?' (A common question among Swedish Charismatics). I was nervous and was not familiar then with the term. I thought he referred to having a strong faith...I answered quite hesitatingly in bad Finnish language; 'maybe halfways'. Without asking me further questions or explaining

any Gospel truths to me, he said: 'Do you want to make a public decision?' He immediately went on: 'just get down on your knees and I'll pray and proclaim your sins forgiven in the name and blood of Jesus.' All these were unfamiliar phrases to me but I felt a pressure to do as he told me...He laid hands on me and pressed down quite heavily, at the same time babbling in an unknown language. He then proclaimed my sins forgiven...I sweated and hoped it would soon be over. He then congratulated me as if I'd been saved there and then. Others came and congratulated me on my 'public decision' and I was confused but glad they accepted me as an equal.

From that day I walked almost two years in Charismatic confusion and error...Many times I felt like an outsider but not understanding why...I never spoke in tongues (I did as a New Ager), never 'prophesied', never saw any 'visions', never was 'slain in the spirit', never received the 'spirit baptism', although many times hands were laid upon me for that purpose. I prayed every time for protection...Sometimes during public prayer when many prayed in 'tongues' I felt such psychic attack and pressure...I was doctrinally amiss in many areas and my spiritual growth was retarded in many ways. There were some things that puzzled me: Most Charismatics and Pentecostals spoke of members of the Godhead as an 'it'...they prayed with their palms upward, just as we had done in my New Age meditation group...

This year the Lord awakened me to the errors of Pentecostalism/Charismaticism...the spirit behind is Satan. I have no fellowship and am totally alone again. The only true fellowship is correspondence with some fundamental believers in USA, Canada and Australia. These have been a blessing to me in my loneliness, afflictions and depression...The churches in Finland are in apostasy. Even all Baptist churches except one are Charismatic. Over 90% of the population belongs to the Apostolic and liberal Lutheran State Church. I've tried to speak the truth to my deluded and mostly unsaved friends in the Charismatic, Pentecostal and Lutheran churches, but so far I've only reached a handful...I'm tired of battling alone.

I was trying to get hold of the best materials exposing these erroneous movements. I found your address on the internet. Please send me materials...and the newsletter...Please pray for my Dad and others who have been falsely converted through the false 'decision Gospel'. Please remember my family still in the New Age and my deluded Charismatic/Pentecostal friends. Pray the material will be used wisely...Yours only by His grace!

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

(The following letter was sent to Dr. Billy Graham by a subscriber)

Dear Dr. Billy Graham, I have always had a deep admiration for you...for your ability to communicate the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to people all over the world. I am sure that there will be many people who will be in Heaven because of your ministry. I am only 29, and there are people within my own Church who were saved during your 1950's crusades here in Australia, and they are still going strong today.

However, over recent months, I have become deeply concerned about some of the articles I've read concerning what many, including myself, would see as compromise. Even in reading your biography 'Just As I Am', I am confused about some of the messages it is putting out to people.

I believe that you accepted an honorary degree from a Catholic University. If this were true, I would have to ask,

why? Why would you want to be part of the apostate church? Would not people see that you support what the apostate church stands for? Some of your comments in the biography relating to the need at prayer meetings to have 'other' heads of churches present to keep unity - do you call a Buddhist Monk, Jewish Rabbi or Catholic Priest, a Christian?

The Church today is in a mess with the push of Pentecostal/Charismatic error, and the false unity in ecumenism. It concerns me deeply that someone of such a respected standing would compromise to keep the peace or to keep friends.

Dr. Graham, I plead with you to consider what I have written. I am sure I don't have to ask you to check what the Bible says. What I have written is of great concern to me and I needed to write to you. I realise that you may never read it, but I can always hope that it might get further than just the person who checks the e-mail. In God's Care, T.W., Sydney

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, I am an ex-Pentecostal who was being spiritually destroyed by a leadership (Apostolic Church) that was into all of the things 'Diakrisis' stands against. My wife and children were being affected too. My 3 three year old son had a visiting evangelist's wife attempt to cast the demons of black magic and witchcraft out of him. I was a youth leader and was asked to go into paid ministry a year ago. I refused to take the position because they were a Toronto/prosperity church.

The church I am with now is 50-60% ex AOG and CLC. I have a Bachelor of Theology majoring in NT and theology and am now doing a postgraduate research degree, my thesis: 'Spiritual Elitism in Corinth.' I love solid teaching and sadly it is now scarce in the Pentecostal churches. Bless you Terry, could you please send me your teaching on tongues. I have only just began to receive 'Diakrisis' and have not come across your views on this yet. **Pastor W.B., Sydney**

Dear Mike & Terry, A very special thanks for the Dec. issue of 'Diakrisis'. I felt the anguish in the letters that reflect the wrong teaching that abounds in Churches these days from people duped by Charismatic manipulators. Positive thinking and being non-judgemental is not the Gospel of our Lord. You explain it so well. What a great gift you have, praise Him that He is using you mightily. May He raise up an army to support you in your relentless pursuit of the Truth that sets us free.

The article by Mike Claydon was courageous. I suffered personally in the AOG from wrong teachings. Looking back it has worked as a sort of 'Gospel Training Course' in reverse - we learned what was wrong and turned to sound teaching, such as yours, to learn what is right! How can Brian Houston claim to preach the Truth when he won't even answer correspondence? If he behaved like this in business he would be bankrupt! Sincerely In Christ, **A.W., Sydney**

Dear staff at TA Ministries...it is a blessing to see a ministry which teaches and upholds truth, and exposes the lies and deception of Satan and His agents (many of whom are in leadership positions within the church)...**K.S., NSW**

Dear Terry, thank you for your superb magazine...I enclose a photocopy [showing]...Robert Schuller will be appearing at Brisbane for the World Convention of Churches of Christ. As a Church of Christ pastor I am horrified to see his name...it makes me ask what led these organisers...to invite this man? As a pastor it makes my heart cry...May God bless you in your work. **Pastor G.C., W.A.**

Editors Comments: (Readers see issue Feb/98 for article on Robert Schuller). Schuller says there is no need for repentance, dying to self and conviction of sin, but rather a need for self-esteem; that Jesus suffered the cross to sanctify His self-esteem and He bore the cross to sanctify our self-esteem. Schuller says: 'The cross will sanctify the ego trip'; 'Jesus never called a person a sinner.' (Cp. Matt.23; Mk.1:15; Jn.8:11; 1Tim.1:15; Rom.5:8); 'What is Hell? It is the loss of pride that naturally follows separation from God.'; 'A person is in hell when he has lost his self-esteem.'...

Schuller's TV show 'Hour of Power' has hosted New Agers, cultists and occultists. On ecumenism he says: 'It's time for Protestants to go to the shepherd [the Pope] and say 'what do we have to do to come home?'" Schuller is basically a universalist. He does not believe that Christ is the only way to Heaven: 'The Christ spirit dwells in every human being whether the person knows it or not.' This man is dangerous and his teachings rank heresy.

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Praise Points

- Praise God for one lady who has been won out of a cult group in Brisbane (Sydney Church of Christ - not to be confused with the Churches of Christ denomination).

Prayer Points

- Pray for the Swedish Christian - (see P.7).
- Pray for provision for a second worker in Hervey Bay.

Newsletter by E-mail

Anyone wishing to receive the newsletter by E-mail should contact Mike Claydon: mbc@terriganet.net.au

Terry's Itinerary (Nth.Qld.)

March 26th. 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld.
April 9th. 10am & 6pm Mareeba New Testament Baptist, 40927351
April 14th Cairns, Nth. Qld. To be finalised. Ph.(07)40514213
April 15,16th Grace Baptist Church, Malanda Ph.(07)40966657
Seminar on Evangelism (Sat. 10am-2pm; Sun. 9.45am & 6.45pm)

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