

Your Comments and Questions

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

Quotable

‘...The mathematical odds of assembling a living organism are so astronomical that nobody still believes that random chance accounts for the origins of life. Even if you optimised the conditions, it wouldn’t work. If you took all the carbon in the universe and put it on the face of the earth, allowed it to chemically react at the most rapid rate possible, and left it for a billion years, the odds of creating just one functional protein molecule would be one chance in 10 with 60 zeroes after it.’

(‘The Case for Faith’ by Lee Strobel, P.101)

‘In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth’ (Gen.1:1)

Prayer / Praise Points

- Praise the Lord for growth, salvations and more baptisms in Hervey Bay Bible Church. Pray for the discipleship of these people and for the Gospel to continue to bear fruit.
- Pray for the resources which are sent out from this ministry on request to pastors and many readers. Pray the information will bear fruit for the Lord. Pray for the editor in his ability to be able to answer the many questions from readers.

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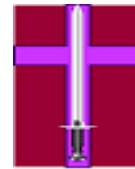
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‘But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern [diakrisis] both good and evil’, (Heb.5:14)

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TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry,
teaching, informing and equipping the church.
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The editor may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by subscribers in this newsletter.

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

Articles in this newsletter may be copied or reproduced provided it is in context and proper credit and references are given. We encourage distribution of this newsletter that others might be *taught, informed and equipped*.

This newsletter is distributed bi-monthly *free* of charge. The cost to this ministry is approximately \$20.00 per subscriber annually. Any donation to help with these expenses is received with gratitude.

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Newsletter printing

We are thankful to those subscribers who donated generously to have the newsletter continue to be printed and posted in hardcopy format. However, if you have not already contacted us please consider receiving your copy by e-mail and advising us by e-mail. You can print the newsletter in the same booklet format as the mailed version.

Editor's Comment

Times are changing fast. We live increasingly in a world of technology and information overload. The propensity for deception and lies has increased dramatically. Almost anyone can put any lie onto the Internet and claim it as truth. But worse, more than ever, many will believe it.

Times are changing fast. The mainstream media outlets have always been driven by their bosses and their one sided agendas but in the last decade this has reached new proportions. For example, any discerning person will quickly see that certain television stations (such as ABC Australia) are driven by what some call 'left wing politics'. The bias is not half obvious. Has anyone also noticed lately the aggressive interviewing of anyone 'conservative'? And anyone who dares to question the new amoral sentiments such as 'marriage equality' are quickly branded as bigots, homophobic or worse. I have seen this branding personally in our own local media when lone Christians will put forward a conservative view - one which actually was held by most Australians only a few decades ago! But *times are changing fast.*

Times are changing fast. When I was at school I was taught that an 'ice age' was approaching. Now its 'global warming' and caused by humans. In just the last decade or two the media has successfully made such 'truth' acceptable while ignoring facts. 'Global warming' is now true despite the earth's atmosphere cooling for 18 straight years and despite previous periods of much warmer temperatures, increased carbon emissions and higher Co2. And currently it's 'our fault'. Of course God appears to have his hands tied in all of this despite his Word exhorting us that he is in full control of all these elements. Scriptures teaches He brings the rain, the drought as well as the storms. The seasons are His. '*While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease*' (Gen.8:22).

The media is now usually not a friend of the Christian but rather an enemy of Christianity and it is hard to see it as ever honestly putting true Biblical Christianity in its true light. Most of the big name TV preachers who use the media do what the media does itself - manipulate and make merchandise of peoples minds and pockets. Religious leaders use the media for political purposes and propagate a gospel of feel good or social works and thus make good bedmates for a time with the media. (Many 'Ministers Fraternal' do similarly on local levels). The Gospel is lost which is no loss to the media.

This begs the question of just how much should Christians be involved with the media? To advertise services is one thing but to expect the media to portray the Bible's message accurately and honestly is simply naïve. (In times past I have personally had paid media statements edited without permission by the media so as to take a Gospel message out). Christians and their leaders need to be discerning in how they are involved with the media. It must be understood that

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Dear Terry, I am writing to you as Missionary Secretary of.....to confirm [a donation]... We very much appreciate the work you do through 'Diakrisis', it must seem at times you are knocking your head against a brick wall. Most churches today don't want to hear that message! However, don't lose heart, the Lord who knows who are His will direct them to listen and like the 'Bereans', turn to the scriptures and find the truth for themselves. I realise there are many sincere Christians caught up in these churches who through lack of Biblical teaching do not truly understand what are the 'Gospel' truths, they really need to have their spiritual eyes opened, and be confronted, that is why I felt the need to encourage you in your ministry.

We know from experience - my husband and I were staunch 'Charismatics' for about 20 years until we were challenged by some friends who had had their eyes opened by reading Martyn Lloyd-Jones sermons. At first we refused their offer to read them, but eventually we became curious as to why they had been so convicted, so of course we read everything we could of his, then went on to Bishop Ryle, the Puritans, the Reformation, Covenanters, Calvin, etc. and it all became crystal clear to us. The Lord will never leave those who are His and will find a way to turn them around to the truth, you just have to be open to receive!

We have been in the Reformed faith now for over 20 years, but we spent many of those years searching for a Biblically based church, however we eventually found it here at..... We continue to pray for you and your ministry, that the Lord will bless your efforts.

(M&D, T. Sydney)

Dear Terry...my faculties are fading with age (92). I have been receiving your excellent publication for more years than I care to remember and in the early stages I could not agree with all that you said and almost cancelled the subscription which was originally sent by an old friend and colleague...who has gone to be with the Lord. Sadly I have ended up in this hostel as my beloved wife has dementia. There is little or no Christian fellowship here and what little there is, does not reflect what we believe. I would appreciate prayer for my dear wife who wants to go and be with the Lord and I pray daily for the Lord to take her but I am reminded that He knows the number of days allotted to us before one of them came to be.

I would like to say that I experience His presence but that is not so - my only anchor remains the precious Word of God and I continue to be refreshed by your publication. May the Lord bless you and keep you faithful to the precious truths in His book the Bible...

(J.H.)

spiritual. We in this ministry after much research on this issue have developed two free articles (in one booklet) - *'The Millennium - Literal or Figurative?'* and *'The Early Church and Beyond - Views on the Millennium'*. The second article traces the early church fathers and then *numerous* quotes from Spurgeon, Jonathan Edwards and others concerning their views on Millennialism. Jonathan Edwards was quite strong on his Millennialism and a future Israel (see the second article).

Spurgeon strongly believed in a *future literal reign of Christ, a physical millennium and a restoration of the Jews*. Spurgeon warned that the earthly reign of Christ is *'put so literally that we dare not spiritualise it'*. (*'Things to Come'* 15:329). He was also well aware of the three main views of prophecy and mentioned these clearly and spoke *against* both the A-mil and Post-mil view. Below are just some of the many quotes from our article cited above.

'Some think that this descent of the Lord will be post-Millennial; that is, after the thousand years of his reign. I cannot think so. I conceive that the advent will be pre-Millennial; that he will come first; and then will come the millennium as the result of his personal reign upon earth' (*'Justification and Glory'*, MTP 11:249).

'There is, moreover, to be a reign of Christ. I cannot read the Scriptures without perceiving that there is to be a Millennial reign, as I believe, upon the earth, and that there shall be new heavens and new earth wherein dwell righteousness' (*'For Ever with the Lord'* in MTP 23:522).

'It is certain also that our Lord Jesus Christ will come again to this earth, and that he will reign amongst his ancients gloriously, and that there will be a thousand years of joy and peace such as were never known on this earth before'. (Sermon *'The Harvest and the Vintage'*)

'We know that Christ was really, personally, and physically here on earth. But it is not quite so clear to some persons that he is to come, really, personally, and literally the second time...Now, we believe that the Christ who shall sit on the throne of his father David, and whose feet shall stand upon Mount Olivet, is as much a personal Christ as the Christ who came to Bethlehem and wept in the manger' (*'The Two Advents of Christ'* in The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit (MTP) 8:39).

'There will be a native government again; there will again be the form of a body politic; a state shall be incorporated, and a king shall reign. Israel has now become alienated from her own land...If there be anything clear and plain, the literal sense and meaning of this passage [Ezekiel 37:1-10] a meaning not to be spirited or spiritualised away; must be evident that both the two and the ten tribes of Israel are to be restored to their own land, and that a king is to rule over them' (*'The Restoration and Conversion of the Jews'*, MTP 10:426).

'The people of Israel are to be converted to God, and...their conversion is to be permanent...This thing shall be, and...both in the spiritual and in the temporal throne, the King Messiah shall sit, and reign among his people gloriously' (*'The Restoration and the Conversion of the Jews'*, (MTP, 582)

the media is driven by unseen forces, both in the world and out of it. The media is not our friend and must be viewed and used wisely.

Times are changing fast. Then there is 'social media'. Many Christians are simply obsessed with popular media tools such as 'Facebook' and other Internet technology. The personal drivel that some Christians put on Facebook does nothing for the advance of the Gospel. Personal tastes, hobbies and pastimes are paraded for all to see. Often they simply become stumbling blocks to those who are weak in the faith. In many instances it has become a venue for the sin of Narcissism. It has to be considered that the time people spend on social media is part of the reason why few Christians actually read and study their Bibles today?

Times are changing fast. If we are living in the last of the last days, it is not difficult to see that the events that will unfold before the coming of the Lord could well, like technology, be fast moving indeed. It could well catch many by surprise, especially those who are not 'looking for his appearing' (2Tim.4:8). The change in the politics of nations, the change in religions of nations, the change in the geopolitics of a pending world war and the speed at which the church is falling away should all be a wake-up call. It is not hard to see that the world is heading for crisis in many countries and the church is heading into a secularisation and apostasy that sometimes beggars belief. All these events are heralding the coming of the Lord. We are surely on the doorstep of the days of Noah and Lot (Matt.24:37; Lk.17:26,28), if we are not already in them.

Pentecostal/Charismatic churches have for decades been preaching a coming revival, even a world-wide revival. Yet this is completely foreign and in opposition to many scriptures which warn of a falling away until the end (2Thess.2:3; 2Tim.3:13).

We no longer live in a Christian world but a post Christian and secular society. The statistics show Christianity is rapidly diminishing in the west.

Times are changing fast. The deception within the church is more subtle than ever. Christians are more prone to accepting false teachers on moral or pragmatic grounds. (Our article on Billy Graham in this issue will test the discernment of many). Just because a pastor, evangelist or Bible teacher is said to be a soul winner, is loving, caring or popular, does not mean he is to be followed or praised as Godly. The real test is the doctrine - is it Biblical and in agreement with what God has stated in his infallible Word? The deception here can be subtle indeed.

We live in times when deception surrounds us. The safeguard is to be immersed in scripture, the study of, and application of it. There is no other antidote the Holy Spirit uses against the influences and deceptions of the world. What we read, hear, see and understand can be put through the sieve of the Word of God so we can discern what is right from wrong, pure from impure. It is this truth by which the Spirit sanctifies us to be fit for Heaven (Jn.17:17).

Terry Arnold

Australia's First Transgender Priest



When Jo Inkpin [pictured] was a child, one of her greatest objects of desire was a box kept in her grandmother's attic in London. In it were piles of sumptuous clothes, a 'wonderful array of amazing costumes'. She would slip the 'gorgeous dresses' over her head, slip little feet into long shoes and twirl, thrilling to the beauty of silks and satins against her skin, 'the swirl of long skirts and tapered folds and pleats, reflecting grace and elegance'.

Dr Inkpin, who is Australia's first openly transgender Anglican priest, had realised she was different when she was four or five, she says. She 'couldn't put her finger on' exactly what that meant. But she knew she was not like other boys. (Apostasy Alert, Feb/2018)

No Scientific Evidence People Are Born Gay or Transgender

Distinguished scholars at Johns Hopkins University in Maryland released a new 143 page report on Monday that argues that there is not enough definitive scientific evidence available to suggest that gay, lesbian and transgender individuals are born with a certain sexual orientation or gender identity.

In the three-part report published by The New Atlantis, Lawrence Mayer, a scholar-in-residence at Johns Hopkins University's psychiatry department and a professor of statistics and biostatistics at Arizona State University, and Paul McHugh, a professor of psychiatry and behavioural sciences at Johns Hopkins, take on prevailing claims that sexual orientation and gender dysphoria are caused by natural traits.

Additionally, the scholars challenge the claim that discrimination and social stigma is the sole reason why those with same-sex attractions or transgender identity suffer higher rates of mental health problems.

In the first part, the report argues that there is insufficient evidence to claim that heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual attractions are an innate trait that people are born with...The study found that 80% of male respondents who had reported same-sex attraction and both-sex attraction in their childhood, later identified as exclusively heterosexual. Meanwhile, more than half of the females respondents who reported both-sex attractions as children, reported being exclusively attracted to males as adults.

The report also analysed studies that focused on concordance rates in twins. In analysing twins pairings where at least one of the twins was same-sex attracted, the report found that only in a fraction of the cases resulted in both twins being same-sex attracted.

(Apostasy Alert, March 2018)

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Spurgeon and Millennialism

Greetings to you both (Terry & Mike). There is an interesting appendix in Iain Murray's 'The Puritan Hope' on Spurgeon's view of prophecy in which he states that it is difficult to know which system he fits into...He said things in both the early part and end of his ministry favouring the Post-millennial system. He was strong on the future conversion of the Jews. Murray says his general practice was to treat Christ's return and the day of judgement as one event. Sometimes he said things a bit differently.

In one sermon he says 'I will not espouse the cause of the pre-millennial or post-millennial advent' (Vol.27,391). He also says that 'Apart from the second Advent of our Lord, the world is more likely to sink into a pandemonium than rise into a millennium. A divine interposition seems to me the hope set before us in scripture, and indeed the only hope adequate to the occasion'

In a sermon on a Psalm he says 'David was not a believer in the theory that the world will grow worse and worse, and that the dispensations will, wind up with general darkness and idolatry etc.'. The reference given was the Treasury of David Vol.4. 102. Yet he at times comments differing to this.

Yet I saw an article on the web from the lecturer on prophecy at MacArthur's Masters Seminary say he had read Iain's comments but still felt Spurgeon was Premillennial!...I think Murray's comments are correct...We cannot say for certain exactly what his belief was on the future. He always preached on what the text or section taught which could favour any of the three main views.

(R.L. Vict)

Editor's reply:

Prominent A-millennialists and Post-millennialists both claim Spurgeon as their own. They often choose out of context quotes and ignore others. The seminary article mentioned is probably 'The Millennial Position of Spurgeon' by Dennis Swanson. He cites quotes of Spurgeon's views on the Millennium. The quote concerning Spurgeon 'not espousing' any view is from his sermon 'The Double Come' where his introduction simply stated the sermon would be evangelistic rather than eschatological and thus not reject any view.

Iain Murray was a master biographer and the best by far dealing with the lives of the greats. But there are also some that believe (and stated publicly) that Murray was somewhat biased when referring to prophecy viewed by Spurgeon and other Puritans. (In defense of Murray, his biographies are arguably not designed to deal with the area of prophecy in any detail).

Firstly, I agree it could be argued that Spurgeon was not definitive in his type of Millennialism in regard to the Tribulation or Rapture. But his view on the Millennial reign was clearly literal and physical, not figurative or

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The Ecumenical Lie

Dear Terry, thankyou for sending 'Diakrisis' for many years...I appreciate you keeping us informed of church apostasy. My Baptist church recently was invited by the local Catholic church to meet with them for studies and films on the Holy Spirit. Some are going, saying 'there has been a change in the Catholic church'. I know Satan is behind this false church...It is another step to bring 'christianity' under the Catholic church. I lead a ladies Bible study group and keep them informed of such things..Blessings to you and Mike in Jesus name...

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Editor's comment: The ecumenical movement continues to tell the lie that the Roman Catholic religion has changed its teachings. The 'Catholic Catechism' has concise documentation of their teachings and no doctrines have changed. Rome's gospel is diametrically opposed to the Biblical Gospel. The book we wrote in 1990 (revised 2006) 'To Catholics Whom I Love' shows the same doctrines then as now. To fellowship with false religion is contrary to express commands in scripture (Rom.16:17; 2Cor.6:14-17; 2Thess.3:6,14)

Terry, people searching for errors in the Bible cite the date of the first census in Luke 2:2 disagreeing with historical information. They say Luke is wrong as the date of AD 6 is cited as the time Quirinius was governor of Syria?

G.A. (Qld)

Editor's Reply:

The scriptures only give *some* of the historical information which leads some people to wrong conclusions that there is a 'discrepancy'.

1. Historical records show there was *more than one census* in those days. The phrase '*first made*' shows probably Luke was well aware of more than one census. (Some Greek scholars read this as a census '*before made*')

2. The Greek word is actually not strictly 'governor' ('legatus') but '*hegemonéuo*' - a lesser word which can be used for other rulers. Justin Martyr (2nd C) supports the 'procurator' idea and says Augustus put Quirinius (Greek Cyrenius) in charge of the census.

3. Archaeologists can also confirm (from an 18th c discovery) that someone ruled twice and they strongly assume it was Quirinius - 7BC and 7AD. (Quirinius lived 51 BC – AD 21). No archaeology has proven Luke wrong yet.

4. In Acts 5:37 Luke adds an event to this census which is in history.

None of the above will change a sceptic looking for contradictions. It is ultimately a faith issue that God has preserved his inspired infallible word.

Another Baptist Minister Supports Gay Movement

Minister Brian Woodhouse, Minister of the Baptist Churches of NSW and the ACT: 'I am a Minister of the Baptist Churches of NSW and the ACT. I am Gay. I support marriage equality because it is just and right...I support marriage equality because young people need to hear the message that they are valued and loved because of their diversity...I support Marriage Equality because all Australians deserve to be treated equally before the Law, one law that protects all Australians'.

(Apostasy Alert 17th July 2017)

Editor's comment:

The reasons given for such apostasy by denominational pastors on this issue is increasingly now about 'reason', 'justice', 'love', 'diversity', 'equality'. The emotions attached to these mantras are quite human. But the Bible defines justice and love not in human terms.

Let's talk about 'justice'...was it 'just' for Jesus to be tortured, punished and killed for our sin, including homosexuality named as that? Let's talk about 'love' - what love was it that drove Jesus to the cross for us sinners? Is it '*just and right*' that God should punish Jesus on the cross for our sin and '*just and right*' that we should ignore His Word which specifically has the gay lifestyle as a transgression of His laws? Words such as 'right and just' when used by professing Christians need a biblical reference.

Hamas Says U.S. Embassy in Israel Means War

Following the announcement of a U.S. embassy in Jerusalem scheduled for May 14th, Hamas officials in Gaza have declared war on Israel and called for a united front to attack Israel. Several Islamic groups have reiterated the same.

(Excepted from *Israel Report* and www.nowtheendbegins.com)

Editors Comment:

A single event like this could spark the war that many say is sure to come. But why all the fuss over Jerusalem and this tiny nation of Israel? Why has Israel for so long been on a knife-edge for world war? Could it be this is where the battle of Armageddon is fought? (Rev.16:14-16). Could it be this is where Jesus is to return (Zech.14) and reign for 1,000 years on the throne of David? (Ps.2:6-9; 22:27-31; Is.2:1-4; 9:6,7; 24:21-23; Joel 3:14-17,21; Mic.4:1-7; Zech.14;). '*Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it*' (Zech.12:2,3).



‘Minister’ Gloria Copeland who advised President Donald Trump’s campaign...[has] suggested that Christian faith makes people immune from the flu. Copeland...denied the country is in the midst of a severe flu outbreak in a Facebook video that went viral because, ‘Jesus himself is our flu shot. He redeemed us from the curse of the flu. We...don’t have a flu season and don’t receive it when someone threatens you with ‘everybody is getting the flu’. We’ve already had our shot: He bore our sicknesses and carried our diseases. That’s what we stand on. And by his stripes we are healed.’

Editor’s Comment:

Jesus did not come to be a ‘flu shot’ or to redeem us from the ‘curse of the flu’! He came to ‘save his people from their sin’ (Matt.1:21) and the ‘curse’ is not the ‘flu’ but the ‘curse of the law’ (Gal.3:10-13). The phrase ‘bore our sicknesses and carried our diseases’ is written in Matthew 8:16,17 as ‘That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bore our sicknesses’ . This was spoken 3 years before the cross and the verse claims Isaiah was fulfilled there and then. It refers to the earthly public ministry and proof of the Messiahship of Jesus as vs. 16 shows.

‘By his stripes we are healed’ is in 1Peter 2:24,25: ‘Who his own self bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes you were healed. For you were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls’.

This passage is a direct quote from Isaiah 53:5,6 ‘But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray...and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all’.

Both passages have absolutely nothing to do with the ‘flu’ or sickness. They are about healing of sin. That these passages have nothing to do with any guarantee of healing in this life is further attested to by the fact that in 2Corinthians 12:9 Paul glories in his physical ‘infirmities’ not healed. This word is the same Greek word as in Matthew 8:17. Further, Epaphroditus was ‘sick nigh unto death’ (Phil.2:27); Trophimus was ‘left at Miletum sick’ (2Tim.4:20); Timothy took medicine for his sickness (1Tim.5:23).

The Old Testament atonement offerings were not for sickness but for sin (Lev.16:3)! On the cross Jesus did not ‘bear our diseases’, but rather our sin. This has been the teaching of the church for 1,900 years until the turn of the 20th Century when ‘healing ministries’ were spawned with the new Pentecostal movement. What was Jesus crucified, wounded and bruised for? What were the ‘stripes’ for? What do we need to be healed of? ‘He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities...with his stripes we are healed...the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all’ (Is.53:5,6)

Editor: Martyn Lloyd Jones is considered by many to be one of the greatest expositors of all time. He revived churches wherever he preached. This address was given at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on October 24, 1961

I suppose that the most popular of all the proposals at the present moment is to have a new translation of the Bible...The argument is that people are not reading the Bible any longer because they do not understand it’s language-particularly the archaic terms - what does your modern man...know about Justification, sanctification and all these biblical terms? And so we are told the one thing that is necessary is to have a translation that Tom, Dick and Harry will understand and I began to feel about 6 months ago that we had almost reached the stage in which the Authorised Version was being dismissed, to be thrown into the limbo of things forgotten, no longer of any value.

...It is a basic proposition laid down by the Protestant Reformers, that we must have a Bible ‘understood of the people’. That is common sense...we must never be obscurantists...but it does seem to me there is a very grave danger incipient in the argument that is being presented today for these new translations. There is a danger, I say, of our surrendering something that is vital and essential.

Take this argument that the modern man does not understand terms such as justification, sanctification...I want to ask a question. When did the ordinary man ever understand those terms?...Did the colliers to whom John Wesley and George Whitefield preached in the 18th century understand? They had not even been to a day school...they could not read, they could not write. Yet these were the terms that were used. This was the version that was used - the Authorised version.

The common people had never understood these terms...We are concerned here with something that is spiritual, something which does not belong to this world at all; which, as the Apostle Paul reminds us, the princes of this world do not know. Human wisdom is of no value here - it is spiritual truth. This is truth about God primarily and because of that it is a mystery...

Yet we are told - it must be put in such simple terms and language that anybody taking it up and reading it is going to understand all about it...this is sheer nonsense. What we must do is to educate the masses of the people up to the Bible not bring the Bible down to their level. One of the greatest troubles today is that everything is being brought down to the same level; everything is cheapened. The common man is made the standard of authority; he decides everything, and everything has to be brought down to him...Are we to do that with the Word of God? I say NO! What has happened in the past has been this. Ignorant illiterate people, in this country and in foreign countries, coming into salvation have been educated up to the Book and have begun to understand it, to glory in it and to praise God for it, and I say that we need to do the same at this present time. What we need is not to replace the Authorised version...We rather need to reach and train people up to the standard and the language, the dignity and the glory of the old Authorised version....

which the world wants to hear can bring fame and honour. Yet preaching the true Gospel, including the plight of sinful man, the wrath of God, the need for a Saviour to satisfy God's judgement upon sin, is not popular. Jesus said the world will hate the true Christian who does so. Yet the world mostly loved Billy Graham. He was one of the most popular Christian figures the world has seen. Contrary to plain scripture, Billy Graham never separated from those who embraced sacramentalism as a way and work of salvation. He has fellowshipped with false religion and false religious leaders and met and spoken well of the Pope, who the Reformers and Protestant leaders before him saw as antichrist.

The Problem of 'Decisional Evangelism'

As early as Sept. 21, 1957, Graham said in an interview with the San Francisco News, 'Anyone who makes a decision at our meetings is seen later and referred to a local clergyman, Protestant, Catholic, or Jewish'. In 1983, *The Florida Catholic* (Sept.2, 1983) reported of the Orlando crusade: 'Names of Catholics who had made decisions for Christ were provided at that meeting by Rick Marshall of the Graham organisation'. The report said the names of 600 people had been turned over to the Catholic Church. In 1984, at the Vancouver British Columbia crusade, the vice-chairman of the organizing committee, David Cline said, 'If Catholics step forward there will be no attempt to convert them and their names will be given to the Catholic church nearest their homes' (*Vancouver Sun*, Oct.5, 1984). In 1987 Catholic priest, Donald Willette of St. Jude's Church was a supervisor of the 6,600 counsellors for the Denver crusade. Willette reported that from one service alone 500 cards of individuals were referred to St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Englewood, a suburb of Denver. By September 1992, the Catholic archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, had set a goal to supply 6,000 of the 10,000 counsellors needed for the Graham crusade. All Roman Catholics responding to the altar call were channelled to Catholic churches. These are just a few examples of the hundreds that could be given. (David Cloud, *Way of Life*).

How many of these thousands of people would believe they are saved by a 'decision'? In an interview with Time Magazine Graham admitted that he does not believe that half his converts are really Christians (*Aust. Beacon*, 8/97, P.5). The greatest deception of all is that one would think they are saved but in the end no visible fruit of conversion is evident. They remain unredeemed. (Matt.7:21-23). The Parable of the Sower also addresses these ones who believe in vain and fall away remaining in unbelief. (Matt.13). Because of the emphasis on the "decision" and "walking the aisle" they are often then persuaded that they have become a Christian. (See our article 'The greatest Deception').

We live in an age where deception and error is clothed in subtle, politically and socially correct terms. Billy Graham may well be with the Lord, and we praise God for many possibly converted under his ministry. Yet to endorse his ministry, his beliefs and his methods shows a lack of discernment at best and an alarming propensity to accept apostasy at worst?

Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon

Calls For Law to Protect Rome's Confessional

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

...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'. 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 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:...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:

The hypocrisy and the crimes of the Roman church run deep. What has been forgotten in all the exposed paedophilia, which various statistics show 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 arguably drives paedophilia further. The doctrine itself is classified as a 'doctrine of devils' - 'Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry...' (1Tim.4:1-3). It is also against nature and Christian liberty (1Cor.7:9). Indeed it is a 'tradition' of men - 'Why do you also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?...you made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition' (Matt.15:3,6; Col.2:8).

Billy Graham - The Facts

There have been one or two times in this ministry when an article has brought an array of fierce and even hostile criticism. One of those episodes was concerning an article in *Diakrisis* June/1998 (P.4). In that article we wrote no editorial comment - simply quotations of remarks made by 'America's pastor' - Billy Graham. These quotes demonstrated the dramatic shift in his views and teachings over the years concerning Ecumenism, the Papacy, Roman Catholicism, and other false religions. Some readers were dismayed and shocked to learn of the actual beliefs of Billy Graham himself. Others were angered and refused to believe the facts, many unsubscribing from our newsletter. One local pastor even stated that the quotes were 'false'. For that pastor we collected additional references for the same quotes. Still he refused to believe the evident apostasy. It seemed Billy Graham was so loved by many that most Christians had not actually checked what he now believed and had not seen the dramatic shift in his views over many years.

No doubt at one time he was a marvellous public preacher of the Gospel and had the ability to grip people's hearts with the truth of Christ and His Gospel. No doubt many have come to the Lord through his evangelistic preaching and worldwide crusades. However, what was not understood by many Christians was that in the 1960's there had been a seismic shift in his views and his referral methods and evident in his Gospel messages also. A view of his messages in early years in comparison to later years shows evidence of a watering down of doctrine and the increase of Ecumenical inclusiveness, universalism and liberal views.

We write this article now in an effort to challenge people as to the discernment that is needed to sift through what looks appealing and pure and yet may not always be what we should support. If anything, the critics and Billy Graham supporters should be greatly pleased that we are merely quoting exactly what Graham has said. To these people we say - 'don't get mad with us, but consider the facts and the quotes'! Facts are facts. When people get mad at truth and facts then there has to be serious questions as to their discernment and love of the truth?

Ecumenical Backflips

As early as 1957 Billy Graham conducted his first Ecumenical crusade and was immediately taken to task by leading Fundamentalists. John R. Rice the editor of '*Sword of the Lord*' newsletter - which Graham was involved with, wrote to Graham asking him if he could still sign their doctrinal statement which stated: '*...verbal inspiration of the Bible, the deity of Christ, His blood atonement, salvation by faith...opposing modernism, worldliness, and formalism*'. Graham replied that he could not and resigned. The years following were to see him shift further in his previous stance that Roman Catholicism was a false religion. Graham once understood the truth that Roman Catholicism presented a gospel diametrically opposed to the Biblical gospel as delivered by the long line of Reformers and Protestant church leaders down the running

cross has Jesus remaining there and being sacrificed afresh at every 'Mass', contrary to Hebrews 6:6; 9:26-28; 10:10. He did not die for all of our sins when we believed, but those sins receive pardon from a priest and/or in Purgatory. As one Christian ministry put it: '*For Graham to make such a statement is to lend credence to a false gospel which claims salvation comes to those who merit the favour of God by their works. Pope John Paul II served as the chief herald of this damnable false gospel throughout his many years as leader of the world's Roman Catholics*' (*Foundation Magazine*, March/April 2005).

In 2012 it was reported Billy Graham had removed an article describing Mormonism as a 'cult' from his Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's (BGEA) website following Republican presidential candidate [Mormon] Mitt Romney's visit with Graham. The article described The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints [Mormons]...as a group that '*teaches doctrines or beliefs that deviate from the biblical message of the Christian faith*'. Ken Barun, chief of staff for BGEA, claimed they removed the article so it would not become politicised during a campaign. Billy Graham was impressed with Romney's '*successful career...his values and strong moral convictions*'. Franklin Graham, Billy Graham's son and BGEA president/CEO, told The Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) in December 2011 that Romney's Mormon faith '*doesn't bother me at all*' (Jeff Schapiro, *Christian Post* Oct.16, 2012; *Apostasy Alert*, 20th Oct.).

Ecumenism is laced with a so called 'non confrontational' approach toward opposing doctrines that affect the Gospel. Why mention Mormonism on the website in the first place and why remove it because of a visit by any Mormon? Jesus spoke of those not willing to profess openly '*because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God*' (Jn.12:42,43). Mormons do often have '*values and strong moral convictions*', but does that deliver them into the kingdom of Heaven? And why does it not 'bother' the BGEA that anyone is a Mormon? Does it not bother us if anyone remains unsaved? The ecumenical movement is full of hypocrisies which dilute the Gospel.

'Just As I Am'

Billy Graham's definition of the Gospel, as shown in his autobiography '*Just As I Am*', is: '*God loves us. He yearns to forgive us and bring us back to Himself. He wants to fill our lives with meaning and purpose right now...Moreover, God has done everything possible to reconcile us to Himself...now it is up to us to 'accept' Him...In God's plan by His death on the cross, Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins...Now God freely offers us the gift of forgiveness and eternal life...God has done everything possible to provide salvation. But we must reach out in faith and 'accept' it...*' (P.727-728). This Gospel wrongly suggests Jesus has done His bit, now you do yours. But this same gospel is presented by liberals, Roman Catholics and many others. The book itself says: '*As Rose Kennedy...said to Graham, 'You know I often listen to you. Even though we are Catholics, I have never heard you say anything we don't agree with in the Bible*' (P.401).

What we learn from Graham's autobiography is that preaching the message

1993: *'When it comes to a literal fire, I don't preach it because I'm not sure about it'*. (Graham had a long held belief that Hell is merely *'separation from God'*) (*Time Magazine* 15/11/93; *Calvary Contender*, 15/6/97).

1993: *'That's why it's so important for us to have prayer groups...and join hands together, whether we're Protestants, Catholics, or Jews, and pray, because we're praying to the same God'*. (Jan/93 interview with David Frost)

1993: *'I'm delighted the Pope is coming [to Denver]...I admire the Pope even though I don't agree with him on everything...'* (Graham, 7/12/93 interview by Joan Lunden, ABC - TV, *'Good Morning America'*; *Christian News*, 9/6/93; *Australian Beacon*, 10/93, P.8; *Calvary Contender*, 1/10/93)

On January 21, 1997, Larry King interviewed Billy Graham on his program, *'Larry King - Live'*:

King: *'What do you think of the other [churches]...like Mormonism, Catholicism, other faiths within the Christian concept?'*

Graham: *'Oh, I think I have a wonderful fellowship with all of them...'*

King: *'You're comfortable with Salt Lake City? [Mormon headquarters]. Your comfortable with the Vatican?'*

Graham: *'I am very comfortable with the Vatican. I have been to see the Pope several times...In fact the night - the day that he was inaugurated, and made Pope, I was preaching in his Cathedral in Krakow. I was his guest...[and] when he was over here...in Columbia, South Carolina...he invited me on the platform to speak with him. I would give one talk, and he would give the other...'*

King: *'You like this Pope?'*

Graham: *'I like him very much...he and I agree on almost everything'*.

King: *'Are you...are you comfortable with Judaism?'*

Graham: *'Very comfortable...In new York, they have had me in the rabbinical council to...talk with them and Rabbi Tannenbaum, of whom I was a great friend...he gave me more advice and more counsel, and I depended on him constantly, theologically and spiritually in every way...'*

King: *'Mr Graham, if you had thirty seconds during the half time at the Superbowl, what would you tell the audience?'*

Graham: *'I would tell them to...think about another game...the game of life, and to be sure they're on God's side, that God loves them and God is interested in them, and they can pray to God, and He answers their prayers'*.

On April 4th 2005 Larry King interviewed Billy Graham on CNN:

King: *'There is no question in your mind Pope John Paul II is with God now?'*

Graham: *'Oh, no...I think he's with the Lord, because he believed. He believed in the cross. That was his focus throughout his ministry, the cross, no matter if you were talking to him on a personal issue or an ethical problem, he felt that there was the answer to all of our problems, the cross and the resurrection. And he was a strong believer'*.

The 'cross' here the Pope believed in is an entirely different one to the one Graham taught in the 50's and what the Bible describes? The Roman Catholic

centuries. The Roman teachings of Christ being sacrificed as the 'same and continuing sacrifice' upon their altars; the sacraments as a means of Grace and works 'necessary for salvation'; the addition of Purgatory where you spend time at death to purify residual sins; Mary as a sinless risen person to be prayed to and adored; and the many unbiblical traditions of the Roman church - these amount to a 'another Jesus' and 'another gospel' 'cursed' by God (2Cor.11:4; Gal.1:6-9).

In 1948 Graham, while holding a small tent crusade in Los Angeles, stated, *'The three gravest menaces faced by orthodox Christianity are Communism, Roman Catholicism and Mohammedanism'*. But by 1963 he stated *'I admire Pope John tremendously...I felt he brought a new era to the world'* (*Chicago Tribune*, 8/6/63; *Michigan City News [Christian] Dispatch*; 6/8/63).

In 1948 Graham commented on the World Council of Churches inaugural meeting: *'I believe they are going to nominate the antichrist'*. Yet in 1991 Billy Graham praised the World Council of Churches and since 1968 he attended all WCC assemblies. In 1972 Graham said, *'There is a great need for an ecumenical Christian body much broader in scope than either the World Council of Churches or the National Council of Churches'* (NCC) (*FEA Nov, 1972*). Yet a 1966 poll showed that less than one quarter of the NCC leaders believed in the virgin birth and many did not believe in the deity of Christ. The NCC was also pro-abortion and pro-homosexuality. More than 100 of its leaders have been cited for aiding communist organisations. (Documented by Darrell Turner, RNS Associate Editor, 17/8/91). Yet in 1991 at a National Council of Churches (NCC) meeting on 27/8/91 Graham praised the group as follows: *'There's no group of people in the world that I would rather be with right now than you all...we follow with great interest the things you do...And I love everybody equally and I have no problem in fellowship with anybody who says that Jesus Christ is Lord'*. (*Foundation*, June/August 1991, P.34). Preaching in apostate Episcopal Bishop James Pike's cathedral, at a Council of Churches meeting, Graham prayed for the *'success of the current assembly of National Council of Churches'*. This same Bishop Pike denied the virgin birth, the incarnation, the Trinity, claimed ghostly contacts with his suicided son and was unofficially charged with heresy. Despite this, in the San Francisco Crusade Graham had Pike on the platform and had him lead in prayer!

Historians, including Iain Murray who wrote many biographies of famous church leaders, speak of 'neo Evangelicism' and its departure from Evangelicism. Iain Murray was scathing of Billy Graham's ministry and cited Billy Graham as a key figure in this doctrinal drift. As early as the 1957 New York crusade the sponsorship was increasingly from non Evangelicals or by liberals. Graham's pragmatic attitude was 'what difference does it make who sponsors'. Then he began to send those who made 'decisions' for Christ back to their own churches. Graham said he listened to the 'fundamentalist' arguments against this but decided to continue on regardless. The decision was said to be justified by the results. The results were that Graham's ministry, backed by the support of Roman Catholics and other cults, grew rapidly in numbers attending.

In England, leaders like Martyn Lloyd Jones, argued that the Ecumenical drive for unity challenged the legitimacy of Evangelical belief. Lloyd Jones in 1963

was asked to chair a congress on evangelism in Berlin. Lloyd Jones was glad to do so on two conditions: 1. That Billy Graham stopped cooperation with non Evangelicals and Liberals. 2. That he stopped his public appeal for decisions and simply preach the Gospel. Graham could not cut off Liberals and Roman Catholics, so Lloyd Jones was dismissed. Lloyd Jones spoke of these issues personally with Billy Graham and appealed against the public 'altar call' and the decisional techniques which showed a huge gap between the decisions and those who went on to be truly converted. Lloyd Jones firmly believed the Gospel was demeaned if we work alongside Liberals and false religions, many of whom did not even believe in the Biblical resurrection or the atonement.

In Billy Graham's autobiography the only reference to Martyn Lloyd Jones is a one liner that in 1952 Lloyd Jones 'stood in a queue to shake my hand'.

The Billy Graham organisation had begun to take a very different stance on Roman Catholicism, and crusades increasingly began to support the religion, the Pope and its priests. Graham's crusades began to refer Roman Catholic 'converts' back to their churches. A timeline can be constructed as to the turn in Graham's views towards other false religions:

1961: '*I believe that a miracle can happen in these children so that they are regenerated, that is, made Christian, through infant baptism. If you want to call that Baptismal Regeneration, that's all right with me*'. (Graham, 'Lutheran Standard' 10/10/61; Cited fully by John R. Rice in 'Dr. Graham's Daring: Facing Both Ways At Once!', P.3)

1967: Billy Graham was awarded an honorary degree by Roman Catholic Belmont Abbey College. Graham told a predominantly Roman Catholic audience: '*Now we can speak to one another, work with one another and be brothers to one another...That gospel that founded this [Catholic] school, that gospel has brought me here tonight is still the way of salvation*'. (Gastonia Gazette, 22/11/67; 'Evangelical Action', 1/2/68)

1968: '*I believe there is a great deal to learn from other religions in the Far East, especially from Buddhism*'. (Graham, Japanese Press Conference; *Christian Beacon* 1/2/68)

1972: On April 21st, Graham received the Franciscan (Catholic) International Award for Ecumenism.

1973: In the Key 73 Crusade, Graham recommended Roman Catholic literature, including a biography of Pope John Paul VI, which contained many pages of devotion to Mary, saint worship, the Mass and salvation through sacraments, etc. Graham advertised this book as '*a classic devotion*'. (Key '73: Congregational Resource Book; *The Gospel Standard*, 2/86; Brown, '*Billy Graham: Custodian of the faith or figure of compromise?*' P.14)

1977: '*We have received wondrous support from the Catholic Church*' (Christianity Today, 30/12/77)

1978: October - Graham preached in Poland at Pozan's Catholic Church. He prayed that '*The Holy Spirit would unite the hearts of the Roman Catholics and Protestants*'.

1978: '*I praise the greatness of the present Pope Paul the sixth*'. (Poland, 1978)

1978: '*I am far more tolerant of other kinds of Christians than I once was. My contact with Catholics, Lutheran and other leaders...has helped me, hopefully, to move in the right direction. I found that my beliefs are essentially the same as those of orthodox Catholics. We only differ on some matters of later church tradition*'. (McCalls Magazine - interview, 1978; *The Baptist Challenge*, 1/95)

1979: '*The visit of Pope John Paul II to the United States is an event of great significance...for all Americans - as well as the world...A new interest in spiritual matters could be the beginning of a new wave of spiritual revival in our nation...The Pope's visit comes at a critical time in our world...My prayers and the prayers of countless other Protestants will be with him as he makes his journey*'. (Billy Graham, *Religious News Service*, 27/9/79 - made available by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association)

1979: On live TV Billy Graham publicly welcomed the Pope to America and praised him as a great '*spiritual leader*'.

1979: Billy Graham appeared on the Phil Donahue Live show and said of the Pope: '*I think the American people are looking for a leader, a moral and spiritual leader that believes something. And the Pope does...Thank God, I've got somebody to quote now with some real authority*'. (Phil Donahue Show, 10/11/79)

1980: '*Pope John Paul the second is one of the greatest moral and spiritual leaders of this century. He is an evangelist. He has sought to speak to the spiritual hunger of our age in the same way Christians throughout the centuries have spoken to the spiritual yearning of every age!*' (Written by Graham in the *Saturday Evening Post*, Jan/Feb., 1980; also on Phil Donahue Show on 10/11/79; and in the Poland tour 1978).

1988: '*World travel and getting to know the clergy of all denominations has helped mould me into an Ecumenical being*'. (US News and World Report, 19/12/88).

By the nineties the crusades were actively engaging with Roman Catholic leaders and sending 'converts' back to Roman Catholic churches. '*When evangelist Billy Graham invited listeners to commit their lives to Jesus Christ last September in Charlotte, N.C., 1,700 of those who responded to his call were Catholics...The decision cards they filled out were given to the local Catholic diocese for follow up discipleship work, crusade officers said. Comparable numbers of Catholics have gone forward at other recent Graham crusades. In recent crusades in Minneapolis and Cleveland in 1994, it was nearly 6,000 each...Rev. Joseph Helsinki, Ecumenical director for the diocese of Cleveland said the Graham team's faithfulness in dispatching Catholic decision cards to the [Catholic] diocese...made Catholic leaders eager to cooperate when Graham returned...*' ('The Berean Call', 6/97, *San Antonio Express - News*, 4/3/97).

The timeline continued...

1993: '*I'm equally at home in a Baptist church, Anglican church, or Roman Catholic church*'. (TV interview (30/5 PBS)).