



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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A Plea From The Editor

We have ministered to thousands of Roman Catholics through literature, letters, preaching and counselling. In love we have offended many with Bible truths and informed them of what their religion teaches. In the last ten years of this ministry I have known *no more than a handful* of Roman Catholics who understood the Biblical Gospel or had even basic Bible knowledge. I praise the Lord that myself and many others have been made '*new creatures*' in Christ and set free from the religious shackles of this system.

Less than ten years ago our literature, which reaches out to Roman Catholics, had the wide support of many Evangelical churches and leaders throughout Australia. Yet today that support has dwindled to *a remnant*.

Opposition is no longer coming from Roman Catholic defenders, but from 'Evangelical' brothers and sisters in Christ! The scathing responses are now mostly from professing Christians who support the Ecumenical Movement, which is rapidly turning hearts back to Rome. Yet, in regard to Roman Catholicism, we are *not* speaking any differently than ten years ago! So why are we now called 'bigots' or 'unloving' by 'Evangelicals'? What has changed?

The deception of the Ecumenical Movement has blinded the eyes of many. The following statement from the Roman Catholic religion should jolt us all into reality: '*The Roman Catholic church would be gravely misunderstood if it should be concluded that her present ecumenical adventurousness and openness meant that she was re-examining any of her fixed dogmatic positions. What the church is prepared to do is to take...a more imaginative and contemporary presentation of these fixed positions.*' (Augustine Cardinal Bea, President Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity)

Pastors, elders, leaders, teachers, youth leaders! - be informed! See Roman Catholic souls as '*fields white unto harvest*'. *Unless we see the Roman Catholic gospel as 'another gospel', we are either ignorant of the RC gospel; confused about the true Gospel; or we have been terribly deceived!*

Part of the problem is also that '*Evangelicals*' do not know what '*Evangelical*' means. '*Evangelical*' was historically and doctrinally synonymous with '*Protestant*'. It came into being during the Great Reformation. The twin slogans of the Reformation were '*Sola Scriptura*' (Scripture Alone) and '*Sola Fide*' (Faith Alone) - slogans which the RC religion *curse*s! Sadly, today's neo-Evangelicals have broadened '*Evangelical*' to mean simply the Greek word for 'Gospel' ('*evangel*'). Thus we now have such groups as Roman Catholics and Pentecostals/Charismatics including themselves as '*Evangelical*'. The former violate true *Sola Scriptura* with *another gospel*; the latter with the addition of extra-biblical revelations, (such as 'prophecy' as in *foretelling* words from God).

In this ministry our hearts cry out to Evangelicals world wide to stand with the Reformers who paid for truth with their own blood and at the hands of the Roman religion. Let not their passion for truth and for souls be extinguished. If we love Roman Catholics and have compassion for lost souls we owe them the *truth* which has '*saved us from the wrath to come*' and '*has made us free*'! **Terry Arnold**

****Sydney & Melbourne Trips****

Terry Arnold will be visiting **Sydney** in **August** and **Victoria** in **November**. Fellowships wishing to be involved please contact Terry (Qld. office), or Mike Claydon, (NSW office).

Terminologies - Don't Be Fooled

Terminology	Roman Catholic Teaching	Orthodox Biblical Teaching
'Born Again'	Accomplished at baptism (usually infant baptism), and makes a person a child of God. (Some 'Catholic Charismatics' do teach a Pentecostal experience subsequent to such baptism).	A <i>regeneration</i> by the Holy Spirit which makes a person a 'new creature' in Christ and gives eternal life, (Jn.3:3,7; 1Pet.1:23; 2Cor.5:17; Gal.6:15; 1Pet.1:3; 1Jn.5:18).
'Saved'	The ability or the starting point necessary to get to Heaven <i>through</i> the sacraments and works. This begins at baptism and is continued through the sacraments. We then hope to be saved at the judgement. Many will have sins removed in 'Purgatory' before reaching Heaven.	To be Justified by faith alone without works (Eph.2:8,9), and through Christ's imputed righteousness alone as a result of God's unmerited favour (grace). This saves us from the deserved penalty of sin. Our spirit is saved instantly; our soul (mind, will, emotions) is being worked out in sanctification; and our bodies will be fully redeemed at the resurrection, (Rom.8:23).
Justification by Grace through faith	Righteousness is continually 'infused' into us through sacraments and works, which make us actually justified. Through this system we enter Purgatory or Heaven, (only Catholic 'saints', or rarely those who die with all sins confessed, will enter Heaven immediately).	Our <i>legal</i> standing with God through the credited (' <i>imputed</i> ') righteousness of Christ through trusting in Jesus Christ and His work alone, (Rom.4).
Assurance	Any assurance will come via the sacrament of reconciliation, (confession of sins to a priest who absolves them). Otherwise, Purgatory in the after life will rid all sin. Apart from this there is no other assurance taught.	The promised eternal life is 'eternal'. If we have been truly justified we have assurance according to the promise of God's Word, (1Jn.5:13).
'Receiving Christ'	Literally meaning the taking of the host (bread) at communion into the mouth. The bread mysteriously becomes the real flesh of Jesus Christ after he is sacrificed again each Catholic mass.	Receiving by faith the truth of Jesus being Lord and Saviour.
'Saints'	Only those few in history who have been declared by the Pope to be 'saints'.	All Christian on earth and in Heaven (Eph.1:1; Phil.1:1; Rom.1:7, etc)
Confession	To speak out sins to a priest in a private confession chamber and have the priest remove (absolve) sins.	Literally and Biblically meaning to say the <i>same thing</i> as God, or to say 'Jesus is Lord'. Otherwise, to speak truth to someone. James says to confess ' <i>faults</i> ' one to another, (James 5:16). The apostles never heard confessions. Judas confessed his sin to the Pharisees and then hung himself!

What Catholicism Teaches

RC Teaching: (Canon 9, Session 6): '*If anyone says that the sinner is justified by faith alone, meaning that nothing else is required to co-operate in order to obtain the grace of justification...let him be anathema [cursed].'*...(Canon 4, Session 7): '*If anyone says that the sacraments...are not necessary for salvation but...men obtain from God through faith alone the grace of justification...let him be anathema.'*

[Reader compare Rom.4; Eph.2:8,9]

RC Teaching: (Canon 30, Session 6): '*If anyone says that after the reception of the grace of justification the guilt is so remitted and the debt of eternal punishment so blotted out to every repentant sinner, that no debt of temporal punishment remains to be discharged either in this world or in Purgatory before the gates of heaven can be opened, let him be anathema.'*...(Vatican II ID; 1:2): '*Sins must be expiated. This may be done on this earth through the sorrows, miseries and*

trials...Otherwise expiation must be made in the next life through fire and torments or purifying punishments...in Purgatory the souls...are cleansed after death with punishments designed to purge away their debt.'

[Reader compare Rom.4:7,8; Jn.19:30; Heb.10:18; Jn.5:24; 1Jn.1:7; Lk.16:19-31; 2Cor.5:8]

RC teaching: Mary was sinless.

[Reader compare Rom.3:9-11,23; Lk.1:47]

RC teaching: Mary is co-mediator with Christ.

[Reader compare 1Tim.2:5]

...'Every word of God is pure...Add thou not unto His Words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar', (Pr.30:5,6)...'But He answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?...But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men', (Matt.15:3,9).

Jesus To Appear Bodily With Benny Hinn?

Hinn: 'I'm gonna show you the power of God on young people, I know you may have seen this before, maybe you haven't - if you have, you'll get blessed all over again. I'm in Phoenix Arizona this Thursday and Friday. What you're about to see is gonna happen there, so you in Phoenix make sure you show up for that crusade. Now, what you're gonna see happens usually at the last night at the end of the service for the young people. It's gonna be a powerful crusade, great, great things. Let me tell you something. The Holy Spirit has spoken, He told me He is about to show up. Oh, I gotta tell you this just before we go. I had a word of prophecy from Ruth Heflin, you know who Ruth Heflin is? Ruth prophesied over me back in the seventies. Everything she said has happened. She just sent me a word through my wife and said: The Lord spoke to her audibly and said, That He is going to appear physically in one of our crusades in the next few months. Yeah, She...I'm telling ya,...she said, the Lord spoke to her audibly and said, tell Benny I'm going to appear physically on the platform in his meetings. Lord, do it in Phoenix Arizona in the name of Jesus! And in Kenya too, Lord, please, Lord, in fact, do it in every crusade. In Jesus' name'.

(Benny Hinn with Steve Brock, 'This is Your Day' - TV broadcast 29/3/2000, (about 10 minutes after start), from

700 Club Studios, Virginia Beach, Va.)

(<http://www.bhmm.org/television.asp>)

Editors Comments: The two possible outcomes of this prophecy are: (A) Nothing happens and Hinn has supported a false prophet in Heflin and the 'audible voice' is another spirit. (B) A man appears on Hinn's show and claims to be Jesus Christ in which case he would be an 'antichrist'.

Jesus Christ will not be coming back to earth on a TV show in America. However, New Age people have long awaited such an event as Hinn has described! To them it may well be 'the christ' of their New Age teaching.

What does the Word of God say?: 'Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs [Gr. 'Christos' - 'anointed ones'], and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.' (Matt.24:23-27)

'Fellowship with known and vital error is participation in sin.' C. H. Spurgeon

How The World Sees The Church

(From the 'Bulletin' Magazine, April, 2000 'Give me that new time religion - Born again hip and booming' by Diana Bagnall)

'.....A handful of Pentecostal congregations are housed on big acreages in large, purpose built auditoriums, complete with cafe and youth centres, recording studios and schools, but more find a home in recycled buildings, primary schools and community centres. And that's what's fooled us. We haven't seen the communities and the networks. And they're big, vigorous and potentially powerful. Brian Houston, who heads the Assemblies of God denomination in Australia, estimates there are 3,000 full-time trainees in AOG Bible colleges across the country...these churches...the predominate style is contemporary and prosperous. Hip even.

These are places where winners hang out, where the rewards are tangible and tantalising...They promise the good life on earth, and of course, the bonus of eternal life. They offer intimacy and excitement, a sense of belonging and of righteousness. A heady mix....

As a combined grouping, there are now more people worshipping in Pentecostal churches than at Anglican churches each week...In the new churches the power of the message is in it's communication. 'We scratch where people are itching,' says Mark Edwards...His sermons are more likely to focus on financial management, (he has just finished a two year term as president of the local Chamber of Commerce), and work issues, relationships and raising children, than on fine theological argument.

...The average size of Anglican and Protestant congregations in Australia is around 70, with more than a third having fewer than 25 attendees...most of Australia's mega churches are Pentecostal...a brand of Christianity that features as its centrepiece the highly charged experience called Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The most common sign of a Pentecostal experience is that a person begins speaking in tongues, (making sounds that usually they can't understand and feel they can't control), but there are other signs such as falling to the ground in a trance or, as happened first in Toronto in

the early 90's, laughing uncontrollably, (the 'Toronto Blessing').

...The National Church Life Survey (NCLS) found that the overall growth in Pentecostal denominations was predominately due to 'switches',...people joining from other denominations...'People will go where it's happening for them', says Phil Pringle, 47, founding head of Christian City Churches...to explain the filling up of the churches...there are more temporal reasons, to do with charisma, seductive packaging, professional standards and...the effective harnessing of youthful idealism and passion.

...Pringle and Houston...move at a furious pace, as much entrepreneur as pastor, as much celebrity as preacher...all the while churning out the next motivational book, overseeing...big pools of musicians and singers...The flip side for them is that when the high energy drops off, so do the people,' ...the churches...are designed to be user-friendly for 'seekers', as new comers are called...church services are conceived of as multimedia events - display windows for marketing Christianity...'culturally relevant' is the buzz phrase...the focus of attention is a rock band...with catchy rhythms and romantic tug of good pop...In fact the services are not unlike Saturday variety TV...Edwards explains: 'You go to a Barbra Streisand concert and you expect a certain standard of that concert. Why should people who come to our church expect any less?'

...At Baulkham Hills [AOG church] - just a few meters away from the Brian and Bobbie exhibition stand, [there is] a bookstall of their books and videos over which their names are written in neon Script...'

Editors comments: We urge readers to review the article by this ministry on 'Church Growth' (April/2000). This article has points that bring much of the above article into the light of the Word of God. Secular writers are increasingly seeing the church as palatable with their worldly desires. *The world has come into the church to take the church into the world.*

Charismatic Disrupts Funeral of Baby

'Mourners watched in horror as a Hyper-Pentecostal Charismatic disrupted the funeral of a baby boy - in a bid to bring the child back to life. Distraught and angry relatives had to eject a woman from the funeral...One mourner, who witnessed the disturbing scene at the Pentecostal Church in Belfast, told how the woman, who was in her 30's, brought further anguish to the already grief-stricken family. 'The funeral was almost over. The pastor's assistant was saying the closing prayer,' he said 'Suddenly, this girl, who was sitting in the fourth or fifth pew, stood up and started to shout commands for the child to come back to life.' She was saying: 'I command you to rise up and walk in the name of Jesus of Nazareth' ...The mourner claimed the woman was a regular worshipper at another Elim Pentecostal Church in Belfast... 'The woman is known to the baby's family, but she is not a friend,' said the mourner. I would describe her as a hyper-Pentecostal type...She goes around telling people her dreams and visions...' (Belfast Berean)

The Campolos

Peggy Campolo (wife of Tony Campolo) recently spoke at a pro-homosexual evangelical event...She said, 'We are standing on holy ground here', and later said the first homosexual wedding in her Central Baptist Church was a 'high and holy experience' for her...Over and over she referred to 'my gay brothers and lesbian sisters,' and called them 'children of God'. (From *The Christian News*, 22/11/99)

1950 Quote

'A world religion is on the way, which will be religious rather than Christian; it will be human rather than divine; it will be natural rather than supernatural; It's God will be its servant and not its sovereign...its goal will be a human utopia not the kingdom of the coming king. The coming world religion is envisioned by liberals as the harbinger of the 'kingdom', but by Biblical writers as the forerunner of the anti-christ.' (*The Case Against Modernism* by Chester Tulga, 1950)

Deception is based on ignorance, not character.

True Colours Fly?

During July of 1997 I wrote an article in alarm at the blindness of the Assemblies of God leadership with regard to ecumenism, and in particular Brian Houston's endorsement of the ecumenical 'Share the Holy Spirit' Conference, being held in Sydney at the time. This we published in the August 1997 edition of *Diakrisis*. To his credit Brian claimed that he had not been consulted over this and withdrew his support. Within this article we reprinted parts of a sermon delivered by his father, the founder of the *Christian Life Centres* here in Australia, Frank Houston. He had called Roman Catholicism 'extremely wicked and unscriptural'.

One wonders now if the organisers of another 'ecumenical' event have omitted to ask Brian for his glowing endorsement? For, on page one of the Autumn 2000 edition of 'Awakening News' - the National Bulletin of the 'Aussie Awakening' organisation, Brian writes the following: 'I am excited about being a part of Awakening 2000, which is a significant occasion for Christians to come together and make a dynamic impact in our nation'. This endorsement is printed above that of Archbishop Francis P. Carroll from the Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. Again, we ask; an impact of

Four Die Waiting for 'Miracle' Cures

'Four Kenyans, including two young children, died at a religious meeting while they waited for miracle cures from a visiting American evangelist, a local paper said Wednesday. Police told the Kenya Times the four had been released from a hospital to be cured at Benny Hinn's 'Miracle Crusade' in the Kenyan capital Sunday, but they died before Hinn could pray for them'. (Reuters, 8:04 AM ET, 4/5/2000, Nairobi)

Reinhard Bonnke's Crusade Deaths.

On 6th October, 14 people were crushed to death in Nigeria when they attempted to rush the stage to try to touch Bonnke. (*New Life*, Nov/99)

Perfection

'There are two kinds of perfection that a Christian needs. One is the perfection of the justification of Jesus, and the other is the perfection of sanctification worked by the Holy Spirit. At present, corruption still rests in the heart of even the regenerate, the heart is partially impure and there is still lusts and evil imaginations. However, my soul rejoices to know that the day is coming when God will finish the work which he has begun. He will present my soul not only perfect in Christ, but also perfect in the spirit, without spot, blemish, or any such thing.' Spurgeon, 'Holy Spirit Power', P. 47

How Did Pensacola 'Revival' Really Begin?

For those interested in how Kilpatrick introduced the so called 'Pensacola Revival' to Brownsville, we suggest the internet site: <http://www.pensacolanejournal.com/brownsville/wednesday/wed1.htm>

This site has a seven page document showing how events led up to the first day of 'revival'. The first day also shows clearly the manipulation used by the leaders. It is evident that about 800 people left after the 'revival' broke out. Testimonies of these are at internet site:

<http://www.pensacolanejournal.com/brownsville/monday/mon8.htm>

exactly what sort is he expecting? Does he disagree now with his father's stance?

In the past we have also spoken of the Reverend Fred Nile's growing ecumenism and drawn some heavy fire over doing so. But it seems to deepen as time goes on.

Fred was listed as one of the main speakers at this years 'Share the Holy Spirit 2000 Conference' in Sydney. He shared the platform with such luminaries as Dr. Tony Campolo, Dr. John Bonnici-Mallia (Roman Catholic), Brian Smith (consultant to John Paul II and First President of the Catholic Fraternity of Charismatic Covenant Communities, a 'canonically recognised Pontifical Association of Christ's faithful'), Father Tom Forrest (Roman Catholic), and Joseph and Julie Chircop (ecumenical Roman Catholic). At this conference a Roman Catholic 'Mass' was celebrated by Bishop David Cremin, Cardinal Edward Clancy (Principal Celebrant) and Father Tom Forrest. This was held to 'honour the birth and presence of Christ in the midst of His people for the last 2000 years'. (To Roman Catholics the 'presence' means in the bread)

We again caution our readers to be mindful of where these 'leaders' are taking so many of the unwary flock. **Mike Claydon**

David Wilkerson

Prophecies: David Wilkerson is considered by many to be the foremost Pentecostal preacher and author in America. His early book *'The Cross & the Switchblade'* brought him prominence as a fearless preacher of the Gospel. His courageous stand against 'Christian rock music' and pornography are well known. In recent times he has spoken out against Word-Faith teachers as well as Pentecostal extremes and excesses, including the 'Toronto Blessing'. He is also a powerful and passionate preacher on many subjects such as repentance, sin and revival. Many Pentecostals worldwide look to this man as the last line of conservative 'classical' Pentecostals.

In 1985 Wilkerson wrote a book titled *'Set the Trumpet to Thy Mouth'* in which he recounted a *prophetic vision* and a *direct revelation* that God gave to him for the church. The book gave concise details of this *message from God* in which Wilkerson wrote: *'The Holy Spirit revealed to me four truths...'* (P.93) The message was that America would *'imminently'* be *destroyed by fire*. The book is liberally sprinkled with the phrases *'imminent'*; *'soon'* and *'very soon'*: *'Sudden destruction is coming and few will escape. Unexpectedly, and in one hour, a hydrogen holocaust will engulf America - and this nation will be no more...judgement is at the door!...America is about to be shaken...God called me to be a watchman. I hear the Word of God to Ezekiel ringing in my ears, 'Son of man, speak to the children of thy people...'* (P.9,10). *'I believe it is imminent...God will...send fire on us!'* (P.16,17)...*'Soon, very soon, an economic nightmare will explode into reality...America is about to face a time of mass hysteria...our economy spins totally out of control.'* (P.21) *'I see almighty God even now slowly turning His back on this nation! America is on the verge of committing the unpardonable sin by resisting the Holy Ghost.'* (P.25)...*'America parties on the brink of judgement.'* (P.27)...*'this awesome nuclear holocaust...'* (P.32)...*'The Bride of Christ is already feeling the magnetic pull to the marriage supper of the lamb.'* (P.33)...*'Time is fast running out.'* (P.41)...*'The end of things is near...'* (P.93)...*'We are about to see some awful judgement.'* (P.104)...*'I tremble at what God has called upon me to prophesy.'* (P.112)...*'[The] soon coming judgement on this nation...'* (P.126)...*'Soon, very soon, those powers [various Pentecostal powers] will no longer be needed...'* (P.152)

Within the first few pages, it is clear - Wilkerson believed and expected his readers to believe, that the prophecy and vision given to him would come to pass *'imminently'* and *'very soon'*. With the benefit of more than 15 years hindsight it is clear that *many of the prophecies have just not come to pass*.

Wilkerson also wrote what God spoke to him about Television: *'The sodomites are in the house!...I knew it was God speaking to me about the wickedness of television.'* (P.57)...*'While watching a violent five man team murder and maim, the Holy Spirit came upon me, causing me to tremble. I heard him say to me in no uncertain terms that he would not let me keep my anointing if I kept watching it.'* (P.58,59)...*'I believe every Christian reading this will soon have to choose or abort the fullness of the spirit.'* (P.59) *'Our idols have withheld the latter rain.'* (P.62) [He quotes Jer.3:2,3]...*'The anointing exchanged for an idol [television]'* (P.71)...*'Television,...his [Satan's] Babylon idiot box...Satan is succeeding through television in a way not possible by any other kind of demonic invasion.'* (P.55) *Television demands child sacrifices. It is the mouth of Hell.'* (P.66)

Yet later, Wilkerson says: *'When anointed by the Gospel television can become a powerful tool of evangelism.'* (P.74).

God also prophesied to Wilkerson about Christian rock music: *'The time is not far off when the rockers [Christian rock singers] will lose their Christian crowds. Their following will dwindle and die...'* (P.108)..*'some have gone too far and will never recover the anointing they once had.'* (P.118)

As we shall see later in his teachings, Wilkerson is a master at 'spiritualising' Old Testament Scriptures. He says the *'full of eyes'* in Ezekiel 10:12 *'symbolises God's final heart searching before judgement.'* (P.40) Time and again Wilkerson quotes passages that *specifically refer to Israel* but insists they are for *America*, (eg. Zech.9:16, P.22). He says Israel is the church (P.23); continually replaces Babylon with America (eg. Jer.51:64, P.26); and says the prophecies to Israel were a *'dual prophecy'* (P.106) and are about to happen again to America. *'America is modern Babylon...no other nation on earth fits the description of Revelation 18...America is referred to as Babylon.'* (He then quotes Ezekiel 17:8, 12 as being *'for America'*, P.11,12). The *'lady in the harbour'* is the *'Statue of Liberty'* (P.15). He says Jeremiah 21:5 *'is an outright warning to America.'* (P.18) *'Russia invaded Israel because the American Eagle is no longer there to defend her.'* (P.20)

Although Wilkerson writes *'This trumpet call is not the wild rantings of a few fanatics...'* (P.31), nevertheless, after more than *fifteen years* of hindsight, his readers should have little alternative but to remind themselves of Deuteronomy 18:20-22: *'But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or...How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.'*

The fact is that many of the *'imminent'* and *'very soon'* predictions did not come to pass.

Wilkerson teaches a great end-time world harvest (P.31): *'The greatest Holy Ghost outpouring in the history of mankind is already happening...soon we will go to meet Him...'* (P.33) He predicts there will be *'one final glorious harvest. Soon it will depart...the glory is right now at the threshold of the church...'* (P.40, emphasis in original)

This promise of a worldwide end-time revival is a 100 year old lie that has been regurgitated since the beginnings of Pentecostalism at the turn of the century! Scriptural evidence for this is not only zero, but is *refuted* by numerous Scriptures which explicitly teach a *'falling away'*, (2Thess.2:3,9,10; 1Tim.4:1; 2Tim.4:3,4; Matt.24:11,24; Lk.18:8). [Reader refer to article *'World Revival?'*, *'Diakrisis'*/Feb/98].

Teachings: Some may think that Wilkerson has become more conservative since 1985. However, a review of just some of his distributed sermon articles show cause for serious concern.

In a sermon *'The Power of the Lord's Presence'*. [The full article can be obtained from TA Ministries], Wilkerson begins by equating the *'presence of God'* as a *'power'* and that we can *'lay hold of that power'* as a *'promise'*. The whole article almost exclusively uses Old Testament Scriptures in an attempt to prove such a teaching. For example, Exodus 33:15 is quoted: *'if thy presence go not with me carry us up not hence...'* However, here Moses is referring to the *actual presence* of God *in the cloud and pillar* which guided the way of the Israelites day and night. God's presence was *'with'*

them in the true sense of the word - in the Holy of Holies or in the cloud and pillar. But that *is not* the case now for believers! The 'presence' now is *in us*. *We are the temple of the Holy Spirit!* (1Cor.6:19)

The terrible tragedy of this Pentecostal error is that the operations of the Spirit in the Old Testament and the New Testament are confused. For example, the 'anointing' in the Old Testament was in reference to setting apart kings, high Priests or objects for God's purposes; but the 'anointing' in the New Testament is now *in us* and *abides* permanently: **'But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him'**, (1Jn.2:27). The '**have received**' is in the Greek *aorist indicative* which means *it was done at a set time in the past* and is not repeatable! It '**abides**' (*dwells*) in us now. We all have the '**same anointing**'! The '*anointing*' is a metonymy for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit no longer now comes '*upon*' or is '*with*' as in the Old Testament, but He *now dwells in us*.

At best the 'presence' Wilkerson teaches is an Old Testament understanding of the manifestation of the Lord in the temple; but at worst such teaching is unscriptural and occultic when taught as an expectation for today's believers. The teaching by Wilkerson in this article is little different to the 'anointing' as taught by Benny Hinn and others. [See *Diakrisis* April/99]. Wilkerson has to quote Old Testament Scriptures to continue with the 'presence' as an *outside* thing because one cannot get this from the New Testament!

If one looks up the word '**presence**' in the New Testament it is impossible to come to any of Wilkerson's conclusions. The Greek words do not convey such ideas. The word is used when someone met an angel or was in the presence of an angel; or it is used in judgement at the end of this age. One scripture alone should suffice to show how it refers to us today: **'For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not ye even in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming'**, (1Thess.2:19).

We do not '*lay hold of that power*' or any '*presence*' as Wilkerson teaches. That expression is more occult than it is Christian! If anything, the Holy Spirit lays hold of us and *fills* us from *within*! Ephesians 5:18 says: **'...be filled with the Spirit'**. The Greek here shows clearly that it is the Holy Spirit that controls us and the tense is *continuous*. This operation of the Spirit is from *within*! Wilkerson says *'The only thing that sets us apart from non believers is God's being "with us"...*' This is Old Testament language but not New Testament. God's Spirit, (His '*presence*'?) is not now *with us* but *in us*!

Wilkerson speaks of the '*Lord's presence*' being '*in our midst*.' But the Lord's presence is not in '*our midst*' but *abides in us*. The only time in History that God or Jesus was '*in our midst*' was when travelling with Israel (Old Testament) or when Jesus walked the earth (New Testament).

Wilkerson continues: *'We will trust in the manifest presence of God'*. But where in Scripture is there anything about the New Testament church having or trusting *'the manifest presence of God'* in it's '*midst*'? Do we not trust in Jesus Christ rather than a mystical '*presence*'? The '*promise*' that Wilkerson says God gave to Moses is again Old Testament but not the New Testament operation of the Spirit.

Wilkerson then sums up: *'The Old Testament is filled with accounts of the wonderful blessings that came to those who had the presence of God with them'*. For the nation Israel this is true. However, Wilkerson transposes this into a New Testament operation of the Spirit which is simply false teaching.

Wilkerson continues with: *'God's spirit is present with us...*' Again the terminology is wrong. God's Spirit is not *with us* but *in us*. The confusion between the Old Testament and the New Testament and the different operations of the Holy Spirit may be obvious. However, a more subtle confusion is evident here between *Justification* and *Sanctification*. *Justification* is *outside us* in Christ and His work, but *Sanctification* is *in us* by the operation of the Holy Spirit.

Wilkerson then does what is common to false teaching: he makes a statement about Scripture as if the statement is unquestionably true. He quotes Judges 6:12,14 and says that Gideon could save Israel *only by God's presence*. However, if the reader cares to look up the Scripture they will find that '*the presence*' is simply not mentioned in these passages! (God's '*might*' cannot be equated with Wilkerson's '*presence*' here.) Wilkerson goes on to add error to error by adding Jeremiah 15:20 and that it teaches *'All that matters is my presence with you.'* This passage simply does not teach this!

As is usual with such teaching - there are '*conditions*' to '*getting and maintaining the presence*' according to Wilkerson. This is very similar teaching to that of Benny Hinn's teaching in regard to '*the anointing*'! 2 Chronicles 14:11-12 is quoted that *'God's presence scattered the enemy'*. Yet the passage has nothing to do with any such '*presence*'! Then Wilkerson comes out with the '*secret*'. This is the old chestnut of all extra-Biblical teaching. It is Mysticism and Gnosticism. Wilkerson says the Hebrew word '*Matsa*' means *'His presence coming forth to enable, to bless'*. However, Wilkerson has added the word '*presence*' to the meaning!

Wilkerson continues: *'According to the Scriptures, our chief concern is to keep seeking God, to ensure His presence with us'* and that *'only when God's presence is upon us can we behold, see and understand His glory.'* The confusion of the Old Testament with the New Testament is again evident. The Holy Spirit *never* comes '*upon*' believers after they are *indwelt*: (See our tape '*Baptism with Spirit!*'/*filling!*'/*The Anointing*'). Wilkerson claims the Old Testament passages mentioned tell us to *'seek God's presence in our lives'*. This is demonstrably untrue and also contrary to New Testament teaching. We simply do not seek God to *keep* his presence! Yet Wilkerson says there is a '*covenant of God's presence*' and that Scripture makes this clear but he never cites one single Scripture here as proof!

Of this '*presence*' Wilkerson says: *'Today the same cloud of His presence hovers over your secret closet of prayer. It awaits everyday to envelope you...It will lead you...it can be seen and known by all.'* But what is this '*it*'? The presence of the Holy Spirit does not '*hover over*' or '*envelope*'! This is seriously *occultic*! New Age and occult teachings describe the same as the above.

Near the end of the article, Wilkerson does quote a relevant New Testament Scripture: *'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you.'* The Word '*in*' is relevant here and destroys what Wilkerson has previously taught about the '*presence*'!

Summarising the '*presence*' of God, Wilkerson closes with: *'God's glory will keep us clean in our worst hour.'* But is it not the blood of Jesus and only this that declares us clean?

We urge the reader to be warned of such prophecies and teaching. May we be aware of the distinction between the operations of the Holy Spirit in the Old and the New Testaments. May we not seek an outside '*presence*' and grieve the Holy Spirit within, who desires to display His fruit that people might see our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon

TA Ministries, PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, 4655

Your Comments and Questions

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

To: TA Ministries, I have perused what TA published on Smith Wigglesworth [Jan/Feb 2000]...I felt that documentation was somewhat lacking - especially on the part of the writer whose letter was published. It's not clear from the footnotes whether Smith Wigglesworth was the author of the books cited. If not then of course the argument against him is flawed in degree relying as it does on what was alleged than on what came from the 'horses mouth'.

(An editor from a discernment ministry, name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors comment: Dear...Greetings in Jesus name....yes, the footnotes are correct and the books written by Wigglesworth. I neglected to notate this but I guess I wrongly assumed people would know the books were written by Wigglesworth. Thankyou very much for your comment on this and we have now rectified the footnotes for the future.

The article documents material from three books: 'Place of Power' (1916); 'Privileges of Sonship' (1924); and 'Count it all Joy' (1925). All three books were reprinted in one book 'The Anointing of his spirit'. I know where the book can be obtained in the USA and the information thus proved beyond doubt to anyone who cares to double check...We place great value in accurate research and primary sources wherever possible. So, yes, you can take everything in that article from the 'horses mouth'...

(More information on Wigglesworth can be found in the following internet sites: [<http://wayoflife.org/~dcloud/fbns/ishealing01.htm>] [<http://wayoflife.org/~dcloud/fbns/strange1.htm>] [<http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbead/bdm/>])

(A subscriber sent us the following correspondence to Nicky Gumbel, leader of the Alpha course.)

Subscriber: (1/5/97) 'Dear Rev. Gumbel...Your most lucid explanation of the evidence for the authenticity of the Bible were compelling. I therefore found it confusing when you stated on the video after the Alpha weekend that Genesis is a myth, and not scientific...I also wish to ask you if you believe the 'Toronto Blessing' is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.'

Gumbel: 'Dear...I am afraid I cannot recall what I said on the video. However, my views are set out in 'searching issues' chapter 6. The 'Toronto Blessing':...There have been many remarkable outpourings of the Holy Spirit and what is happening at the Toronto church has brought blessings to thousands of people, including many of our own congregation.'

Subscriber: 'Dear Rev. Gumbel...I am a 'new' Christian...I have fled to your book 'searching issues'...I cannot accept an all inclusive approach to the question of creation. It is either literally true or it is not...'

..The Toronto business is a very hot issue here and is causing splits in churches.'

Subscriber: 'Dear Nicky,...We actually left the Alpha course pending your clarification of your position on Genesis...We do believe in unity, but not at the expense of truth...'

(No further correspondence was forthcoming)

Editors Comments: Apart from the heretical sections on the Holy Spirit in the Alpha course, this letter documents another concern: do the promoters of this course consider the Bible to be literally inspired and inerrant? See our articles on the Alpha course, (eg 'Diakrisis'/April/99).

A Note From The Editor

Because of the increasing volume of mail received in this ministry we are unable to answer all mail. We just do not have secretarial staff to handle the workload. Material sent to us to read may take some time to be attended to. Please be patient with us.

Neil Anderson Warning Package

Neil Anderson is the author of some popular books such as 'Bondage Breaker' which features unbiblical and extra-biblical views of demonisation and spiritual warfare mixed with 'Christian psychology'. This ministry has put together a booklet and an audio tape strongly warning of the dangers thereof. Price is \$4.95 + postage (in Australia \$2.50).

Eternal Salvation

'Numbers of persons think that the Lord Jesus is available for the pardon of passing but they cannot trust him for their preservation of the future. They trust the years past but not the years to come. Whereas no such subdivision of salvation is ever spoken of in Scripture as a work of Christ. Either He bore all our sins or none. And either He saves us once for all or not at all. His death can never be repeated and He must have made expiation for the future sin of believers or they are lost since no further atonement can be supposed and since future sin is certain to be committed. Blessed be His name! By Him all that believe are justified from all things.'

Salvation by grace is eternal salvation. Sinners must commit themselves to the keeping of Christ for all eternity. How else are they saved men? Alas, according to the teaching of some believers, some believers are only saved in part, and for the rest must depend on their future endeavours. Is this the Gospel? I think not. Genuine faith trusts the whole cross for the whole of salvation. Is it any wonder that many converts fall away when in fact they were never taught to exercise faith in Jesus for eternal salvation but only for a temporary conversion? A faulty exhibition of Christ begets a faulty faith. And when this pines away in its own...who is to blame for it? According to their faith so it is unto them.

The preacher and possessor of a partial faith must unitedly bear the blame of the failure...[But] Delivered from the fear...and inspired by gratitude to his redeemer the regenerate man becomes capable of virtue and is filled with an enthusiasm for God's Glory.' Spurgeon

New Anglican Head Denies Faith?

The newly elected Anglican Primate, Dr. Peter Carnley has claimed Christ was not the only way to salvation in an article of the Easter edition of the Bulletin magazine.

Dr Carnley said the belief that salvation could only come through Christ was not valid. His views were rejected as anti-doctrinal by the Sydney diocese.

Editors comments: Recently I viewed an 'interview with Peter Carnley' from a recent 'Compass' TV program. The interviewer asked the hard questions concerning homosexuality, ordination of women, etc. His answers were arguably quite heretical. However, the section that shocked many was his doctrinal answers to questions on what he believed about God, the resurrection, etc. His description of the resurrection was more New Age than Christian. The secular interviewer at one stage appealed as to why such a leader would not present orthodox Anglican teaching on such basics as the resurrection!

Praise God for the Sydney remnant of Anglicans who have spoken out against this man and who are defending 'the faith once delivered to the saints,' (Jude 3).

Your Comments and Questions

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

Church Request

A subscriber has requested help in finding a suitable church or fellowship in the lake Macquarie area, NSW. If any readers know of sound fellowships within this area please contact this ministry.

Dear Terry,...just received the March newsletter, I could understand why you agonised over writing the article: 'The Greatest Deception'. Yet I encourage you to keep on contending and earnestly publishing articles of the like. They are a great encouragement to those of us who have come out of so much deception and gained a love of the truth, God bless all at TA Ministries, (P.K., Qld)

Bro. Arnold & associates, Thank you very much for the material which arrived some months ago. Some I've checked out - looks sound and good. The tapes on 'Tongues' are the best I've ever heard. I quickly browsed through the newsletters and I commend you for the article on the necessity of Repentance. Stay solid as the Rock your Saviour. It's good to see brethren not giving in to compromise in these wicked days. I was most honoured that you had included my letter, [March/2000, P.7] it made me glad. I don't feel so alone for the moment, thanks be to God. E-mail has brought me closer to many brethren abroad...I might get the opportunity to serve the Lord in Bible translation work...I'm most honoured and happy and excited...For the moment I'm writing a letter to the members of my former church, exposing the errors and explaining my separation. I'll give the true Gospel...God bless you all.

(Swedish Christian in Finland)

Dear Terry, Just got your tapes on 'tongues' - very interesting. I'll have to go over them again as I have been listening at work without my Bible. 1 Cor 14 is starting to make sense, and those 'concessional clauses' make a world of difference. Verses 22-24 I have never been able to make sense of and I have never heard it taught for my seven years in Pentecostal Churches.

I am now an ex-Pentecostal who left because of the Toronto issue and because [unknown] tongues were used blatantly and very publicly. I speak in an unknown tongue myself but find myself doing it far less outside of the Pentecostal environment. It has been bugging me for a while, like the Holy Spirit bringing conviction. The tapes will be very important for me...Keep up the good work. (Pastor W.B., Sydney)

Praise Points

- Praise God for the encouragement sent from many saints and friends during a difficult few months. Praise the Lord that he supplies all our needs according to His will.

Prayer Points

- Pray for wisdom, love and discernment for the editors.
- Pray for the upcoming August Sydney itinerary.

Dear TA Ministries,...A friend recently lent us a copy of 'Diakrisis', which really encouraged and blessed us. It is so encouraging to know there are ministers out there teaching the truth and boldly exposing error. We used to attend a local Charismatic church, but they gradually drifted into error - laughing spirit, Word-Faith, very loud music, gold teeth...The leadership were very aggressive toward us and unpleasant when we shared why we had to leave. All the local churches seem to be either in the above, Alpha or ecumenism. Incidentally, we went searching for revival in the early 90's to Africa...we never saw any real healings at church, even though people were supposedly healed...we always felt guilty we were not good enough to receive tongues of 'fire' but were confused why others who professed to have it were often so worldly. Praise God he has shown us the truth to all these lies...Thanks to the newsletter we will keep growing in the Lord and in His Word,...

(K& M.G. Tas.)

Dear Terry, Mike, another wonderful issue of 'Diakrisis', thank you! I felt convicted to write immediately to encourage you. How else are we wandering sheep to understand the real Gospel if men like you do not courageously teach it? The amazing article about Robert Schuller and the Mufti, for instance, would come as a total surprise to many who are not 'Diakrisis' readers. Imagine being glued to 'Larry King Live', you could be forgiven for swallowing that message as truth, just like believing an advert saying a can of Cola and a greasy Hamburger is good food that will quell your hunger and slake your thirst - a clever sugar coated lie! God Bless you, may He supply all your needs through Christ Jesus.

(A.W., Sydney)

Dear Terry,...Thankyou for your help with...and the problems she was having with the Brisbane Church of Christ. I'm really grateful for you talking with us and the information you sent us...Since then she has not been back to the BCOC and is still reading her Bible and praying. Praise God. Thankyou very much. God Bless You! Love, (name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors note: The BCOC is not to be confused with the denomination of 'Churches of Christ'.

New SDA Video

A powerful new video titled 'Seventh Day Adventism - the spirit behind the church' is now available. (See enclosed Flyer). Price: \$29.50 + Postage

Terry's Itinerary

June 4th 9.45am Howard Baptist, Qld Ph.(07)41294292

June 25th 10am & 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. Ph.(07)41284201

July 2nd 10am & 6.30pm (6.30pm video on Revival) Hervey Bay Church of Christ

August: Sydney (See P.1)

Send this form to:

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