

Hi Terry - your little tract 'Eternal Questions' is very very good. I gave one to a worker... We got talking and the Lord has used me to help him. He read the tract and wants to give some to his large family. I am ordering another 120. God bless you Terry in your work -we pray for you often.

(S.J. Vict)

Quotable

'We do not have a healthy hatred of sin today because we have no proper sense of the holiness of God. The love of God has been preached but not His law. Men are not conscious of their need because they do not regard sin as the awful thing that cost God His Son and the Son His life. They do not desire the Physician because they do not think they are sick'

Vance Havner

Prayer / Praise Points

- Pray for those in towns where Bible teaching churches are hard to find. Pray for those in home groups/churches who gather together to study or hear the sermons sent out from this ministry.
- Pray for some of our church folk who have no employment and may be financially struggling. Pray for jobs to become available.
- Praise the Lord the 'Eternal Questions' tracts are being used widely in evangelism. Pray for the Lord to draw those who read it and touch hearts with the true Gospel.

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'But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern [diakrisis] both good and evil', (Heb.5:14)

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The editor may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by subscribers in this newsletter.

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Editor's Comment

Increasingly I am surprised at how Christians *think*. Emotional and human logical thinking has to be at an all time high. One writer recently referred to many Christians today as 'emotional bungee jumpers'.

Certainly the performance and entertainment and market driven churches of today would make one wonder how people think about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Word when they read it. The scriptures, and the epistles by Paul especially, are hardly littered with emotional thinking.

Today much Christian thinking is highly feeling oriented and subjective. Some call this 'postmodern thought'. There are no longer absolutes and thus many different interpretations of scripture are allowed for. Yet the commentaries of old show a very uniform pattern of thinking and consensus. Only a handful of passages cause any substantial differences?

In modern thinking man is increasingly able to interpret scriptures to satisfy himself, even if the passage is clearly stating something quite at variance. In the modern 'progressive' interpretation being used by many Christian lobby groups on subjects such as homosexuality, same sex marriage and women in ministry, the Word becomes subject to us and change, rather than the Word that does not change and that we are subject to. The Word has to now fit the current fashions of the age. Eisegesis reigns instead of exegesis. Eisegesis is interpreting the scriptures with influence from our own framework of thinking. Exegesis is the discovery of what the original author meant at the time the text was written. It utilises methods that pull apart the text by studying words, phrases, the original grammatical and historical contexts and then putting the parts back together again to establish the true sense of the passage. It does not allow 'reading into the text' foreign, logical or emotional ideas. Exegesis is the friend of Sola Scriptura - the desire to form doctrine and spiritual thinking from Scripture alone.

I often am asked the question - 'do babies go to heaven?'. My answer is 'what does scripture clearly and objectively say'? I have my own wishful ideas on this but I find no clear sola scriptura or exegetical method of answering this question. Strangely, often those who exhibit subjective and liberal thinking on such an issue will on the other hand reject doctrines like the eternity of Hell, which are clear and numerous in scripture. The faulty thinking causes extra biblical thinking on one subject and yet a rejection of texts on the other. It's a form of emotional bungee jumping from one error to another.

Subjective thinking with regards to doctrine is fraught with danger. For example, I may think something is 'beautiful' but the next person may disagree. Such is the nature of subjective thinking.

No doubt people have brains that are 'wired' differently for thinking processes. Some are more logical, more emotional, more subjective; some are 'sequential thinkers' and process information in a more orderly way; others 'random thinkers', more 'creative' and divergent in their thought processes. But no matter what kind of thinking, sound exegeses requires some critical thinking and the use of skills of accuracy and precision. One must also be objective and

Your Comments and Questions

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

The Plight of Many of Our Readers

Hi Terry, Is it just me or do you see apostasy too? ...The more I search for a church to attend in my new area the more obvious it becomes, by reading their web material, that the churches today are just interested in 'improving' people's lives, not preaching the Gospel, making disciples and teaching them? The activities they all advertise are social events, life groups, fellowship...joy, fun, fulfilled lives, blessings, and sheer narcissism in many instances?

They sound more like social clubs than Christian assemblies? They have photographs of young, good looking people, I think maybe laughing their way into hell? Balloons, cartoons, fun, fun, FUN! Many have a morning 'conservative' Sunday service, and then a rock & roll one at 10.30 am? Hillsong features large, and they label that event 'contemporary'. People have 'I Love MY Church' stickers on their cars, they have 'entertainment' nights, they are RSL's without the booze, 'all you can eat' food...If you mention Israel or prophecy, or the last days, or a rapture, you are labelled a 'nutjob'! What is a man to do?

They are all presenting a 'christ' who improves your well being, health, sociability, friendship, and makes you a happier and more content person. That isn't salvation is it? I never see mentioned that we are a fallen race in need of redemption, or that salvation is in Christ alone?

It is a most depressing scene...is it just me, or do you see this too? It has to be apostasy! Thank God we have your ministry to put some sense into all this!

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Editor's comments:

It can be depressing but also exciting to see God keeping a remnant who actually see this apostasy. The horrifying part to me is that most Christians (and pastors) today are actually unaware of the deepening apostasy! Yet this is easy to see if one looks at what each denomination taught on current issues (eg. Same sex; women in ministry; Ecumenism/Roman Catholicism, etc) even just a few decades ago. In many cases the teaching and position is now reversed. That's the definition of apostasy.

I despair when I look at websites for people asking about churches. I now have several 'home' churches in some towns where they have given up finding a biblical church. We simply send them sermon tapes and together they listen and pray.

The apostasy is probably even more subtle and deeper than what we think? Sin is hardly mentioned any more. The Gospel is not the leading thing. The next generation may NOT know what the Gospel is. The modern church has lost its purpose and foundation for ministry - the Gospel.

But God always keeps a remnant. We look for His coming (Heb.9:28; Phil.3:20).

Your Comments and Questions

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

Terry, Love your work! But why is it when someone gets saved, then years later they turn to third party material and become a Calvinist?...I get people using scripture to show that people didn't choose Christ, but rather He made them say 'yes' to Him. This I don't understand.

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Editor's reply:

What is *'third party material'*? And what do you mean by *'become a Calvinist'*? I understood the Doctrines of Grace by study of scripture after I was saved. That's not *'third party material'*? When I came across terms such as *'predestination'*, *'election'*, chosen *'before the foundation of the world'*, etc. in many passages, then I had to grapple with these terms even against my own logic and emotion. I came to see that God is sovereign in salvation.

The historic *'Calvinists'* (which is almost all the revivalists, Reformers and great evangelists in history) did not say *'He made them say 'yes' to Him'*. That is a misrepresentation of what they taught as the *'effectual calling'* - a changing of the will by the Spirit from one that denies Christ to one that believes him. It includes the *'drawing'* (Jn.6:44,65) not a *'forcing'*. They are now not *'made'* (forced), but freely choose Christ. This is the *'effectual calling'* shown in many scriptures (Jn.6:37-40; Rom.8:28).

You sound like you are referring more to hyper-Calvinism, not historic *'Calvinism'* (a term I don't like - I rather use the *'Doctrines of Grace'*). At no time when man is being *'drawn'* and *'called'* to salvation is his will violated. His will is not crushed, but rather his will is broken and wanting to respond. The person who chooses Christ freely does so! Therefore how can such people be forced? *God does not violate the will of the unsaved but he rather 'frees' it from the slavery of sin and unbelief!* The man drawn by God freely comes of his own will because that will has been changed to one that is now willing. In the unsaved state the man was willing also, but blinded in the *opposite direction* to salvation (2Cor.4:4). At salvation, as God draws and calls, the man's will is changed to one that reflects a heart that has been opened (Acts 16:14). Charles Spurgeon summarises: *'A man is not saved against his will, but he is made willing by the operation of the Holy Ghost. A mighty grace which he does not wish to resist enters into the man, disarms him, makes a new creature of him, and he is saved'*.

Most Christians today are unaware what real historic *'Calvinism'* taught. Spurgeon is probably the most balanced. The confusion with hyper-Calvinism is rampant because most have not actually studied historically and forensically both sides of the issue. My book *'Calvinism and Arminianism - Out of the Maze'* goes through all these doctrines and with many quotes by Spurgeon.

set strict boundaries in leaving behind ones tradition and theological bias. Rightly dividing the Word of Truth' (2Tim.2:15) is similar to Bible translation. Translating from the original Biblical languages to other languages is a serious, exacting and fearful task because we are dealing with God's own Word. So, why is interpreting and reading Scripture any less grave?

Why is this subject important? Because *the new subjective thinking today threatens the understanding of the doctrine of Grace and thus the Gospel itself*. The same thinking is humanising the Gospel, taking the *'offence'* and *'shame'* out of it (Gal.5:11; Heb.12:2) and adding our *ability* to decide in receiving Grace. It is increasingly about *'ourselves'* instead of *'not of ourselves'* (Eph.2:8)!

There will be some who will accuse me of *'intellectualism'* - not an uncommon label I find imposed. Some limited knowledge of the original languages and the study of interpretation (hermeneutics) today brings this charge of *'intellectualism'*. My answer to this is that the greats of history such as Jonathan Edwards, Spurgeon and the Puritans, who *'laboured in the word and doctrine'* (1Tim.5:17) and were intellectual men with great minds of learning - these God approved and used them in mighty revivals and awakenings. Most of us would not hold a candle to these men! They would now surely be labelled *'Hyper-intellectuals'*? But the charge of *'intellectualism'* is often just an excuse for a lack of real *'study'*. Most who bring this charge I find actually do barely know how to study and exegete a passage of scripture.

Christians are fast becoming fodder for the ear-tickling TV evangelists, the faith healers and the sickly Arminian waffling of the *'God loves you'* gospel. If we are not reading our Bibles and *'studying'* as *'workmen'*, then how are we ever going to discern the signs of the times?

Why is *'doctrine'* such a dirty word nowadays anyway? Why the charge of *'intellectualism'*? How is it that we are accused of *'intellectualism'* when we merely dig around in the fathomless ocean of God's Word seeking for truth? One writer put it succinctly, *'I must be frank with you: the greatest danger besetting American evangelical Christianity is the danger of anti-intellectualism...for anti-intellectualism is truly the refusal to love the Lord our God with our minds as required by the first of Jesus' commandments...As God has given us minds, we can measure obedience by whether we are loving with those minds, and disobedience by whether we are not...A sure sign of a genuine reformation of our appalling anti-intellectualism will be the rise of a new generation of Christian apologists'*.*

There is another final important issue here. Sound thinking will play out in faith and feelings. *Using the mind in the study of scripture, and thus the will for the glory of God, will train and guide feelings*. George Muller, a man of great faith, once said *'Faith rests on the naked Word of God. When we take Him at His Word, the heart is at peace'*. Obedience is also the key here, not feelings. But how are we to be obedient and train feelings and emotions by sound thinking if we do not have a full orb view of scripture and then *study in depth* what God is saying?

Terry Arnold

* *'Fit Bodies Fat Minds'* by Os Guinness, P.11,18,150

TJH Council Calls for Law to Protect Rome's Confessional

Australia's 'Truth, Justice and Healing Council' has called for new national laws making it a crime to not report information about child sex abuse - unless it is obtained by a priest during the confession.

In a formal submission to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the TJHC has argued that this exemption would reflect Victorian legislation granting a similar 'occasion of privilege' to that protecting communications between lawyers and their clients.

Under questioning at the commission yesterday, TJHC CEO Francis Sullivan said 'parliaments will need to make their own decisions and then...priests will, like everybody else, have to obey the law or disobey the law'.

A series of child abuse scandals in recent decades has revealed 'a shameful history, a rather confronting history within the Catholic Church of how sexual offenders were handled', Mr Sullivan said. This included the cover-up of known child sex offenders, and the moving of paedophile priests between parishes or dioceses, allowing them to offend again...

The commission has the power to recommend changes to laws in some States allowing priests who hear admissions of criminal activity during confession to not report this to police. The Archbishop of Melbourne, Denis Hart, said yesterday the sanctity of what was mentioned to a priest during the sacrament of confession was 'inviolable in the Catholic Church throughout the world'. Tim Brennan, executive officer of the Church's National Office for Professional Standards, said: 'We can have a talkfest, but...the royal commission doesn't write the theology of the Catholic Church and neither does the Australian government'.

Over the past four years, the commission has heard evidence of children being abused during confession and of bishops failing to act, or actively protecting priests they knew to be abusers. A similarly damning investigation of the Church in Ireland led the government to announce laws in 2011 to punish priests who failed to report abuse admitted to during confession by up to five years in jail.

(Dec/2016; Apostasy Alert January 2017)

Editor's Comment:

What utter hypocrisy! It is mainly Rome's priests who are guilty of the crimes! What has been forgotten in all the paedophilia, which is rife within the Catholic religion, is that the 'confessional' is an invention by that religion many centuries after Christ. Secret confession is simply not found in the Bible. The scriptures teach clearly only God forgives sin (Mk.2:5-11; 1Jn.1:9; Matt.9:60). The apostles never heard Confessions (Acts 10:43). Early church fathers wrote strongly about confessing sins to God only. Many evils of the Catholic confessional were documented during the Reformation.

The law of priests being celibate is a new law (AD 1079), not found in the early church. This man made restriction surely drives paedophilia further, it being classified as a doctrine of devils (1Tim.4:3) and against the nature of men (1Cor.7:9). It is a 'tradition' of men (Matt.15:3,6; Col.2:8).

Church Growth

'If we concern ourselves with the depth of our ministry, God will see to the breadth of it. If we minister for spiritual growth, numerical growth will be what God chooses it to be...If People come to church primarily because they find it entertaining, they will surely leave as soon as they stop being amused or something comes along to interest them more. And so the church is forced into a hopeless cycle where it must constantly try to eclipse each spectacle with something bigger and better'.

'The simple reality is that one cannot follow a market driven strategy and remain faithful to scripture. Preachers who concern themselves with user friendliness cannot fearlessly proclaim the whole counsel of God. Those who aspire to preach a timely message will find themselves at odds with the timeless truth of the Bible'.

(*'Ashamed of the Gospel'* by John MacArthur, P.74, 121)

Experience and Scripture

'Experience is not the same as fact. Fact is actuality. It does not depend on interpretation. Experience must be interpreted. The interpretations can vary, depending upon the interpreter; therefore, an objective control is needed to establish the validity of the interpretation.'

'...An experience cannot validate itself; it cannot be self-validating. It must be interpreted, and the only way to interpret accurately is to have a standard other than experience. The only accurate standard for determining whether an experience is from God is the Scripture.'

(*'Satisfied by the Promise of the Spirit'* by Thomas R. Edgar, P.13,24)

Pragmatism

Sin is called sickness so people think it requires therapy, not repentance. Habitual sin is called addictive or compulsive behaviour, and many surmise it's solution is medical rather than moral correction'

'A few months of strong, straightforward, no-frills preaching on repentance and holiness would reduce the attendance at those churches, but it would also reveal who is genuinely redeemed or being led by the Holy Spirit to redemption.

Nevertheless, pragmatism is reshaping virtually every facet of evangelical ministry. Where preaching can still be found, it tends to be man-centered and dominated by a relational mentality that attempts to reconcile man to men, not man to God. Its often unstated but real goal is to salve people who are totally immersed in themselves, their hurts, and their perceived needs. Thus it is fuelled by and further inflames society's bent toward selfishness'.

(*'The Sufficiency of Christ'* by John MacArthur, P.67, 153)

What Does The Bible Say About Church Growth?

Answer:

Although the Bible does not specifically address church growth, the principle of church growth is the understanding that Jesus said, 'I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18). Paul confirmed that the church has its foundation in Jesus Christ (1Corinthians 3:11). Jesus Christ is also the head of the church (Ephesians 1:18-23) and the church's life (John 10:10). Having said that, it should be remembered that 'growth' can be a relative term. There are different kinds of growth, some of which have nothing to do with numbers.

A church can be alive and growing even though the number of members/attendees is not changing. If those in the church are growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus, submitting to His will for their lives, both individually and corporately, that is a church that is experiencing true growth. At the same time, a church can be adding to its rolls weekly, have huge numbers, and still be spiritually stagnant.

Growth of any kind follows a typical pattern. As with a growing organism, the local church has those who plant the seed (evangelists), those who water the seed (pastor/teachers), and others who use their spiritual gifts for the growth of those in the local church. But note that it is God who gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:7). Those who plant and those who water will each receive their own reward according to their labor (1 Corinthians 3:8).

There has to be a balance between planting and watering for a local church to grow, which means that in a healthy church each person must know what his/her spiritual gift is so that he/she can function within in the body of Christ. If the planting and watering get out of balance, the church will not prosper as God intended. Of course, there has to be daily dependence upon and obedience to the Holy Spirit so His power can be released in those who plant and water in order for God's increase to come.

Finally, the description of a living and growing church is found in Acts 2:42-47 where the believers '*devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer*'. They were serving one another and reaching out to those who needed to know the Lord, for the Lord '*added to their number daily those who were being saved*'. When these things are present, the church will experience spiritual growth, whether or not there is numerical increase.

(<http://www.gotquestions.org/church-growth.html#ixzz2bQ9bLPdK>)

Benny Hinn's Nephew Sees The Light



Costi Hinn [Pictured] - Benny Hinn's nephew (Costi's father is Benny's brother) has gone public in exposing of Benny Hinn's false teaching and false prophecies.

Costi used to work for his uncle and flew all over the world with him in his G-5 private jet. He participated in hundreds of 'healing crusades'. Benny paid him well, enabling Costi to drive a Hummer while in college.

But all the while, Costi had questions. He would read his Bible and see discrepancies between what he saw in the Scriptures and what he saw in his family's theology and lifestyle. From time to time he would voice his questions but his uncle and father either would not or could not answer them.

About four or so years ago, God brought Costi to a place of genuine faith and repentance. God saved him. And now, well, things have changed. Everything has changed. His own words can be found on: <http://pulpitandpen.org/2017/02/24/a-brand-snatched-from-the-fire-justin-peters-speaks-with-costi-hinn/>

Editor's comment:

For many years various ministries have exposed the heresies and false prophecies of Benny Hinn (see our website). Yet still he has one of the biggest followings in the world of any 'faith healer'. This is despite several clear false prophecies, heretical and new teachings, not one credible documented 'healing', and his own lies being publicly exposed in the media and by Christian ministries. Our website and newsletters have several articles on this charlatan who still dupes and robs multitudes of Christians worldwide.

'I Believe'

'I believe in the God of the Bible. I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who healed and did miracles to prove his Messianhip. I believe in a God who today can heal and do miracles. I believe in God who gives gifts to men for the church. I believe in the Word that says our bodies will be finally redeemed when Jesus comes or we die. The redemption of our bodies is future.

I don't believe in the faith healers of today's signs and wonders movement. I don't believe in their false claims of healing and miracles. I don't believe God accepts the dishonesty of movements that ride on the back of consumer fraud and false prophecies and revelations. One of the reasons I will not believe in them is because the god and doctrine they preach is not the one I see in His holy book. It is simply not true that healing is guaranteed in the atonement; or that all should be healed; that all his people should be 'rich'. I don't believe there will be a world end-time revival when there is not a single scripture for this and the Bible says the opposite!...' Terry Arnold

London: 423 New Mosques; 500 Closed Churches

'London is more Islamic than many Muslim countries put together', according to Maulana Syed Raza Rizvi, one of the Islamic preachers who now lead 'Londonistan', as the journalist Melanie Phillips has called the English capital. Rizvi is not a right-wing extremist.

Wole Soyinka, a Nobel Laureate for Literature, was less generous; he called the UK 'a cesspit for Islamists'. 'Terrorists cannot stand London multiculturalism', London's mayor Sadiq Khan said after the recent attack at Westminster. The opposite is true: British multi-culturalists are feeding Islamic fundamentalism...Londonistan, with its new 423 mosques, is built on the sad ruins of English Christianity. The Hyatt United Church was bought by the Egyptian community to be converted to a mosque. St Peter's Church was converted into the Madina Mosque. The Brick Lane Mosque was built on a former Methodist church...The number of converts to Islam has doubled; often they embrace radical Islam, as with Masood, the terrorist who struck Westminster.

The Daily Mail published photographs of a church and a mosque a few metres from each other in the heart of London. At the Church of San Giorgio, designed



to accommodate 1,230 worshippers, only 12 people gathered to worship. At the church

of Santa Maria, there were 20. The nearby Brune Street Estate mosque has a different problem: overcrowding. It's a small room and can contain only 100. On

Friday, the faithful must pour into the street to pray.

...Christianity in England is becoming a relic, while Islam will be the religion of the future. In Birmingham, the second-largest British city, where many jihadists live and orchestrate their attacks, an Islamic minaret dominates the sky.

There are petitions to allow British mosques to call the Islamic faithful to prayer on loudspeakers three times a day. By 2020, estimates are that the number of Muslims attending prayers will reach at least 683,000, while the number of Christians attending weekly service will drop to 679,000.

... 'In 20 years there are going to be more active Muslims than there are churchgoers,' said Keith Porteous Wood, director of the National Secular Society. Since 2001, 500 London churches of all denominations have been turned into private homes...British mosques have been proliferating. Between 2012 and 2014, the proportion of Britons who identify themselves as Anglicans fell from 21% to 17%, a decrease of 1.7 million people...the number of Muslims has grown by almost a million.

Churchgoers are declining at a rate that within a generation, their number will be three times lower than that of Muslims who go regularly to mosques on Friday.

(Apostasy Alert, April 2017)

'The Faith' is Closed!

Jude 3 is a crucial passage of Scripture often quoted by this ministry. **'Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints'**.

The word 'faith' has the definite article 'the' which in Greek points to the one and only 'faith'. This faith is not our faith given as a gift in salvation or any faith that we exercise on a daily basis. It is rather 'the faith' which was once given to the apostles and the prophets in the foundation of the church. There is no other.

This same understanding of 'the faith' can be seen in other Scriptures also: **'...he which persecuted us in times past now preaches the faith which once he destroyed'** (Gal.1:23) and **'...in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils'** (1Tim.4:1).

In Jude 3 'the faith' is an objective entity and is the sum total of what Christians believe then and now. It is the foundational doctrines upon which the early church was built, the apostles doctrine, the scriptures as written down.

The phrase 'once' is the Greek word 'hapax' meaning once for all time. The same word is used in Hebrews referring to Christ's sacrifice being 'once' and only once (Heb.9:28).

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

Today, we have a series of attacks on this Scripture in Jude 3. 'Prophecies' in the sense of foretelling new revelation have been added to the 'faith' as words from God. Some conservative Pentecostal leaders have seen the importance of 'Sola Scriptura' as attested to by the early church and the Reformers. But sadly they have attempted to marry their desire for prophecies and extra biblical revelations with 'Sola Scriptura'. But this defies what Jude 3 teaches in that God's revelation was 'once delivered'. Prophecy in the New Testament is basically *forthtelling* the Word of God and that word has already been delivered unto us. This prophetic gift as in Rom.12:6 and 1Cor.12:10 is declaring, forthtelling the word of God already delivered to us, not foretelling or revealing any revelation extra to the Word of God.

The question for the modern church is: - is this 'faith once delivered' sufficient? Is it sufficient for doctrine and the spiritual life? Did God allow for new progressive movements with extra revelation? God knows what He has written is sufficient - He not only says it is 'once delivered' but He also implores us to 'contend' for it!

Terry Arnold

The Apostasy

'Few thought in the 1960's that thirty years later leading evangelicals would be calling the head of the Roman Catholic religion 'a wonderful Pope', or that a message from the Pontiff would have been read at Billy Graham meetings, (as at Amsterdam in 2000), but it happened...Horatius Bonar...said: 'Fellowship between faith and unbelief must, sooner or later, be fatal to the former'. This is so, not because error is more powerful than truth, but because if we befriend the advocate of error, we will be deprived of the aid of the spirit of truth...Eusebius, the early Christian wrote: 'Such caution did the apostles and their disciples use, so as not even to have any communion, even in word, with any of those that thus mutilate the truth, according to the declaration of Paul: 'An heretical man after the first and second admonition avoid, know that such a one is perverse, and that he sins, bringing condemnation on himself'.

(The Unresolved Controversy: Unity with Non-evangelicals' P.24-26)

Spurgeon's Plea On Popery

'Since he was cursed who rebuilt Jerico, much more the man who labours to restore Popery among us. In our father's days the gigantic walls of Popery fell by the power of their faith, the perseverance of their efforts, and the blast of their Gospel trumpets; and now there are some who would rebuild that accursed system upon its old foundations. Oh Lord be pleased to thwart their unrighteous endeavours, and pull down every stone which they built. It should be a serious business with us to be thoroughly purged of every error which may have a tendency to foster the spirit of Popery and when we have made a clean sweep at home we should seek in every way to oppose its all too rapid spread abroad in the church and in the world. This last can be done in secret by fervent prayer and in public by decided testimony. We must warn with judicious boldness those who are inclined towards the errors of Rome, we must instruct the young in gospel truth, and tell them of the black doings of Popery in olden times. We must aid in spreading the light more thoroughly through the land, for priests like owls, hate daylight. Are we doing all we can for Jesus and the Gospel? If not our negligence plays into the hands of priest craft. What are we doing to spread the Bible, which is the Popes bane and poison? Are we casting abroad good, gospel writings? Luther once said, "The devil hates goose quills," and doubtless he has good reason for ready writers, by the Holy Spirit's blessing, have done his kingdom much damage. If the thousands who will read this short word this night will do all they can do to hinder the rebuilding of this accursed Jericoh, the Lord's glory shall spread among the sons of men. Reader what can you do? What will you do?'

(Extracted from C.H. Spurgeon's 'Morning and Evening', P.301)

Where Are the Men?

This article is one which I have held off writing for some time, thinking it was somewhat too 'hard' to bring to readers. That was until recently when I read an article which in part stated: *'One of the primary reasons why Donald Trump is in the White House today is because he didn't act like a typical wimpy politician during the campaign. The American people were hungry for someone who is strong, someone who is a fighter and someone who will stand up for what he believes. In other words, they wanted a man and not a wimp. Yes, Donald Trump has done and said some things that are very regrettable over the years, but many Americans were willing to overlook those imperfections because at least he was willing to go to battle...'* (Apostasy Alert, March/2017).

I got to thinking about this from a pastoral perspective in church life over the last 30 years. Over that time I have seen changes in men. My critique of men here is not about all men. I have at the moment many tough resilient mature warriors that I am surrounded by, to which I praise God for their comradeship in the Lord.

But increasingly many men today are simply not what they used to be or should be. Many are just not used to work and discipline. I cite men because they are supposed to be the *leaders of the church*. If they do not set the example, then what have our precious women and children got to follow? Many men today have actually worked few, if any, hard days in their lives. Social benefits and unemployment perhaps have not helped that. Many young and middle aged men today actually have no interest in finding a job or working. They are content to take benefits. The modern luxuries have filled our lives too.

Statistics show that many more men now move back to be with their parents, forsaking much of their independence. I have met many men who live in a state of adolescence and are simply not mature enough to contemplate marriage and children. That has also not been helped by drugs and alcohol abuse causing mental illnesses which retards many for life. Over many years I have seen Godly young eligible women come into churches and, despite there being many single men their age, there has simply not been one man who is mature and disciplined enough to attract such a wife. I feel sure that Godly women would want more than love, but also protection, provision and leadership from husbands. But too many men today are more 'couch potatoes' rather than decisive vessels of strength and leadership?

To put it bluntly, many men today are fragile and flaky rather than warriors. Such men are simply following the ways of the men in the world who are increasingly more effeminate in nature and habit. I have seen churches literally taken over by women because the men were so wimpish and lacking energy in leadership and direction. But that is the way of the world. The world's magazines are putting forth the new age man who shares the same tastes and fashions as the women of this world. Gender neutral and inclusive language are adding to this social phenomena.

But what kind of man is God's man? Many years ago I read a book called

‘*Tender Warrior*’ which detailed God’s man as the author saw it.

I don’t see Jesus as effeminate and flaky. I see him as a *tender warrior*. As a young man I only knew one kind of man - more shaped from my dad and a dysfunctional family which at times controlled people and situations, even by violence or manipulation to get what we wanted. It was only when I was Born Again by the Spirit of God that I realised how utterly depraved I was in this respect. It was not the stuff of the David’s and the great men in scripture, but a counterfeit of a real Christian man.

But what is a real Christian man? Men are confused and struggling today with what is ‘masculine’. It must not be what you see in the movies. Hollywood portrays men as either effeminate or brutal; and Jesus as a long haired gentle, quiet and meek misty blue eyed new age sensitive man.

But Jesus is God and God was also a man of war and a *warrior* in the Old Testament. 1Samual 13:14 has God describing David as a ‘*man after God’s heart*’. Why - *because he was like God in character*. This was when he was a shepherd boy. But God knew his heart that he was a warrior in the making. He went on to prove this in slaying lions and bears and in battle as God’s man and a man’s man.

But follow David through the scriptures and you see a ‘tender warrior’ - tender with his sheep, loyal to his king; yet fierce in battle, consistent in repentance, consistent in his goals and obedient...a *Tender Warrior*.

‘A tender warrior is one who is tough but tender; strong but sensitive; fierce but friendly’.

The tender warrior needs to have a vision. Many men today are more interested in the physical stuff rather than the stuff unseen. The question that must be answered is: How am I going to finish the ‘race’ in regard to my family, wife, children, church. Are we going to be ‘ashamed’ (Phil.1:20; 2Tim.2:15; 1Jn.2:28)? I know many men who have already in this life been partly ‘ashamed’ - they have lost their families spiritually. Many also lose their families because of being consumed in their jobs or ministries. The vision gets lost somewhere in the stuff of this world. Saul refused to face the giant and lost vision when the army was looking to him. It took David a shepherd boy to snatch the vision. Men need to be a David, not a Saul!

The tender warrior needs to accept and take responsibility. Adam did not and lost himself and his wife to the temptations of the Devil. Adam should have been in protection mode. Real men protect and defend. Real spiritual men protect their families and their churches from false teaching and evils of all kind. As elders we are protectors of the flock. As men we are protectors of those in the church. I personally have been alarmed at the wimpish elders I have seen in many churches who will not tackle a divisive or sinful church situation and take it by the horns and do what God commands - purge the leaven, discipline the sinful members and keep His church pure, because *it was brought with a great price* (Acts 20:28; 1Cor.6:20)!

The tender warrior needs to be consistent. So many Christian men lack staying power today. Jesus was consistent when he said ***‘I will never leave you or forsake***

believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, etc. And I believe every article of the Catholic faith [here meaning ‘universal’, not Roman], every word and sentence taught by our Saviour Jesus Christ, His apostles and prophets, in the New and Old Testaments. And now I come to the great thing which so much troubles my conscience, more than any thing that ever I did or said in my whole life, and that is the setting abroad of a writing contrary to the truth, which now here I renounce and refuse, as things written with my hand contrary to the truth which I thought in my heart, and written for fear of death, and to save my life, if it might be; and that is, all such bills or papers which I have written or signed with my hand since my degradation, wherein I have written many things untrue. And forasmuch as my hand has offended, writing contrary to my heart, therefore my hand shall first be punished; for when I come to the fire it shall first be burned. And as for the Pope, I refuse him as Christ’s enemy, and Antichrist, with all his false doctrine’.

The above astonished the listeners and many Catholics were indignant. Cranmer would have proceeded but his voice was drowned by the opposition.

The preacher gave an order to ‘*lead the heretic away!*’ As he was dragged out he was mocked and taunted by monks and priests.

They took Cranmer to the same spot where Ridley and Latimer were martyred the year before in 1555. Two Spanish priests stripped him and tried to convince him to recant his Protestant ‘errors’. A third priest also continued with him to near his death attempting to have him reverse his testimony.

He was bound by chain to a stake and a fire was lit around him. Cranmer stretched out his hand to be burned first and held it there until it was consumed before his body was burned. He repeatedly said ‘*this unworthy right hand*’. Surprisingly his body did not burn as quick as others before him, but eventually he was heard to say the words of the first martyr Stephen: ‘*Lord Jesus, receive my spirit*’ and amidst the flame now roaring, he died. It was March 21st 1556.

Today the same Church of England leaders are in unity with the same Roman church that the English Reformers opposed. The Church of England primates of today who hold the same position as those of Cranmer and other bishops are consistently undermining the faith of the Reformers of earlier centuries. Instead of exposing the false teachings and the supremacy claimed by the Pope, they applaud and negotiate with the Papacy. The martyrs of Cranmer’s era are, in effect, being mocked by Protestant leaders today who join Rome in a new spirit of mutual trust and co-operation.

Cranmer was burned alive at the hands of the Roman church, ‘protesting’ a faith that is diametrically opposed to Scripture and the ‘faith once delivered’.

Lest we forget.

Terry Arnold

Some material excerpted from *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*. Our booklet ‘*Why Were Our Reformers Burned?*’ (\$3.90) also details some of the history of ‘Bloody Mary’.

detest all manner of heresies and errors of Luther and Zuinglius, and all other teachings which are contrary to sound and true doctrine. And I believe most constantly in my heart, and with my mouth I confess one holy and Catholic Church visible, without which there is no salvation; and therefore I acknowledge the Bishop of Rome to be supreme head on earth, whom I acknowledge to be the highest bishop and pope, and Christ's vicar, unto whom all Christian people ought to be subject...

...And as concerning the sacraments, I believe and worship in the sacrament of the altar the body and blood of Christ, being contained most truly under the forms of bread and wine; the bread, through the mighty power of God being turned into the body of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and the wine into his blood...And in the other six sacraments, also, (alike as in this) I believe and hold as the universal Church holdeth, and the Church of Rome judgeth and determineth...Furthermore, I believe that there is a place of Purgatory, where souls departed be punished for a time...

Finally, in all things I profess, that I do not otherwise believe than the Catholic Church and the Church of Rome holdeth and teacheth. I am sorry that I ever held or thought otherwise...I submit myself to the Catholic Church of Christ, and to the supreme head thereof...

His recantation was printed and dispersed for all Catholics and Protestants to see. Fear of his own life had moved Cranmer to sign to what was not in his heart. But the Queen wanted his blood and summoned him to appear at Oxford, to which they brought him in torn, dirty garments. He was seated on a high stage next to a pulpit so all could see. Immediately he turned and prayed. Both Roman Catholics and Protestants came to watch, the Catholics overjoyed at the recantation and the Protestants grieved at the reversal. A Mr. Pole preached a sermon and mentioned the so called grievous crimes of Cranmer and that Masses would be said for his soul after death to escape punishments for sin and his 'crimes'.

The preacher then asked Cranmer to give a sign that he was in agreement and that he needed prayer. Cranmer had lifted up his hands and eyes during the sermon several times and had wept bitterly. He now cried out: *'O Father of Heaven! O Son of God, Redeemer of the world! O Holy Ghost, three persons all one God! Have mercy on me, most wretched caitiff and miserable sinner. I have offended both against heaven and earth, more than my tongue can express. Whither then may I go, or whither may I flee? To heaven I may be ashamed to lift up mine eyes and in earth I find no place of refuge or succour. To Thee, therefore, O Lord, do I run; to Thee do I humble myself, saying, O Lord, my God, my sins be great, but yet have mercy upon me for Thy great mercy...I crave nothing for my own merits, but for Thy name's sake...'*

Cranmer arose and quoted three verses from James chapter 5. Then came the shocking truth: *'...I see before mine eyes presently, either Heaven ready to receive me, or else Hell ready to swallow me up; I shall therefore declare unto you my very faith how I believe, without any colour of dissimulation: for now is no time to dissemble, whatsoever I have said or written in times past...First, I*

you...' Job was consistent when he was *'...perfect and upright...feared God, and eschewed evil...and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings...Thus did Job continually'* (Job 1:1-5)

In church conflicts I have seen many men fall by the wayside. They simply run from the battle. Jonathan is a favourite character of mine in the Old Testament. He had an 'armour bearer', a trusted man who would not run away in the heat of battle and who would hand him the weapons (1Sam.14). Men today sometimes too easily cut and run from their families and wives. But what marriage is not without tough and difficult times when the way forward seems rough or even impossible? When your wife goes through menopause, has 6 month mood swings, even a change in personality, it is time to be a man and fight the desires to run from the battle. When parenting is over your head, stay in it. When your children let you down, pick them up. Nearly half of kids today are not living with their dads. (Most men in prison did not have their fathers when growing up).

Many men today know little of sacrifice. Jesus did not say 'it is finished' until the sacrifice was finished for you and me. Real men stay and stay. I love the men in my church who turn up consistently in 'rain hail or shine'. A question good to ask many people (particularly young people) is: What commitments have you made in your life that you have stuck at? Are you satisfied with your track record?

Real men will also fight the addictions of this life, the lusts that would draw us away. Real men will flee rather than flaunt or play with the tentacles of lusts. American statistics now show that near 68% of Christian men look at pornography on a regular basis. But real men will fight this with a vengeance and take even extreme separation measures. Social media, including the likes of Facebook, have not helped with their self obsessed narcissistic habits which take many away from our Bibles and real honest face to face relationships.

Real men are *longsuffering*. Because God is *full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering*' (Ps.86:15).

Apart from the 'tough' side there is also the tender side of a spiritual man. Underneath the armour of a Christian man should be tenderness. He has feelings as did David on many occasions and who poured them out in the Psalms. A real man will not be afraid to express them at the right time. Tenderness has been described as *carefully expressing feelings, compassionate, considerate*.

The apostle Paul was a *tender warrior*. He was tough when he was beaten, stoned, whipped, shipwrecked (2Cor.11:23-27); but he was also tender to the point of tears when dealing with his people (Acts 20:31; 2Cor.2:4); as was Jesus in the garden before his death (Heb.5:7).

Real men equip themselves for battle with the flesh, the devil and the world...their weapons include the Word of God and prayer. They will fight and overcome. *'Watch you, stand fast in the faith, behave you like [courageous] men, be strong'* (1Cor.16:13); *'For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith'* (2Tim.4:6,7).

Where are the men?

Terry Arnold

The Martyrdom of Archbishop Cranmer

Dr. Thomas Cranmer was born in Arselacton, in the county of Northampton, England. He was educated at Cambridge, married and became a reader in Buckingham College. His wife died shortly after giving birth. Some years later he was promoted to a lecturer and an examiner in Divinity.

While at Cambridge, the question of Henry VIII's divorce with Catharine was being discussed. A Dr. Gardiner and a Dr. Fox, who defended the King, became engaged in a conversation with Cranmer. who suggested that the issue could be decided 'by Scripture'. The king at that time was engaged in a wrangling with Rome over the issue. When the king heard what Cranmer had said he sent for him. Cranmer suggested the matter be referred to the learned Divines of Cambridge and Oxford. But the king entreated Cranmer to put in writing his own thoughts. Cranmer did this with scripture and quotations from ancient writers. Included in his writings was a mention that the Bishop of Rome had no right to dispense with the Word of God.

The king then sent Cranmer with other delegates to see the Pope. When the Pope presented his toe to be kissed as was customary, the men refused. The men presented the Pope with Cranmer's book on the subject and the Pope declared another day for discussion. But he then delayed that day. The men eventually returned to England.

Soon, the Archbishop of Canterbury resigned and Cranmer was elevated to the position. Cranmer took the role seriously, rising at 5am each morning and studying till 9am before devoting himself to temporal matters. He was well liked by King Henry and deeply interested in caring for the English church.

His character was one of mildness and forgiveness. To those who spoke evil of him he remained gracious. He was loyal to the king before the Pope.

In 1534 the archbishop completed one of his most important goals - the passing of the nobles and bishops giving allegiance to the king's sole supremacy before the Pope, which he believed would open the way for Reformation of the scriptures. Some Bishops objected, including Bishop Fisher and Sir Thomas More.

At that time, Dr. Gardiner, in a private conversation with the king, spoke evil of Cranmer, whom he had for some time hated. Gardiner complained of Cranmer assuming the title of primate of all England as being against the King's position.

Meanwhile King Henry had been busy having one wife after another and either divorcing or executing them.

By 1538 the Scriptures were openly preached and taught and churches began overflowing to hear the word of God. But although King Henry VIII had politically broken with the Roman church in 1534, nevertheless to keep the favour of the powerful Roman Catholic clergy he somewhat clamped down on theological reform by introducing the 'Act of Six Articles'. This Confession upheld six dogmas of Roman theology as the belief of the new Church of England. Cranmer resisted the doctrines and some bishops resigned their ministries. Many Protestants and prominent bishops left England for Europe,

mostly to escape the demands of the new laws which favoured the Romanists.

The Roman Catholic Clergy used the new laws to accuse Protestant leaders of 'heresy' in an attempt to wipe out the Protestant views which had spread quickly when Tyndale and his supporters had smuggled in English New Testaments. Cranmer had those who also conspired against him and brought charges of treason against the king. But the king had a great respect for Cranmer and when he investigated the charges he found some conspirators in Cranmer's own diocese to be the instigators. Henry, busy with other matters, let the men off.

The same men then renewed their plots against Cranmer.

In 1544, the archbishop's palace at Canterbury was burnt, and his brother-in-law killed in the fire.

Dr. Gardiner, who had opposed Cranmer in the past, now laid fresh charges against Cranmer. Again the king defended Cranmer.

Meanwhile, there was a move supported by Cranmer to abolish the unbiblical Roman Mass, but the death of the king in 1546 halted this possibility.

King Edward followed King Henry and somewhat furthered the cause of the Reformation. However, Edward died in 1553 and it is here that the nation would be plunged into a resurgence of Catholicism under Queen Mary. Cranmer and many other Reformers suddenly were found at the mercy of enemies.

Cranmer was accused of high treason and stripped of his dignities, even though he supported the Queen's rights. The divorce of Mary's mother had always been a contention with Mary who set about on a rampage of revenge. She had not forgotten that it was Cranmer who annulled her parents marriage and married Henry to Anne Boleyn.

She became known as '*Bloody Mary*' because of the number of martyrs during her reign. During the last 4 years of her reign (1555-1558) no less than 288 people were burned at the stake for their Protestant faith. These martyrs died horrifying deaths, some in sight of their families. Before death many were locked away for months and beaten in appalling conditions. But the Word of God was of great comfort to them! During this time there was a swift reversion to Papal authority which was only halted when the following Queen Elizabeth ended the Pope's power on English soil.

The initial case against Cranmer was illegal since the power of the Pope had not yet been established by law. Yet they kept Cranmer in prison until this was effected. Roman Catholic Examiners were sent to 'examine' Cranmer. He was then summoned to the impossible - to appear at Rome within 18 days. When he could not attend he was 'condemned' at Rome. Cranmer was gradually degraded in prison, stripped of his clothes and given rags to wear. His enemies saw that he was not moved by this and so they tried the opposite - they placed him in a house and indulged him. He was promised his former greatness and the Queen's favour if he would recant his Protestant faith. All the time they knew his death was already determined by Council.

Under great pressure Cranmer signed a document which read in part: '*I, Thomas Cranmer, late archbishop of Canterbury, do renounce, abhor, and*