



Australia
Diakrisis

A Ministry of Teaching

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age...to discern (diakrisis) both good and evil (Heb. 5:14)
Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine?... (Is.28:9)*

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The members of the advisory panel may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed in this newsletter.

We welcome comments and articles contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

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Editors Comment

Doctrinal accuracy and confronting or correcting error is considered by God to be important, since so much of the Bible is devoted to it. I sometimes wonder if those who are critical of our exposing error and teaching doctrinal truth have ever read the same Bible!

In the New Testament there are three Greek words translated 'doctrine'. Together these three Greek words are used *no less than 51 times in the New Testament!* Added to this many of the Epistles are literally full of exposing of false teaching and error, and warnings of false teachers, false prophets and apostasy.

However, over many years I have become concerned at the number of people who have engaged themselves in exercises of correcting error only to be themselves sidetracked by some 'wind of doctrine'. Very few are called to a ministry of teaching doctrine and publicly confronting error. It is indeed an unpopular, demanding and hazardous calling. Too many who thought they were called to such a task zealously immerse themselves in such studies only to become obsessed with false teachings to such an extent that they have fallen by the wayside for lack of nourishment in Gods Word. Others have developed extreme ideas by taking truth beyond its boundaries. Such a ministry is dangerous to oneself and to others unless one has solid foundations in, and a high view of, the Word of God. There is a real necessity to be consistently immersed in God's Word and to have regular fellowship with mature Christians. These help to balance out the 'negatives' of such a ministry. Accountability to, and encouragement from a sound local church, is a most helpful advantage.

However, on a personal level we are all to 'earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered'. The necessary discernment for this is based on knowledge - not just head knowledge but *spiritual knowledge* only obtainable from the Holy Spirit through His Word. This then shapes our character and behaviour. Too many of those who are correcting error show a lack of the fruit of the Holy Spirit, (Gal.5:22) - the danger is that we become islands to ourselves; we lack humility and submission; we shoot the messengers more than the messages.

This does not mean we do not expose false prophets and false teachers, but witch-hunts of wide proportions are dubious. In this ministry we attempt to address two important questions: is it clearly in Scripture - 'the faith once delivered'?; and is it therefore found in the writings of the early church fathers and in orthodox historic Christianity? There is a vast amount of false teaching today that is simply new teaching hatched in the Twentieth Century.

To our readers who are contending for the faith and wish to have discernment in these last days of apostasy, we exhort all to be *consistently* and *daily* immersed in the Word of God; to commune with the Lord in prayer; to engage in regular and active fellowship with the saints; and to be accountable and in submission to Godly elders and one to another.

Let us not forget the *object* of any such activities - the Lord Jesus Christ, the soon coming King. **Terry Arnold**

Sydney Trip

We are currently preparing a Sydney itinerary for August. Those fellowships wishing to be included please contact this ministry or Garry Curley in Sydney - Ph. (02)96702648

The Doctrine of 'God Told Me'

I meet many people who say '*God told me...the Spirit spoke to me...or...God gave me a vision...a dream...*'

Are there such inspired sources other than, or distinct from, the Bible? No doubt the Holy Spirit may 'prompt' us to speak or act in some way, since His work is to *convict* us and *lead* us. However, what of hearing revelation from God outside of the written Word? Does '*the faith once delivered to the saints*' (Jude 3) also include such revelations?

In Jude 3 the word '*delivered*' is in the past tense (aorist passive) with no continuing element. The passive voice shows this body of faith was given to men *by God*. How has this been done? - through the *closed* canon of Scripture - the Bible! This canon is *complete* and hence we have the doctrine of '*Sola Scriptura*', fought for by the reformers at the cost of many lives.

This '*faith*' is *the* faith that Saul tried to destroy, (Gal.1:23) and *the* faith that in the latter times many will depart from, (1Tim.4:1). Today, we have attacks on this faith from many quarters. The range of extra-Biblical teaching and revelations including dreams and visions are too numerous to mention. One example is Charismatic/Pentecostal 'prophecies' claimed to be from God. Some Pentecostal leaders have in recent times attempted to marry such 'prophecies' with *Sola Scriptura* but it utterly defies what the reformers and the early Church Fathers taught. Prophecy in the New Testament is basically *forthtelling* the Word of God rather than *foretelling*.

In times past God spoke to us *by the prophets* (Heb.1:1), but now we have *a more sure word of prophecy* (2Pet.1:19), and that Word has already *been* delivered unto us as *the* faith, (Jude 3). New Testament Prophecy is now declaring, expounding and *forthtelling* the word of God as *already delivered*.

I was once in conversation with a professing Christian who related a series of dreams and visions supposedly given from the Lord. Most of these dreams and visions *seemed* spiritual and even Scriptural enough. Finally, one of the dreams showed the danger of accepting *any* of the previous revelations as being from God. This dream gave permission from God for a friend to marry an adherent of the Hindu religion. The marriage ended up in the salvation of the Hindu and the husband being in full time ministry. The vision was accepted as being from God and that the ending justified the revelation. This *pragmatic thinking* has invaded the church on a massive scale. However, in truth the vision could not have been of God because God *never* contradicts His Word *at any point or time* and will *never* add revelation to it, *despite whatever the results may be in the end!*

In the Old Testament God spoke directly to the prophets (Heb.1:1,2) and through dreams and visions. Some, in an attempt to make use of dreams and visions today, quote Joel 2:28,29: '*And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And it shall come to pass afterward...*' Most people read only these verses and fail to read the next two! (vs.30-32) '*...And I will shew wonders in the Heavens and in the Earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The Sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come...*'

The key word is back in verses 28,29 - '*afterward*'. After what? The exact timing is important! Matthew 24:29,30 gives us the answer: '*Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened and the moon shall not give*

her light and the stars shall fall from the heaven, and the powers of the heaven shall be shaken: ... and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds ...', These events, (the same as in Joel), are also spoken of in Revelation 6:12 and 16:10; and the *sun* and the *moon* are similarly mentioned in Mark 13:24-27. All these events are '*after the Tribulation*'.

In Acts 2:16-21 Peter says: '*But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel*', (Acts 2:16). This was at least a partial fulfilment of Joel's prophecy because the '*wonders in the heaven...and in the earth*', (Acts 2:19,20 cf. Joel 2:30), did not occur then, and have not occurred since! Therefore most commentators believe we are still to see the complete fulfilment of Joel's prophecy.

The New Testament shows God spoke to his people through Jesus Christ, (Heb.1:2) and then subsequently the Apostles and prophets, (Eph.4:11,12). The Apostles acknowledged each others writings (2Pet.3:15,16; 1Tim.6:18 cp Lk.10:7), and the Holy Spirit attests to the authenticity of these, (1Cor.2:11,12). God entrusted this Word to the Jews as a race, (Rom.3:1,2).

In the Scriptures God has revealed all that is sufficient for life and godliness, (Deut.29:29; 2Pet.1:3). God has severely warned not to add to His Word at any time, (Deut.4:2; 12:32; Prov.30:6; Rev.22:18,19).

The modern use of 'God told me' has brought much false prophecy, error and a departure from '*Sola Scriptura*'. 'God told me' may be acceptable if it is followed by chapter and verse from the Bible. To go beyond this might well be heresy. The doctrine of 'God told me' should *sometimes* be answered with 'No, He has not'.

We must not go beyond the Word (1Cor.4:6) or seek such signs, (Matt.12:39). God has not promised these for today. Most dreams may well be mere soulish outlets worked out during sleep. Certainly little is known about the science of this. Soulish dreams are simply unreliable when filtered through the spiritual realm. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds through the Word of God, (Rom.12:1,2). It is in the Scriptures we see more and more of the nature and character of Christ and so be changed from glory to Glory.

One author sums up the case well:

'...And why not both? Why not the illumination of Scripture coupled with new revelations of the Spirit? Simply because if you declare a need for both, you have implied the insufficiency of one. You have placed yourself back in the frame work of the Old Covenant, in a time when new revelations were required because of the incompleteness of the old. But Christ is the final Word. No further word for the redemption of men in the present age is needed. In Scripture is found all the truth that is needed for life and godliness...

...The reformers who paid with their life blood for freedom from dominance by the traditions of the church were especially jealous in guarding future generations from the oppressions created by supposed words from the lord. 'Scripture Alone' was their uncompromising cry. Only the written Word of God, an objective standard which all men can see and read, communicates infallible truth to God's people, since God now has stopped using His former methods of revealing His will to the church, (Heb.1:1). But the search goes on for a new way for God to continue revealing His will in ways other than through Holy Scripture. Each new generation offers a slightly different twist on the recurring theme.'^{*}

Terry Arnold

^{*} *'The Final Word'* by O. Palmer Robertson, P.135 & P.86

New Book Release

'Tongues & The Baptism With The Spirit'

Recently I was handed an audio tape of a sermon preached by the senior pastor of one of the largest Pentecostal churches in the western suburbs of Sydney, Australia. The title of the sermon was 'Why I Speak in Tongues'. After listening with mounting horror to the Scriptures being wrested from their moorings, and many sentences prefaced with 'in my opinion' and 'I believe', I began to realise again the importance of personal and prayerful Bible study for each believer wanting to be sound in their doctrine.

In under an hour this 'teacher' put forward the view that Paul was not admonishing the Corinthians for their speaking in unknown tongues, but was applauding them. Without any reference to the original language of the Epistle, he rode roughshod over nineteen hundred years of sound theological exegesis. To explain away the obvious embarrassment of: '**Do all speak with tongues?**' (1Cor.12:30) and '**Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not**' (1Cor.14:22) he opined that there are two levels of tongue speaking - one a permanent gift to some - and to others a passing phenomena at a time of need. Unbelievers will apparently fall on their knees before God when they realise he gives His people a '*prayer language*'.

If it was not such a serious matter it would be humorous! But serious it is. Thousands of Christians in churches throughout the world are being taught the very same doctrines week in week out. If these 'tongues' are not of God, myriads of people are wasting precious time '*speaking into the air*' at best, or dabbling in the demonic at worst.

In todays rapidly evolving ecumenical climate it is appar-

ent that the 'glue' binding together once disparate beliefs is 'shared spiritual experience'; and 'tongues' as understood today, are at the forefront of this all embracing theology. In an effort to shed Biblical light on this matter, Terry Arnold has just completed a new book titled '*Tongues & The Baptism With The Spirit*'.

What happened on the day of Pentecost? What exactly are 'tongues' as discussed in length by the Apostle Paul in his first letter to the church at Corinth? Was he approving of the practice as some would affirm, or was he upbraiding the Corinthians for what they were doing?

These are important and vital questions today for every thinking Christian. Anyone seeking to remain in the will of God on this subject would do well to make an in depth study of this 'gift'.

The author of the above book has had first hand experience in the 'tongues' movement. Many painstaking years of research and study have prepared the way for this book.

Storm clouds are forming on the horizon of the church world scene today. Scripture foretells of trying times for all true believers before Christ returns for His church. False signs, wonders and spiritual gifts will play a pivotal part in the rapidly unfolding plan of God for these last days. To better weather the turbulence ahead, the saints should ensure that their understanding of Scripture is clear and that they have a hold on the truth.

I urge you to order (see P.10) and read this book with an open Bible and an open mind, to discover just what the Scriptures say about 'tongues'. **Mike Claydon**

Salvation Is...

Salvation is the work of God for man; it is not the work of man for God.

Salvation is the imputed righteousness of God; it is not the imperfect righteousness of man.

Salvation is according to the faithful calling of God; it is not according to the fitful carelessness of man.

Salvation is a divine reconciliation; it is not a human regulation.

Salvation is the cancelling of all sin; it is not the cessation from some sin.

Salvation is being delivered from, and dead to, the law; it is not delighting in, or doing the law.

Salvation is divine regeneration; it is not human reformation.

Salvation is being acceptable to God; it is not becoming exceptionally good.

Salvation is possessing every spiritual blessing; it is not professing any spiritual betterment.

Salvation is always and only of God; it is never of man...'
(*Salvation by Grace*, P.51)

My Last Voyage

'Dear Terry & family, I am about to embark on my last voyage. I'm thrilled about it. It will be the highlight of my whole life...From the day I put my trust in Him I have been looking forward to this day when I shall see him as He is. I long to reach that fair land. He has nominated me from the land of darkness to the land of the purest joy...

He has not let me know the day, nor whether it be noon or night. But I am ready...I'm well past my threescore years and ten and this old weather beaten rickety house is getting closer to being put off every day...He is very emphatic - nothing of this world in its sinful state can be tolerated in the Fathers House.

The city is fair gold. No uncleanness or sin can enter. The price is paid for redemption but only those who submit will enter...No luggage can be taken, no good works will gain an admittance. His blood alone purchased our pardon. Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling...

I have been over rough patches in my life, but He has kept me and will keep me safe to the end...my dear Friend has promised no heartaches, no more bodily sufferings...

...So dear ones, as I await that divine call...some sad faces of friends I shall never see again, in this life or the next, they would never trust Jesus...they bid me farewell...what a joy to have a new body that will never wear out...

And to my dear ones - it's not goodbye. Its goodnight. See you in the morning above the bright blue sky, where all is joy; the land where all is happiness and peace and love.'

(Fred Loveless, Hervey Bay, Qld.)

Editors Comments: Fred has since had his desire granted and gone to be with his Lord and Saviour. He was 89 years. He loved the lord passionately, shared Christ often, and was a great encouragement to us. Wherever and whenever we met, he reminded us to prepare and look for the soon return of Jesus Christ.

Ecumenism Continues

'Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox leaders have formed a new Christian unity group. They met for the first time Jan. 5th at Princeton University...The group is unusual because it includes Catholics, Evangelicals, mainline Protestants, Pentecostals, and Orthodox Christians. It calls itself the Foundation for a Conference on Faith and Order in North America. Among the board's 16 members are William Keeler, Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore; Archbishop Dimitrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Diocese in America; Evangelical Richard Mouw, President of Fuller Theological Seminary; Cheryl Bridges Johns, a professor at the Church of God Theological Seminary, a Pentecostal school; and Thomas Gillespie, president of Princeton Theological Seminary...The goal is to re-energize the churches, and 'this requires enhanced unity between them', the group's document states. Unity is intrinsically related to holiness, it said, stressing the urgency of putting Christ back into the centre of church life, and putting faith before social action. A long and intense time of study and teaching in congregations and theological schools will precede the conference, January 10, 2001. (Religion Today)

Editors comments: - Catholicism and Evangelicism espouse different Gospels. Roman Catholicism curses Justification by faith alone through the imputation of Christ's righteousness and adds sacraments and works as means to keep salvation.

- In its earlier years Pentecostalism was never considered 'Evangelical'. This was because of the addition of new teachings which added to the doctrines of Grace, the atonement and 'Sola Scriptura'.

- Holiness is not intrinsically related to 'unity' but rather separation! One of the Greek words for 'holiness' ('hagiasmos') actually means separation to God!

Unity at the expense of truth is not holiness, but treason to Evangelicism and the Word of God.

J.I. Packer & Catholicism

'On 31st July, 1998, at a meeting in Dublin, Mr. J.I. Packer referred to the present Pope as 'a fine Christian man'...On 20th March 1998, Pope John Paul II issued a statement...'the sacrament of reconciliation [confession to a priest] is such a great concern for the supreme Pontiff and his brothers in the priesthood because of their office as mediators in Christ between God and men.' [Reader refer to 1Tim.2:5 !]...'Sin is the shipwreck from which Baptism and penance saves us...'

On the 2nd June, 1998, we learnt the following from the pen of Pope John Paul II - 'I urge Catholics to pray for the dead.' (Aust. Beacon, Jan/99)

Pensacola's Brownsville Assembly Splits

The abrupt firing of Michael Brown, a Messianic Jew, as president of the Pensacola Outpouring's Brownsville School of Ministry has caused a serious rift in the Brownsville Assembly of God. He denies trying to take the school in a different direction. He has formed his own new school, Fellowship of International Revival and Evangelism (FIRE) School of Ministry, and a new church in Pensacola. About 500 attended the first service (3/01 Charisma).

Brown's dismissal has caused bitterness and angry accusations among the board, pastors, parents, and students. Steve Hill relocated his evangelistic ministry to Dallas March 2000, leaving on good terms. Attendance at the charismatic 'laughing revival' has waned'. (Calvary Contender)

A Huge Mission Field

'Counting its flock, the Vatican yesterday reported the number of baptised Catholics worldwide...[was] up 40 million people from the churches count as of Dec 31, 1997. The current number represents 17.4 % of the worlds people according to the Vatican...'

Editors comments: In ministering and sharing the Gospel to Roman Catholics for many years, I have seen less than a handful who had any basic knowledge of the Bible or the Gospel. Christian organisations target 'people groups' from around the world yet rarely include the Roman Catholic group in these unsaved 'people groups'. Yet this group is close to being the largest of them all! These people are largely lost and have a false Jesus and a Gospel that is diametrically opposed to salvation by faith alone. This world 'people group' would have to be one of the most neglected and misrepresented today by neo-Evangelicals! (Associated Press, 12/4/2000)

Healing

On Dec. 8th, 1999 Joni Eareckson Tada [author and quadriplegic] was on the Bible Answer Man radio show and made the following comments:

'Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin or Benny Hinn - they've never called me and asked me to come on their program.

...[In early years] I had read some portions of Scripture that seemed to indicate that if God's Word abides in me, and I abided in Him, I could ask whatever I wish and the request would be fulfilled...I took that to mean God wanted me healed...we drove down to Washington DC arena and Kathryn Kuhlman swept on stage...and all of us were in the wheelchair section. We...with bated breath were waiting and wondering, and nothing happened. In fact, the ushers came up to all of us in the wheelchair section, about 35 or 40 of us, and said, 'Let's escort you all out early so as not to create a traffic jam, and so there I was...waiting at the auditorium elevator to go up to the parking lot, and we could still hear the distant sounds of the organ and the piano - Kathryn Kuhlman's meeting was still going on - and I looked up and down this line of solemn-faced individuals and saw so much disappointment...'

...I really dove into God's Word with both sleeves rolled up to understand the Lords perspective on healing and I can say now that I am so grateful for the wisdom of God.

...the 32 years that I have been in this wheelchair...has taught me that suffering is that good sheepdog, always snapping at my heels and driving me into the arms of the shepherd. For that I am so grateful. I am so grateful.'

(<http://www.geocities.com/~contenders/joni.html>)

Church of England Apostasy

'The abominable depths of the apostasy of Englands national church were seen in the first Church of England cleric to undergo a sex change operation, returning to a warm welcome from parishioners, on his first time back as a 'women' in the pulpit he left as a 'man'!...at St.Philips Church in Upper Stratton, Swindon, Wiltshire...[Most] parishioners gave their minister a standing ovation...he had decided to go ahead with the sex change operation in June. The Bishop of Bristol...said there was no ethical or ecclesiastical reason why he could not continue ministry afterwards. Stone, who has been married twice and has a daughter, was dressed in purple robes and wore a pair of Gold earrings...'

(The Burning Bush', Jan/20001)

Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) - Some Quotes

'Dear friends, we know that souls are not to be won by music, if they were it would be time for preachers to give way to opera singers. The heaving of the masses under newly invented excitements we are too apt to identify with the power of God...The tendency of the time is towards bigness, parade, and show of power, as if these would surely accomplish what more regular agencies have failed to achieve. Jesus said, 'Preach the Gospel to every creature.' But men are getting tired of the divine plan; they are going to be saved by the priest, going to be saved by the music, going to be saved by theatricals, and nobody knows what! Well, they may try these things as long as ever they like; but nothing can ever come of the whole thing but utter disappointment and confusion, God dishonoured, the gospel travestied, hypocrites manufactured by thousands, and the church dragged down to the level of the world'. (C.H. Spurgeon 1834-92)

'The word 'worship' comes from an old English composite word... 'worthship...in the early church, the style of singing in worship was absolutely distinct from the night club atmosphere...worship was wholly distinguishable from secular entertainment...If today's new Evangelicals were suddenly to find themselves transported back to, say AD150, they would be bored beyond measure, believing that they had come to a dead church because their open yardstick for the worship of God is their own exciting and stimulating sensual experience!

...So many of the new Style Worship songs trivialise the high truths of salvation...they pursue an almost obsessive musical celebration of 'me and my wonderful feelings' rather than the Lord and His amazing works...Instead of it being 'me worshipping God as God', it is 'ME struggling to express myself in whatever way I feel is right'...that is not worship but a celebration of the human will...it is 'will worship', (Col.2:23).

...The [modern] Christian worship scene is an uncannily precise mirror of what is happening in the world via the New Age Movement...it is the deification of self...the latter almost always begin with ME and what Jesus has done for ME...Much of what takes place in worship services is little more than exhibitionism hiding behind the excuse that 'God wants me to use my gifts...

...We have to set the right tone for worship, so that when unbelievers enter they can see that we mark our worship time as different to our leisure time...'

(Excerpts from 'Open Thou Our Lips' by Alan Morrison)

'It is surprising to me how many Christians ask 'what do you mean by 'worldly' when speaking of today's music. Only a few years ago Christians did not ask that question - they knew exactly what worldliness meant. The entrance of contemporary Christian music has brought a great amount of confusion as to what worldly means...worldly simply means 'of or like the world'. Satan is called the god of this world...'

(Sword of The Lord, Gordon Sears)

'Authentically Christian music was never intended for casual use or purely for entertainment, (1Chr.23:5). Christian music...once fearlessly sang clearly about the Gospel. Now it yodels off a Christ-less, watered down, pabulum-based, positive alternative, aura-fluff, cream of wheat, mush-kind-of-syrupy, God-as-my-Girlfriend kind of thing...Christian music stands separate from the worlds music for by definition it is Christ centred music...' (Horton)

'...when Christian artists today take the old song of the world, dress it up, modify it and say it now represents the

person of Jesus Christ, a Christian message, or describes the character of God, they fortuitously assault the Gospel and diminish the gift that has been entrusted to them. This is inappropriate at best and sacrilegious at worst. We cannot pour new wine into old wineskins, (Ps.137; Mk.2:22)...Christian music is unlike the music of Babylon, the world..

The CCMI (Contemporary Christian Music Industry) has committed spiritual adultery in joining itself with the wayward world in trying to forward the message of the Gospel...Undiscerning believers think it a ministry strategy to join forces with unregenerate people in forwarding the Gospel. Unwittingly they harness Jesus Christ, the worthy one, with Belial or Satan, the worthless one, in an unholy alliance - the very essence of being unequally yoked, (2Cor.6:15)...We are not however, called to isolationism. We are called to be salt and light in the world...'

(<http://pages.prodigy.net/berrykl/theses/thesespt3.html>)

'Recently I viewed a catalogue of a major Australian Christian bookstore. One full page feature had the heading 'Supernatural DC Talk'. This a popular contemporary Christian singing Group. What struck me was the faces of the three men. The looks and facial features looked like something that might be out of Hell rather than Heaven. In at least the Hairstyles and clothing I could not see any difference from these men to the secular Rock idols seen on TV and secular albums. If I were to meet with these faces in a dark alley I could think I was not in good company. If these people are Christian and their music Christian then why do they look as the world wants them to look? Is there no difference?

Some readers might say: '**Judge not according to the appearance...**' However, they fail to quote the full text: '**Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgement**', (Jn.7:24). A look at their lyrics and a listen to contemporary Christian music in general should cause serious questions in the mind of the believer. Other Scriptures need to be kept in mind: '**These six things does the lord hate...a proud look...**', (Pr.6:16,17); '**A wicked man hardens his face...**', (Pr.21:29); '**A high look and a proud heart...is sin**', (Pr.21:4); '**The show of their countenance does witness against them...**', (Is.3:9); '**...they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return**', (Jer.5:3).

Many of the so called Christian contemporary singers have in recent years shown their true face by going back to secular singing. Amy Grant is a classic example of this. Amy has openly admitted her secular direction and her appearance may well be the evidence of her return to the world. Christian contemporary music is worldly. The Bible says we are taken out of the world by Christ and the world will love its own, (Jn.15:19); we are not of the world, (Jn.17:16); 'be not conformed to this world...', (Rom.12:2); 'we are crucified to the world', (Gal.6:14); 'we no longer walk according to the course of the world', (Eph.2:2).'**Terry Arnold,DiakrisisAustralia**

'...CCM is the music of ecumenical evangelism, as epitomized by Billy Graham and Luis Palau crusades. The following is a description of Billy Graham's 1997 crusade in San Antonio, Texas: 'More than 700 San Antonio churches representing over 50 denominations have joined together for the Graham crusade, which hopes to attract South Texas youth with big-name Christian rock acts [Amy Grant, DC Talk, Charlie Daniels Band, Michael W. Smith, Steve Green, and

Jaci Velasquez] and a Saturday service just for kids.'

(Houston Chronicle, April 2, 1997).

CCM was the music of the massive 'Key '73' evangelistic program which was promoted by Billy Graham and many other key Christian leaders. The program brought together Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Pentecostals, Charismatics, and Roman Catholics. To create such a broad ecumenical unity requires that doctrinal issues be ignored...This ecumenical philosophy controlled the type of music which was used: 'An extensive invitation was sent out for new music to be written that promoted the message of 'Key '73' with several stipulations: the words righteousness, judgment, holiness, repentance, and several other Biblical terms were not allowed to be used, and THE LYRICS WERE TO BE OF A POSITIVE NATURE. There was an intentional effort made to write NON-OFFENSIVE songs.' (H.T. Spence, 'Confronting Contemporary Christian Music', P. 142).

Contemporary Christian Music was also the music of the largest ecumenical Charismatic conference of the 1980s. This was New Orleans '87, held in July 1987...After four days of 'renewal' choruses and Christian rock, it was obvious to me that CCM was the preferred music of the roughly 40,000 ecumenical-Charismatics in attendance. Approximately 40 different denominations and groups came together under one roof...Fifty percent of those in attendance were the 20,000 Roman Catholics. Roman Catholic priest Tom Forrest delivered the closing message and brought the mixed multitude to their feet when he called for unity. 'We must reach the world,' he cried, 'and we must reach it the only way we can reach it; we must reach it TOGETHER!' At those words the crowd became ecstatic, leaping to their feet, shouting, stomping, speaking in tongues, dancing. This same priest, speaking at a conference I attended in Indianapolis in 1990, said he is thankful for Purgatory because he knows that he will not go to Heaven except through that means. Obviously he does not believe in the once-for-all sufficiency of Christ's atonement. At the book sales area in New Orleans one could purchase Rosary beads and Madonna's to assist in one's prayers to Mary. A Catholic mass was held every morning during the conference. The music that held all of this confusion together was CCM. Youth Explosion '87 was held at the same time, and 5,000 young people were bombarded with a steady diet of unscriptural teaching, ecumenism, testimonies by sports stars and entertainment figures, and ROCK music. CCM is perfectly at home in the midst of such apostate ecumenical confusion. The intimate Charismatic connection within Contemporary Christian Music guarantees it will be ecumenical..

...THE GAITHERS are very ecumenical and have a close, non-critical relationship with the Pentecostal-Charismatic movement. They provided the music one evening at Indianapolis '90, another large ecumenical Charismatic gathering...One-half of the 25,000 participants were Roman Catholics and the other half represented roughly 40 different denominations. A Catholic mass was held each morning during this conference, and a Catholic priest brought the closing message. The Gaithers were at home in this unscriptural gathering and entertained the mixed multitude with their jazzy music... ('O Timothy', David Cloud, Jan/2001)

'It must be pointed out, emphasised and remembered that tempo or rhythm, and not lyrics, creates the satanic character of rock music. The famous conductor and composer, Dimitri Tiomkin, underlined this fact when he wrote: 'The big beat is deliberately aimed at exciting the listener. There is actually

very little melody, little sense in the lyrics, only rhythm.'

(Los Angeles Herald Examiner, 8/8/85)

'Rock music has been found to cause chemical imbalances in the glands of the brain. When exposed to rock music adrenaline and sex glands are said to overreact. To compensate, the hormones become unbalanced and blood sugar levels may change. This creates a lack of discernment and decision making. Could this be why rock music is associated with sex and drugs?

An Australian doctor, Dr. John Diamond, discovered that exposing people to rock music (technically called 'stopped anapestic rhythm') caused an instant loss of muscle strength. The same results occur with loud music above a certain decibel level. The basic component of such rock music that does the damage is the exaggerated rhythm content.

Rock music has been proven to have a detrimental effect on the adrenaline, sex glands and blood sugar of the human brain. Study after study has shown that Rock music ALWAYS stunts growth and chokes off life.'

('Christian Rock - A Stratagem of Meph-istopheles', P.27 Cited in 'Whats Wrong With Christian Rock' by Jeff Godwin)

'Music, even without words, has a voice. Many have noticed the effect music has on small children. When our oldest daughter was very young and we were visiting someone's home, she heard a rock song for the first time and started dancing to it even though she had never been around rock music and had not been conditioned to respond in any certain way and she could not understand the words. The rhythm of the music itself affected her physically. The following statements from rock musicians and rock researchers affirm this: 'Atmospheres are going to come through music, because the music is a spiritual thing of its own...you hypnotize people...and when you get people at that weakest point, you can preach into the subconscious what we want to say...People want release any kind of way nowadays...The music flows from the air; that's why I connect with a spirit, and when they come down off this natural high, they see clearer, feel different things...', (Jimi Hendrix, Life, Oct. 3, 1969, p.74); 'Most rock records make their impact musically rather than lyrically. The words, if they are noticed at all, are absorbed after the music has made its mark', (Simon Frith, Sociology professor at University of Warwick, England, Sound Effects, NY: Pantheon Books, 1981, p.14); 'The great strength of rock 'n' roll lies in its beat...it is a music which is basically sexual, un-Puritan...and a threat to established patterns and values.' (Irwin Silber, Marxist, Sing Out, May/65, P.63); 'The rhythm is more important than the meaning of the words. Our gods respond to rhythm above all else.' (A Macumba priestess, Brazil, cited by John Chernoff, African Rhythm and African Sensibility, P.124); John Lennon said rock & roll gets through to people because of its voodoo beat: 'Because it is primitive enough and has no bull, really, the best stuff, and it gets through to you the beat. Go to the jungle and THEY HAVE THE RHYTHM and it goes throughout the world and it's as simple as that', (Lennon, Rolling Stone, 12/2/76, P.100); 'Everywhere you look on the planet people are using drums to alter consciousness...I've discovered, along with many others, the extraordinary power of music, particularly percussion, to influence the human mind and body...There have been many times when I've felt as if the drum has carried me to an open door into another world.' (Mickey Hart, drummer for the Grateful Dead, Drumming at the Edge of Magic, pp. 28, 30, 176). (David Cloud, 'Way of Life')

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The Trinity and Deity in Early History

The Jehovah Witnesses distribute a booklet 'Should You Believe In The Trinity?' which refutes the orthodox teaching of the Trinity and the Deity of Christ. The book is full of misquotes and quotes from heretics. Some of the quotes by the Church Fathers have been changed and others are so out of context that they defy any sense of honesty.

The teaching of the Trinity is clearly taught in Scripture even from Genesis 1:1 where the Word for God 'Elohim' is plural as further proven in verse 26 with the words 'us' and 'our'. Throughout the Bible the same personal characteristics and actions are attributed to all three members of the Godhead. All are taught as God, (Ps.87:26; 1Tim.1:16,17; Acts 5:3,4); and as creator, (Is.44:24; Col.1:16; Jn.1:3; Job.33:4).

Scripture is all we need and sufficient to convince us of the Trinity. This **'faith once delivered to the saints'** (Jude 3) will also be evidenced in the writings of the early Church Fathers and in orthodox history. One of the most blatant lies taught by cult groups is that the doctrine of the Trinity was invented in the 3rd or 4th Centuries. This denies the fact that doctrine of the Trinity and the deity of Christ had already been taught and was under attack before these centuries.

Let the reader examine the history of the faith once delivered. Here are a very few of the quotes from the early church:

50 AD: 'She poured it [perfume] over His [Jesus] hair...when the disciples saw it, they were indignant...God, aware of this, said to them: ...She has done [a beautiful thing for me.] [Matt.26:7-15]' (Huleatt Fragments, 1-3).

74 AD: '...the Lord [Jesus]...He being the Lord of all the world, to whom God said at the foundation of the world, 'Let us make man after our image...' (Letter of Barnabas 5).

80 AD: 'The Son of God is older than all His creation, so that He became the Father's adviser in His creation. Therefore also He is ancient.' (Hermas, The Shepherd 12).

110 AD: '[Jesus]...He is Himself in His own right, beyond all men who ever lived, God, and Lord, and King Eternal, and the Incarnate Word, proclaimed by all the prophets, the apostles, and by the Spirit Himself...Now, the Scriptures would not have testified these things of Him, if, like others, He had been a mere man'. (Irenaeus Against Heresies, Ch.XIX.2)

110 AD: 'There is one God and Father, and not two or three; One who is; and there is no other besides Him, the only true [God]...And there is also one Son, God the Word...And there is also one Paraclete...'one Spirit,'...one Father, and one Son, and one Paraclete...the Lord...commanded them to 'baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,'...three possessed of equal honour.' (Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to Philadelphians 2).

'Abstain from the Poison of Heretics...They suppose Christ to be unbegotten; and as to the Spirit, they do not admit that He exists. Some of them say that the Son is a mere man, and that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are but the same person, and that the creation is the work of God, not by Christ...' (The Epistle of Ignatius to the Trallians, Ch.VI)

'Jesus Christ...was with the Father before the beginning of time...There is one God, who has manifested Himself by Jesus Christ His Son...His Eternal Word...' (Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to Magnesians 6-8).

'Our God, Jesus Christ, was conceived by Mary in accord with God's plan: of the seed of David, it is true, but also of the Holy Spirit.' (Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to Ephesians, 18:2. Ignatius of Antioch [AD30-107] calls Jesus 'God' 14 times in his discourses; similarly Polycarp (AD65-105), Justin Martyr (AD110-165) and Irenaeus (AD120-202),).

140 AD: '[Christians]...acknowledge God, the creator

and maker of all things, in the only-begotten Son and in the Holy Spirit.' (Aristides, Apology 16).

150 AD: 'But if you knew, Trypho', continued I, 'who He is that is called at one time Christ and God to be worshipped...you would not have blasphemed Him who has now come, and been born, and suffered, and ascended to heaven...For if you had understood what has been written by the prophets, you would not have denied that He was God...' (Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho, Ch. CXXVI [See also Ch.XXXVI; XLVIII; LVI; LIX; LXI; C; CV; CXXV; CXXVIII; First Apology of Justin, Ch.XIII; XXII; LXIII)

'...the Son of the true God Himself, that He holds a second place, and the Spirit of prophecy a third. For this they accuse us of madness, saying that we attribute to a crucified man a place second to the unchangeable and eternal God, the Creator of all things; but they are ignorant of the Mystery which lies therein.' (Justin Martyr, First Apology 13:5-6).

160 AD: '[The Father] sent the Word...This is He who was from the beginning, who appeared as if new, and was found old...This is He who, being from everlasting, is today called the Son.' (Mathetes, Letter to Diognetus 11).

170 AD: '...we report that God was born in the form of a man.' (Tatian the Syrian, address to the Greeks 21).

177 AD: 'The activities of Christ after His baptism, and especially His miracles, gave...assurance to the world of the deity hidden in His flesh. Being God and likewise perfect man...He was the true God existing before the ages.' (Melito of Sardis, Fragment, Anastasius of Sinai's The Guide 13).

189 AD: '...one God, Father Almighty, the creator of heaven and Earth...one Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who became flesh for our salvation; and the Holy Spirit, who announced through the prophets...Jesus Christ our Lord and God and Saviour and King...(Irenaeus of Lyons, Against Heresies 1:10:1).

'It was not angels, therefore, who made us nor who formed us, neither had angels power to make an image of God...For with Him [the Father] were always present the Word and Wisdom, the Son and the Spirit, by whom and in whom, free and spontaneously, He made all things, to whom also He speaks, saying, 'Let us make man in our image and likeness' Gen. 1:26.' (Irenaeus of Lyons, Against Heresies 4:20:1).

190 AD: '...Christ...He alone is both God and man...' (Clement of Alexandria, Exhortation to the Greeks 1:7:1).

215 AD: 'God alone is without sin. The only man who is without sin is Christ; for Christ is also God.' (Tertullian, The Soul, 41:3. Theophilus (AD115-181) and Tertullian (AD145-200) were the first to use the term 'Trinity' for the Godhead).

'The origins of both His substances display Him as man and as God: from the one, born, and from the other, not born.' (Tertullian, The Flesh of Christ, 5:6-7).

'We do indeed believe that there is only one God, but...there is also a Son of this one only God, His Word, who proceeded from Him and through whom all things were made and without whom nothing was made...We believe He was sent down by the Father, in accord with His own promise, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, the Sanctifier of the faith of those who believe in the Father and the Son, and in the Holy Spirit...this rule of faith has been present since the beginning of the Gospel, before even the earlier heretics...And at the same time the mystery of...the unity is distributed in a Trinity. Placed in order, the Three are the Father, Son, and Spirit. They are three, however, not in condition, but in degree; not in Being, but in form; not in power, but in kind; of one Being, however, and one condition and one power, because He is

one God of whom degrees and forms and kinds are taken into account in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' (Tertullian, Against Praxeas 2).

'That there are two Gods and two Lords, however, is a statement which we will never allow to issue from our mouth; not as if the Father and the Son were not God, nor the Spirit God, and each of them God; but formerly two were spoken of as Gods and two as Lords, so that when Christ would come, He might both be acknowledged as God and be called Lord, because He is the Son of Him who is both God and Lord.' (Tertullian, Against Praxeas 13:6).

'Thus the connection of the Father in the Son, and of the Son in the Paraclete, produces three coherent Persons, who are yet distinct One from Another. These Three are, one essence, not one Person...' (Tertullian, Against Praxeas, 25).

216 AD: 'In the case of the present heresy [Sabellianism], which...supposes that one cannot believe in the one only God in any way other than by saying that Father, Son, and Spirit are the self same person. As if one were not all...through the unity of substance.' (Tertullian, Against Praxeas 2:3-4).

'...[A] trinity of one divinity, Father, Son and a Holy Spirit.' (De Prax.21); 'but that both the Father is God and the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God...' (Ibid.13).

225 AD: 'The specific points which are clearly handed down through the apostolic preaching..Although He was God, He took flesh; and having been made man He remained what He was, God.' (Origen, Fundamental Doctrines 1:0:4).

'For we do not hold that which the heretics imagine: that some part of the Being of God was converted into the Son, or that the Son was procreated by the Father from nonexistent substances, that is, from a Being outside Himself, so that there were a time when He [the Son] did not exist...No...whatever is said of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, is to be understood as transcending all time...For it is the Trinity alone which exceeds every sense in which not only temporal but even eternal may be understood....' (Origen, Fundamental Doctrines 4:4:1).

'While we have been sketching the proof of the divinity of Jesus, we have made use of the prophetic statements concerning Him...' (Origen, The Fundamental Doctrines, 4:1:6).

'...says He, 'My Father is in Me, and I in Him.' And if any should from these words be afraid of our going over to the side of those who deny that the Father and the Son are two persons, let him weigh that passage, 'And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul,'...We worship one God, the Father and the Son, therefore, as we have explained; and our argument against the worship of other gods still continues valid...we believe Himself when He says, 'Before Abraham was, I am.'...We worship, therefore, the Father of truth, and the Son, who is the truth; and these, while they are two, considered as persons or subsistences, are one in unity of thought, in harmony and in identity of will. So entirely are they one, that he who has seen the Son, 'who is the brightness of God's glory, and the express image of His person,' has seen in Him who is the image, of God, God Himself.' (Origen, Against Celsus, Book 8, Ch.12)

'There are really three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...Moreover nothing in the Trinity can be called greater or less.' (Origen, 1.3.7)

228 AD: '...this sole and universal God...first brought forth the Word - not a word as in speech...The Word was the cause of those things which came into existence, carrying out in Himself the will of Him by whom He was begotten...Only [God's] Word is from Himself and is therefore also God, becoming the substance of God...For Christ is the God over

all...' (Hippolytus, Refutation of All Heresies, 10:33,34).

235 AD: 'For Scripture as much announces Christ as also God, as it announces God Himself as man. It has as much described Jesus Christ to be man, as moreover it has also described Christ the Lord to be God. Because it does not set forth Him to be the Son of God only, but also the Son of man...So that being of both, He is both, lest if He should be one only, He could not be the other. For as nature itself has prescribed that He must be believed to be a man who is of man, so the same nature prescribes also that He must be believed to be God who is of God...Let them, therefore, who read that Jesus Christ the Son of man is man, read also that this same Jesus is called also God and the Son of God.'

(Novatian, Treatise on the Trinity 11).

'But although it is not possible to maintain that one who is Himself mortal can make another immortal, yet this Word of Christ not only sets forth, but affords immortality: certainly He is not man only who gives immortality, which if He were only man He could not give; but by giving divinity by immortality, He proves Himself to be God by offering divinity, which if He were not God He could not give. If Christ was only man, how did He say, 'Before Abraham was, I Am'? For no man can be before Him from whom He himself is; nor can it be that any one should have been prior to Him of whom He Himself has taken His origin. And yet Christ, although He is born of Abraham, says that He is before Abraham. Either, therefore, He says what is not true, and deceives, if He was not before Abraham, seeing that He was of Abraham; or He does not deceive, if He is also God, and was before Abraham. And if this were not so, it follows that, being of Abraham, He could not be before Abraham. If Christ was only man, how does He say, 'And I know them, and my sheep follow me; and I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish'? And yet, since every man is bound by the laws of mortality, and therefore is unable to keep himself for ever, much more will he be unable to keep another forever. But Christ promises to give salvation for ever, which if He does not give, He is a deceiver; if He gives, He is God. (Novatian, Concerning the Trinity, Chapter XV.)

253 AD: 'One who denies that Christ is God cannot become His temple [of the Holy Spirit]...' (Cyprian of Carthage, Letters 73:12)

262 AD: 'Therefore, the divine Trinity must be gathered up and brought together in one, a summit, as it were, I mean the omnipotent God of the universe...It is blasphemy...to say that the Son is in any way a handiwork [creature]...But if the Son came into being [was created], there was a time when these attributes did not exist; and, consequently, there was a time when God was without them, which is utterly absurd.'

(Dionysius of Alexandria, 1-2)

262 AD: 'But some treat the Holy Trinity in an awful manner, when they confidently assert that there are not three persons...we clear ourselves of Sabellius, who says that the Father and the Son are the same [Person]...we believe that three persons - namely, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - are declared to possess the one Godhead: for the one divinity showing itself forth according to nature in the Trinity establishes the oneness of the nature.' (Gregory, A Sectional Confession of Faith 8).

'But if they say, 'How can there be three Persons, and how but one Divinity?' we shall make this reply: That there are indeed three persons...one person of God the Father, and one of the Lord the Son, and one of the Holy Spirit; and yet that there is but one divinity...one substance in the Trinity.'

(Gregory, Ibid 14). **Terry Arnold**

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Dobson, Colson At The Vatican

'It was a striking image to one observer: Evangelical Protestant powerhouses James Dobson and Chuck Colson visiting the headquarters of the Catholic Church, the very institution Protestants rebelled against centuries ago. Dobson and Colson joined a global cast of business executives and Catholic politicians, lawyers and scholars last month for a three-day conference at the Vatican on the world economy's impact on families. They also met briefly with the Pope.

For centuries, Catholics and Protestants have clashed over the role and infallibility of the Pope, among other issues. That makes the brief meeting among Pope John Paul II, Dobson, president of Colorado Springs-based Focus on the Family, and prison ministry leader Colson - a special moment. The significance was not lost on Colson who, according to one conference participant, noted that there would have been a time when he would not have been invited and he would not have come. Though Catholics and Protestants disagree frequently on theological matters, dialogue between the faith groups has been going on for years...Conference participant the Rev. Robert Sirico, a Catholic priest and president of the Acton Institute, said Vatican officials told him they could not recall a similar meeting involving such high-level Evangelical Protestants taking place at the Vatican.

(Religion News Service, 12/00):

Editors Comments: Social and moral issues are increasingly fuelling the false end-time ecumenical movement. What message does this give to Christians - when two 'Evangelical' leaders have dialogue and fellowship with those from a system that teaches another gospel and curses the pillars of the Biblical Gospel?

Growth Statistics

'Pentecostals and Charismatics comprise 27% of all Christians, according to researcher David Barrett. Those who believe in the modern-day demonstration of spiritual gifts such as healing and speaking in tongues are the fastest-growing segment of Christianity, he said...About 900,000 people worldwide considered themselves Pentecostal or Charismatic in 1900, but that figure reached 523.7 million in 2000, said Barrett, author of the World Christian Encyclopedia. The largest concentrations are in Latin America (141 million), Asia (134 million), and Africa (126 million)'. (Religion Today, 14/8/2000)

'Evangelicals and Catholics in France are growing through co-operation. Charismatic Christians in both churches consider each other as allies, according to 'Renewal', a British Charismatic magazine. Some conferences include Catholics and Protestants, as do prayer groups, which are considered to be embryonic churches. In joint events called Embrace Nos Coeurs (Light the Fire), participants pray for revival. Introductory courses in Christianity, called Alpha courses, also are becoming popular as outreaches in both churches...It is a time of increasing government pressure on minority religions, including Evangelicals, as the government tries to monitor groups that it considers cults. Evangelicals have faced restrictions, harassment, and disruptions in using meeting spaces'. (Religion Watch)

True Faith

'True Faith, strictly speaking, does not do anything; it does not give, but receives. So when one says that we do something by faith that is just another way of saying that we do nothing - at least that we do nothing of ourselves.'

(AMG 'Pulpit Helps', Nov/98, P.1)

Creation Teacher Stirs Students

'Last year, a Ministers Fraternal in Sth. Aust. asked for Peter Sparrow [from 'Answers in Genesis'] to speak at two high schools...rumblings of dissatisfaction [came] from one of the teachers. The deputy head mistress then attended the year 10 session...and said the rest of the meetings had been cancelled 'because the treatment was not balanced'. She declined to discuss her opinion with Peter.

Peter had given his testimony of the effect that evolutionary beliefs had had on his lifestyle...to become a Christian he had need to have three questions answered: 1. Is evolution a real process? 2. Is there really a God? 3. Has God communicated with us?

...'after each session there was a question time...the year ten was the fieriest with the subjects of abortion, rape and homosexuality being raised...afterwards about a dozen students came out to the front to question me further. Some were hostile and tried to argue that homosexuality was a valid lifestyle...one young girl told me that the foetus was just a blob of cells, no different from removing a wart. Another was very upset about a God who could forgive a rapist. The pastors present took some of these aside and counselled them privately and were excited about the children opening up to them, as they had never done so before...I found out later that one of the teachers present...was an elder in a local church and was also a practising homosexual. I strongly suspect that the dissatisfaction came from him.'

(Answers in Genesis, Prayer News, Feb/April, 2001)

Evangelical Confusion

'Christian News Editor Herman Otten called South Korean pastor of the 'world's largest church' David Yonggi Cho 'a Charismatic and occultist who rejects historic Christianity.' Two-thirds of his 600 associate pastors are women (8/15 CC). Yet he is the keynote speaker at the National Association of Evangelicals 2001 Convention in Dallas, Mar.5-7...'

(Calvary Contender)

Editors Comments: Yonggi Cho is a false prophet. On the 12/1/86 at Paradise Assembly of God church, Adelaide, Sth Australia, he prophesied in the name of the Holy Spirit and made several clear predictions which did not come to pass. (See Diakrisis Sept/97)

Revival?

While some church leaders are falsely claiming revival, Australians are becoming less religious. Recent statistics for Sth. Australia showed the number of people identifying themselves as Christians dropped by more than 10% in 1996. Added to this Buddhism is the fastest growing religion with an increase of 33.5% in just a few years. (Advertiser, 16/7/97)

In Britain, 'as many as 100 mosques will be built by the end of the century...Britain already has 1,000 mosques...'

(Christian News, 2/97)

The Gospel

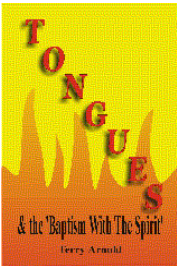
The message of God is: That Jesus Christ came as God (Deity) in the flesh and humbled Himself to die (a substitute) in our place as *asinless, perfect, and finished sacrifice*, and through His *blood* to pay the penalty (*redemption*) of our guilt (*sin*). He rose from the dead in the (*resurrection*)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

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Terry Arnold

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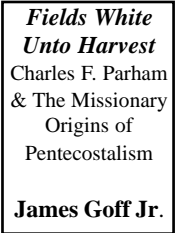
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'Fields White Unto Harvest' by James Goff Jr.



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Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, I have been a Christian for 9 years and am now in despair. Protestantism seems a mixed bag...on the subject of demonic manifestations - the way I see it you have half (Pentecostals) trying to ignite the fire of the Holy Spirit to chase the demons away, and the other half...saying they believe in demons but do nothing about them...the rest of the denominations that fall under the Protestant flag are either outright heretics or are pseudo-Catholics.

And I'm unsure about our canon too. We follow a canon set down by a Catholic council, while books like Jasher (expanded Genesis & Exodus), Enoch, and Jubilees (example) are put away as fakes. Who said they were fakes? The Catholics? But later they changed their mind about some of them and gave books like Tobit, and Baruch Deuterocanonical status. Many Protestants say they feature fictional places, but what if archaeology produced one of these places tomorrow, or if an investigation was put in place, it may find some of these fictional places under different names.

...Holy Water, which seems beautiful, apparently it works in cases of demonic occurrence, after all it is salt, water, and prayer (salt of the earth - water of life - pray without ceasing), yet Protestant's say it's not in the Bible...what Bible? What is the Bible? Do we even know if we have all of it? half? full? 75%? Can we say it's not in our canon for sure.

And what about exorcisms, most Protestants disbelieve in their power, which makes me very unhappy. I feel so weary of opposing views, 'the end is coming', and blah, blah, blah. Partly I wish I was dead so I could be judged by my Saviour. If truly being born again and saved once and for all is true, then I live with no more confusions, and if it turns out my fallen state earned me Hell then at least for once I'll have a final authority unlike here where we all dogmatically play the guessing game. The next church I want to go to is with Jesus up there, I can't trust any here...I honestly seek your opinion Terry, I'm lost. (Name withheld at editors discretion)

Editors comments:...Do not despair. Nothing has changed in the Scriptures. Jesus is still the same as yesterday. The faith is still 'the faith once delivered to the saints', (Jude 3). Nothing will change these things despite confusion and the worst of apostasies in the church!

- Yes, Protestantism is a 'mixed bag of views' but the Scriptures tell of this for the end-times - a departing from the faith, seducing spirits, doctrines of devils, lies, (1Tim.4:1); a falling away before the end, (2Thess.2:3); unsound doctrine, (2Tim.2:3); false christs, false prophets, (Matt.24:11,24); false and lying signs and wonders (2Thess.2:9,10; Matt.24:24); increasing deception, (2Tim.3:13, etc). Why should this surprise or 'confuse' us?!

...We only have to resist the devil and he will flee. It is not our mandate to chase demons, name them, or drive

them away. Most solid Christians I know think little about demons! Christ is our sufficiency, our Saviour and Lord, our captain, our king. Our eyes, ears and thinking should be captivated by Him and His Word.

- What if the 'rest of the denominations are outright heretics or pseudo Catholics'? That should not confuse us but only drive us to separate from error and to look unto Christ and His Word even more.

- Since when do we follow a 'canon' set down by a Catholic council?...The word 'canon' means 'rule'. Our rule is the Word of God...

- The Deuterocanonical books are not all 'fakes' and many contain good historical information. However, they are not the inspired books we set our faith, doctrine and spiritual living on...They are not the Word of God and never were. Archeology has in fact already proven things in these books true...But they (among countless others) were rejected by the early Church fathers because they did not have the stamp of divine approval as proved by the historical, chronological and geographical errors they contain. (See the book 'To Catholics Whom I Love')

- 'Holy water' may be 'beautiful' to you, but Scripture does not give us any teaching on, or use for such.

- Yes, we do have the Bible! All 66 books of it! Without going into detail, we have had these books for nearly 1,900 years with only some additions by the Roman Catholic religion in the middle ages. Yes, we can say for sure we have 66 books. History, tradition and the hallmarks of inspiration prove it and have withstood the test of time. These 66 books are not in contention by most Evangelical Christians. Do we not trust that God can keep His Word and deliver it to us as His Word says?

- As for 'exorcisms'. The best answer I have for you is to view the video 'Delivered From the Powers of Darkness'. In this is sound and practical teaching on 'Spiritual warfare' and what happens to the powers of darkness at salvation. Occasionally I have come across the demonic but experience has taught me this - I do not dare go looking for it and God deals or does not deal with it as He sees fit.

- We do not 'dogmatically play the guessing game'. We live through the power of the Holy Spirit and by His infallible inspired inerrant Word. Trust the Holy Spirit to lead, convict and guide as you surrender to Him...

Who is the object of your faith? Where is this faith grounded? The object is Jesus Christ, the ground is His Word alone. Go back to these things. Our minds must be renewed by the Word of God and not by speculations or contentions. For a time, put away all materials (including this newsletter) and read only the Word - this has always brought me back to sound thinking...In love...

'If you cannot understand the obscure, then stay with the clear.' Martin Luther

'Apostasy Alert'!

An e-mail service is being offered by our advisory panel member and contributor, Mike Claydon, and is known as 'Apostasy Alert'. These e-mails are sent regularly to a rapidly growing subscriber list free of charge. They inform of latest minute developments throughout the world with an emphasis on *ecumenism* and events in the *Middle East*. If you should wish to become a subscriber and receive these transmissions, simply e-mail Mike at: mbc@nobbys.net.au

Book Review-'Charismatic Distinctives' by Ken Smith

This concise and well researched book (96 pages) addresses with exceptional clarity the key issues surrounding Pentecostal theology - and tackles the textual problems with integrity. Anyone wishing to clarify doctrines being espoused within this movement today and compare them with Scripture would be enriched by what Ken has to say. Mike Claydon

Price: \$9 - This includes postage.

Send to: **Ken Smith 11 Rose St, Wyee, NSW, 2259**

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry, Mike,...I am rarely disappointed (I can't remember when) at the content of the newsletter and pray that, by God's grace, you will keep it the low-budget, high-integrity publication it is. The truth it contains is priceless...Be assured that in spite of the fact that the rottenness of so many of the movements you have courageously and faithfully exposed has seeped into my own denomination, there are still many, both younger and older men, who have not yet bowed the knee to these modern Baals.

I have recommended it...within our denomination...May God continue to sustain you by His grace as you wield the sword of His truth in defence of the truth. (Presbyterian pastor, Bris., Qld.)

Dear Terry, I read with interest in the 'Your Comments and Questions' that the Nov/99 'Diakrisis' had an article on Joyce Meyer. The thought then struck me that if it were possible to get hold of back issues of 'Diakrisis' by e-mail, (or come to think of it the entire collection on a CD), then a search could be made for articles on false teachers, etc. that could be used in witnessing to help people who are caught up in these false teachings. Please let me know if there is a possibility of getting back issues by e-mail? Please consider a complete collection of 'Diakrisis' on CD. This could be made available on your order Form...(G.B., NSW)

Editors Comments: CD now available - \$12.90

Dear Editor, Your newsletter has been a great blessing to my personal life and ministry. I don't want to miss any issue...please do keep sending them...(Ps.T.M, Principle Bible College, Myanmar, Burma)

Dear Terry, Last August you came to our church...thankyou for such a God inspired sermon. I thank God that there are men like you standing firm on His Word...(D.S., Sydney)

Dear Terry...'Diakrisis' is the best of all such magazines for content and clarity of teaching... (R.B., Sth Aust.)

Dear Terry, Many churches on the Sunshine coast now have the Alpha course and high school RE teachers are now using it. 'Slaying in the Spirit' and 'Toronto Blessing' have a hold...the Uniting Church 'Journey' Newspaper...[speaks of] tarot cards being used to explain the Gospel...(E.D., Qld)

Praise Points

- Praise God that He supplies all our needs according to His purposes. We thank all those who support and pray for us.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the upcoming itineraries; for clear Holy Spirit leading and guiding in all the messages and teaching.
- Pray that there be no lack of humility, patience and love in all that is written and spoken in this ministry.

Dear Terry, My wife and I have just read your Oct/Nov 2000 newsletter..it was passed on to us by a pastor. My wife and I for the past decade have been exposed to most of what you warn of...Your newsletter has spurred us on to continue...to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints...C.H, Spurgeon once said 'No man can be a Christian nowadays without being a controversialist.' What are Paul's Epistles but arguments? Arguments are not argumentative. Arguments cannot regenerate but it can remove obstacles...What we need is a loving spirit and a prayful dependance on the Holy Spirit...Like Paul we must be 'set for the defence of the Gospel', (Phil.1:7)...My wife and I had 20 years in the Pentecostal system..May the Lord continue to uphold you and your panel... (J.S., Vict)

Dear Terry...Thanks for your wonderful newsletter. Your opening editors comment (Jan/Feb) rightly voices a concern for those brothers and sisters who find it difficult to find a local church which upholds Scriptural truths, exalts Jesus Christ (and not self) and provides healthy fellowships with one another in the Spirit. But I want to encourage you and your staff with this - your ministry is providing those of your readers who find themselves isolated from such a congregation with teaching that edifies and builds up, as well as glorifying Jesus. My prayer is that you press on even when criticism arises, and that God would enable you to present the Word of truth without compromise. (A.W., Sydney)

Terry's Itinerary Sydney Trip

We are currently preparing a Sydney itinerary for **August**. Those churches and fellowships wishing to be included please contact this ministry or Garry Curley in Sydney - Ph. (02)96702648

Sth. Aust. Trip

If any fellowships would like to be included in a Sth. Australian itinerary late this year or early in 2002, please contact this ministry.

May 13th,20th,27th. (Series on the Holy Spirit) 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. Ph.415284201

May 20th 10am & 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld.

May 27th 10am & 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld.

June 10th. 10am Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld.

May 4-7: Lake Maroon Dam Family Camp (Near Boona, Qld) Frid.3pm-Mon.3pm **Guest speakers:** Bruce Jenyns; Terry Arnold (Sun.7.30pm & Mon.9am); Eric Russel. Other Activities: Testimonies, video night, water/jet skiing; canoeing...
Cost: Adults Full w/end \$52; 2 days \$39; \$12 per day. Student discount. **Registration forms/further details:** Peter Bice, (07)32004841 Mob.0411594585 PO Box 358 Corinda, 4075, Qld.

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