

Your Comments and Questions

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

Pastor Required for Hervey Bay Bible Church

The editor is looking for an associate pastor at Hervey Bay Bible Church. Depending on the person and finances the position could be part time or full time. Our time frame for the new position would be the end of 2018 or beginning of 2019. We would like to begin discussions with any interested person as soon as possible. Any interested candidates can check us out by visiting our website: <http://www.herveybaybiblechurch.org>

If there are questions or more information is needed please contact the editor at terry.arnold25@gmail.com

Prayer / Praise Points

- Praise the Lord for encouraging responses from the newsletter in past issues. Many articles and tapes are currently being distributed.
- Praise the Lord for the *Eternal Questions* tract which is increasingly gaining distribution to the unsaved.
- Please pray for the editor and Hervey Bay Bible Church as consideration is given to having a pastor or an associate pastor to help the editor with the growing workload and the various ministries.

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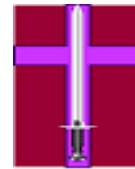
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Diakrisis (Australia)

'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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teaching, informing and equipping the church.
Editor: Terry Arnold (Dr.Th; MABS; Dip.Bib.&Min.)

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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Editor's Comment

It is one thing to say we believe in truth and another to be doers of it (James 1:22). The truth is found in the *Word of God* - '*They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through your truth: your word is truth*' (Jn.17:16,17). That truth is found because the author himself is truth - Jesus said '*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me*' (Jn.14:6). Outside of this *person* and His *Word* there is at best only a mixture of flesh, error and lies.

Many would say they follow the truth and want the truth. But if we are to be doers of such we must be immersed in the place where truth is found - the revelation of Jesus Christ as found in the *Word of God* - where God himself states that he spoke '*in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son*' (Heb.1:1-3).

The object of this exercise of searching the truth in the person and His *Word* is that we would be conformed more and more to the image of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ - '*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...*' (Rom.8:29). This is literally what 'sanctification' is. And the object further of this sanctification is our glorification - '*Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified*' (vs.30).

But what is the purpose of all this? It is to God's delight and *to His glory* - '*To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he has made us accepted in the beloved...That we should be to the praise of his glory*' (Eph.1:6,12). This is His purpose and the work is done by the indwelling Spirit of Christ. The major theme and the purpose of the person and work of Jesus Christ is to *give glory to God*.

But how much of this overarching theme do we realise in church life and doctrine? So much of 'church' today, while even claiming to give glory to God, too often we give glory to our doctrines, our theologies, our pastors and teachers, our church programmes, our ministries. Even many Gospel presentations today are more about man and what he can do than 'Christ crucified' for God's glory!

It is one thing to know the above glorious theology by doctrine. It is one thing to understand such wonderful doctrines as 'Sanctification'. But it is another to be a participant, a doer and co-worker with Christ in that process - '*...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure*' (Phil.2:12,13).

With the glory of God in mind, do we *appropriate* what we believe and read in the *Word of God*? Do we *practically* receive the *Word of God* and see the truths in our conduct? Or do we mould it into our own human logic and understanding of our worldview? When God seems unfair and harsh in the *Word*, do we make apology for what we read? When the *Word* teaches narrow, certain and objective commands, do we adapt them to the world's view of a new tolerance? Much of this will depend on how high a view we have of the inspiration and inerrancy of God's *Word*. There may well be a tension in receiving what God says for us in contrast to what the world is promulgating to

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To whom it may concern - we have just watched your brilliant DVD on Seventh Day Adventism as we were concerned about a brother in Christ who has been misled... Can you please forward a list of your other resources...

(Name withheld at editors discretion)

Terry, I thank you for the mail out of 'Diakrisis' over many years, it was always a joy when it arrived.

I'm a member of the...church and have been blessed with sound gospel teaching over the past 12 years. I would like to change my subscription to e-mail delivery.

(K.S)

Dear Terry, I cannot express how much I appreciate your 'Diakrisis'. Keep up the good work. Let us evermore look up to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask him.

Dear Terry, Thankyou for your 'Diakrisis' newsletter. It is very meaty and informative and we look forward to reading each new edition...

Dear friends my family and I continue to be blessed by your ministry...

(A.D. Qld)

The New 'Humility'

'Over the years, the definition of humility has undergone a gradual but nonetheless profound change, especially in the intellectual community. In the modern day, humility has basically become synonymous with another word: uncertainty. To be uncertain is to be humble. To be certain is to be arrogant. Thus the cardinal sin in the intellectual world is to claim to know anything for sure'.

('The Heartbeat of the Remnant' Spring/2017, P.18)

Your Comments and Questions

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Terry, Mike, there is often confusion as to how OT saints are saved. Some say the OT saints were saved by the law, sacrifices...Others say by grace through faith alone. Yet the law still had to be kept as best they could with all the sacrifices?

Sub-editor's reply:

There has always been the requirement of Faith for salvation. That is a free gift of God toward the elect. Abraham was declared righteous on that basis alone (Rom.4:3-5). Abraham could not have been saved by keeping the Law, (he lived over 400 years before the Law was given). The Law was given as a 'schoolmaster' - no one could keep it. The sacrifices were there to cover Israel and her willing participants from the judgement and wrath of God. Christ led the captives to be with him at His resurrection. Job saw that a Saviour was to come so that knowledge was given prior to Christ's first advent. The Gospel of Grace through Faith is revealed from Genesis onward.

Dear Terry, many thanks for sending 'Diakrisis' over many years. Since becoming a Christian in 1974 it is sad to see the deception and foolishness that has prevailed in many churches. I have been attending an Independent...church for years. While the teaching is biblical, no discussion, questioning or freedom of worship is allowed. I often feel the Spirit is quenched. The congregation is now reduced to a handful of older people. Of course this is to happen with the falling away, but I miss the outreach to the lost who are just expected to stumble in...

I am in total agreement about your concern about social media and Facebook, especially Google which I feel has replaced God as a source of wisdom and knowledge...Trusting your ministry will continue to reach many.

(Name withheld at editor's discretion, Qld)

Dear Terry, Thank you for the article showing Benny Hinn's nephew has seen the true light regarding the Lord Jesus Christ and been able to come away from a false gospel. He is a brave man who has shown he only wants the true Gospel.

The article on mosques replacing churches was sad to read about. Thank you for the way you continually warn and exhort and rightly divide the word of truth.

(G.P.)

Hi Terry, my husband and I have followed your ministry for over 20 years. Your book, 'To Catholics Whom I Love' had a large impact on our decision to leave the Catholic church. We received your newsletters by mail many years, please add to e-mail list.

(A.B., Tas)

our eyes and ears.

The practical reception of truth and thus to be a co-worker in Sanctification is firstly to be *aware of our need of it*. The apostle Paul when exhorting the saints to be sanctified, to work out their salvation and appropriate truth - he does not just ask them to listen and appreciate his sermons. He is not interested in them gaining facts and knowledge. He 'beseeches' them to 'walk', to appropriate the truths he has expounded from the very mouth of God. (When used by Paul the word 'beseech' ('parakaléo') is stronger than to 'ask'. It is an urgent call, an urging to one's ear).

Paul beseeches us to offer our bodies in sacrifice and have our minds renewed - *'I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God'* (Roman 12:1,2).

Paul beseeches us to 'strive together in prayers' (Rom.15:30); to 'walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love' (Eph.4:1,2); to 'abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul' (1Pet.2:11).

All these are truths to be 'worked out'. Yet they are already ours - *'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ'* (Eph1:3,4). Note the 'has blessed'. It is already done. He has blessed us with every blessing in the heavenlies. The blessings and truths only need to be appreciated and appropriated. When we appreciate them then an inflow of more supply occurs. Again, all this is *for His glory*.

When the Holy Spirit brings to our attention certain things in the Word of God, we need to rejoice that this is ours in Christ. All that is needed is to appropriate. Such appropriation may lead us to a testing as to whether we will live out the truth we have received. This is the process of the 'doing' of what we are hearing (James 1:22). In all this there must be a trust, a commitment to God's Word as the perfect and ultimate truth. By faith we receive the Word as truth and then we live it and thus prove it. Such victories come in stages and continues until we are no more in this earthly body.

This process of Sanctification has a goal, a purpose - glorification. We are in training for a glorified place with glorified bodies to withstand the shock of seeing Christ face to face in all his glory. But with the little time we have left on this earth, will we just admire the words of the Bible? Will we be 'ashamed' at his coming? (Mk.8:38; 2Tim.2:15). *'And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If you know that he is righteous, you know that every one that does righteousness is born of him'* (1Jn.2:28,29).

Or will we truly 'work out our salvation with fear and trembling' and appropriate the truth and the blessings in heavenly places?

Terry Arnold

Free Speech?

The California State Assembly passed a bill recently that could make selling a book, or giving a paid speech, or preaching a sermon suggesting that 'gay' people change their lifestyle, is now illegal as a deceptive business practice. The bill, AB 2943, inserts provisions into the state's Business and Professions Code to the effect that '*Advertising, offering to engage in, or engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with an individual*' is a deceptive business practice subject to fines and penalties'.

Editor's comment:

The freedom to express views on religions issues is narrowing. In Australia several pastors and Christians have been forced to appear before the Anti Discrimination Commission to answer charges. The Barnabas Fund reports on many cases in Australia (see OurReligiousFreedom.au): In 2017, a pastor appeared before Tasmania's Anti-Discrimination Commission after posting a blog with a Christian perspective on LGBT relationships. Others have lost jobs because of views posted on Facebook. In 2017 a student who answered a question about Christian views on 'gay' sex, was suspended from university after a classmate complained. In 2015 in Queensland, a street preacher was arrested and charged with causing anxiety by preaching about sin. In 2015, Tasmania's Anti- Discrimination Commission accused the Roman Catholic religion over humiliating LGBT Australians by distributing a booklet supporting traditional marriage.

Much of this contradicts the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which Australia has signed up, which include freedom of worship and to read scriptures in public as well as preach.

There is a public petition one can sign and send to parliament requesting the government to change the laws (<http://ourreligiousfreedom.org.au/>).

Benny Hinn Exposed Again

For years we have at various times exposed the false teacher and false prophet Benny Hinn. (There are many early articles in past newsletters and also on our website). Recently his Nephew, Costi Hinn, who once travelled with Benny, has now also exposed his uncle (www.nowtheendbegins.com). For years we have been stating outright that Benny Hinn has no miracles or healings in his ministry as he claims. Any investigation into his claims will confirm this. The man is a charlatan who with his prosperity and healing gospels makes merchandise of God's people (2Pet.2:3). Sadly, major Pentecostal organisations, including Assemblies of God, have had and continue to have this man as conference and guest speaker.

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Terry, does Satan have the authority to impact on our physical health and if so how do we counteract his attack? I have no doubt that he will do anything that he can to impact on our relationship with God which includes our day to day walk.

[This subscriber has since gone to be with the Lord]

Sub Editor's reply (Mike Claydon):

Satan has NO 'authority' to do anything. He seeks God's permission to try the saints, and sometimes this is granted. He was certainly able to affect Job's health. He interferes through our mind/thoughts. But he is unable to touch any of God's saints physically - unless he is given permission to do so - to test them; to try them? (There are even sins unto death).

The great divines were not immune to this badgering - many wrote of the blasphemous thoughts in their minds. I think Martyn Lloyd Jones had it right - you can discern between your thoughts and the demonic implants. Our thoughts 'develop'; the thoughts from other dimensions enter the mind as a complete thought or sentence or statement. I have often used that method to discern what is of me and what is of the demonic?

Spurgeon, Lloyd Jones and many others experienced demonic interference in their minds. If I have physical affliction then I search my mind to see if it is chastisement or simply ill health?

No Trinity?

Terry, the [.....] Yeshua website says: 1. God is one. 2. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not three persons. 3. Trinity is a corruption.

Could you please comment.

(T.D, E-mail)

Sub Editor's reply:

Some Messianic Jews hold to this belief. But even the OT texts speak of a Trinity. God is three distinct individuals - God the Father, the Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit - in one true God. The following Bible verses and Scriptures confirm this - 1 Cor.8:6; 2Cor.13:14; 3:17; Is.9:6. This is orthodox early Christianity. It is a lie that the Trinity was invented in the 3rd century. We have a pdf document we can send showing where the deity of Christ and the Trinity were taught in the first few centuries. For more scriptures, see also <https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Bible-Verses-About-The-Trinity/>

The Hebrew scriptures themselves dispel the statement that '*God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not three persons*' (see Psalm 2). The site you referenced also mentions Jonathan Cahn - a false prophet.

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Millennium Articles

Mr. Arnold, in your latest 'Diakrisis' you mention a booklet containing two articles on the millennium. I cannot find this on your website. If it is available online could you please send me the link? Thank you for an edifying newsletter. Thanks very much Terry.

I belong to an a-millennialist church and this will assist me in putting forward the millennialist approach. Once one has removed Israel from the equation, then loads of OT (and NT) prophecy can be eliminated from the Word. My stock answer to them is 'Before you make a self-assured statement, please explain the event of 15th May, 1948. Was that merely human politics, or was Yahweh's hand involved? Was the Balfour Declaration merely the result of human intent?' Then go figure, 'Is the throne of David literally on earth in the 'Old-Restored Jerusalem' or is it merely a figure of God's speech?' Why would God deceive His people by giving John a questionable set of prophetic visions, none of which (apart from Ch 1-3 of Revelation) has yet transpired, surely the rest is still to come 'after these things' (4:1). The sacking and destruction of the Temple (AD 70) occurred prior to John's vision (AD 95,96), so the Ezekiel Temple must be something else (and not an allegorical pointer to Jesus at His first coming), etc, etc, as your papers make quite clear.

(J.C., South Africa)

Editor's comment:

We do not have the articles on our website but we are happy to send by e-mail with attached pdf of the two articles to anyone who enquires. They are titled '*The Millennium - Literal or Figurative*' and '*The Early Church and Beyond - Views on the Millennium*'.

Again, the issue here at the root is a hermeneutical (interpretive) one. These articles above address these issues both from an historical view and also an hermeneutical view. The first article ('*The Millennium - Literal or Figurative*') addresses the hermeneutics of the word 'one thousand' and the rules of interpretation that can be applied. It also looks at the original Greek words used for this English word.

The second article ('*The Early Church and Beyond - Views on the Millennium*') is a historic view and shows where the earliest of church fathers stood on how they interpreted scripture in regard to eschatology. That view shifted before the third century and particularly with Augustine and others.

There are some other things to consider in this debate over whether the church has replaced Israel: Israel is 'elect'. Does God cast away, replace his elect? Do words such as Israel change and now become 'church'? What of the scriptures which have Christ coming to Israel in such detail (Zech.14)?

The Pope's gospel

'The Pope's reported comments to a gay man have been embraced by the LGBTI community as another sign of the pontiff's desire to make them feel welcomed and loved in the Roman Catholic Church. Juan Carlos Cruz, the main whistle blower in Chile's clerical sex abuse and cover-up scandal, said he spoke to Francis about his homosexuality during their meetings at the Vatican...He said, 'Look Juan Carlos, the Pope loves you this way. God made you like this and he loves you,' Mr Cruz said. The Vatican declined to confirm or deny the remarks...

The Church teaching says gays should be respected, loved and not discriminated against, but considers homosexual activity 'intrinsically disordered'. [Pope] Francis has sought to make the church more welcoming to 'gays' ...with his 2013 comment 'Who am I to judge?' ...insisting they are children of God, loved by God and deserving of accompaniment by the church.

(Associated Press)

Editor's comment:

Such 'love' without truth will take many sinners, including practising homosexuals, to Hell. Nowhere does the Bible state God loves the homosexual. Is homosexuality now 'intrinsically disordered'? Is that what Scripture teaches? Are they 'children of God loved by God and deserving of accompaniment by the church'. What Bible teaches this?

John Knox and the Marian Image

John Knox (1513-1572) was a pastor, theologian and writer who led the Reformation in Scotland. He was founder of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

In 1547 He was taken prisoner by French forces, exiled to England and released in 1549. While in England he worked in the Church of England serving King Edward VI as royal chaplain. When Mary Tudor ascended the throne of England she re-established Roman Catholicism and was known as 'Bloody Mary' for the numbers of Protestants she had burned. Knox was forced to resign his position and leave the country. He moved briefly to Geneva and met John Calvin. On his return to Scotland, Knox led the Protestant Reformation in Scotland.

Back in 1547, when Knox and others were captured by the French, Knox was a prisoner for more than 18 months in the French galleys as a slave. They were threatened with torture if they did not give signs of reverence when the Roman Catholic Mass was performed on the ship. The Protestant prisoners were urged to acknowledge Mary. Their galley was named 'Notre Dame' (Our Lady) and during the celebrations of the Roman Catholic Mass the 'Salve Regina' (Hail Holy Queen) was sung and a statue of Mary brought around for all to kiss. When this occurred to Knox he refused but it was thrust in his face. Later when no one was looking, he threw the statue overboard saying, '*Now let Our Lady save herself!*'

Bible Translation Myths

Often I have come across terms such as ‘literal translation’, ‘word for word’ or that some Bible versions are ‘formal equivalent’ as opposed to ‘dynamic equivalent’. Versions such as the King James are said to be ‘literal’ and ‘formal equivalent’. These terms are rarely used by translators but have rather come into vogue in selling Bibles.

The aim of this article is that readers might better understand these terms which are at the worst myths and at the best rather loose. But also that readers might understand the complexities and difficulties of translation from the original languages to a target language (the translation language). And which versions might be more suitable for reading, studying, preaching and teaching?

The Complexities of Grammar

The grammar rules and structure of an original language will not be the same as the target language. When translating from Greek to English it is not as simple as finding the verb with a subject and predicate as it may be in English. The Greek often does not have this structure at all and has to be significantly re arranged to fit English structure. Added to this, words in Greek might have a variety of differing meanings in context, where as the English may only have one meaning. Greek words often may have more than one English word in a semantic range that could be suitably used to show the meaning.

Several translators in one room would unlikely come up with the exact same translation or words from one passage, or even one phrase in Greek. Translation committees often have to thrash out the best translation until an agreement is reached. Each committee would also be guided by a frame of translation styles *ranging* from a so called more strict ‘literal’ approach ‘word for word’ (said to be ‘formal equivalent’) to a less ‘formal’ and more ‘dynamic equivalent’ approach. What is not often understood is that no translation is exactly one or the other and these terms are all but non existent in the world of translation. *There is a sliding scale in any translation.*

When such translation work is done it is not done by inspiration in the same way as with the inspiration of God who first inspired and moved holy men of God to write the original scriptures (2Tim.3:16; 2Pet.1:21). Men may well be led and guided by the Spirit in translation work but that is *not* the same as full inspiration (as in 2Timothy 3:16). In other words, all translations have a *human* element in them. This is not to decry all translations as inaccurate, for there are versions that accurately represent the original languages and doctrines are not lost or minimised in the process. But sadly there are those who state that the KJV translation or some other version is ‘inspired’ without first understanding what full ‘inspiration’ means; and secondly that the human element in translation is significant when translating from one language to a target language that would be entirely different in grammar and semantics.

Continued next page >

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Eschatology and History

Greetings. I find every system of prophecy tries to believe their system was held by the early church...but there is no detailed one anywhere. The Futurist system you hold was not developed till around 1830 (Darby). The ‘A’ one until Kuyper and others around the late 1800’s...Augustine had leanings towards his Post view...The same with all the systems...there were ‘leanings’...All systems have undergone changes since the early church...It is not worth arguing over...

(R.L. Vict)

Editor’s reply:

I agree it is not worth ‘arguing’, but it is worth it to refute false statements like ‘The early church was A-millennial’ which is what we were doing in the last issue. But scripture must be the first and last point of view.

Firstly, the ‘A’ one was also much earlier than 1800. And the ‘futuristic view’ was *not* first ‘developed around 1830 from Darby’. That is an old lie which has been refuted many times but which continues. There is evidence of the system in the writings of the church fathers. Ephraem the Syrian (306 to 373 AD), a leading theologian of the Byzantine Church, encouraged believers to prepare themselves for meeting the Lord: ‘*all the saints and elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that is to overwhelm the world because of our sins*’. Puritan leader, Increase Mather (1639-1723), argued ‘*the saints would be caught up into the air and escape the world’s final tribulation*’. In 1687 Peter Jurieu in his book ‘*Approaching Deliverance of the Church*’ taught that Christ would come in the air to rapture the saints, returning to Heaven before Armageddon. Research will also show a Baptist leader named Morgan Edwards in the 1740’s taught clearly a ‘Rapture’ occurring before the Tribulation (he believed this to be ‘in the middle of Daniel’s 70th week, about 3 1/2 years before the Second Coming). Philip Doddridge’s (1738) and John Gill’s (1748) commentaries on the New Testament also both use the term ‘Rapture’. James Macknight (1763) and Thomas Scott (1792) also taught that the righteous will be carried to heaven till the time of judgment is over.

The embellished stories of Irving, McDonald, Darby and ‘mysterious meetings’ were propagated by a Dave MacPherson in the 1970’s. He wrote of Darby attending a Charismatic prayer meeting and a girl, Margaret McDonald, giving a ‘prophecy’ of the ‘Rapture’. The problem with this story is that Darby had developed his understanding of a ‘Rapture’ previously in the winter of 1826-1827, three years *before* the prayer meeting! The handwritten account of McDonalds words also do not mention anything of a pre-tribulation ‘rapture’! Such stories have been refuted in books of recent years and in our magazine (*Diakrisis* Nov/Dec/2010).

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The 'apostasia' History

Dear Terry, thank you for your newsletter 'Diakrisis'. In the last edition you mentioned the 'apostasia' meaning as a Departure ['rapture'] in 2Thessalonians ch.2 was relatively new teaching, giving the impression that it has appeared only recently. What you failed to point out to your readers is that renowned New Testament Greek scholar Kenneth Wuest was teaching this at least 60 years ago. In fact, his Expanded Translation of the Greek New Testament renders it thus, '...that day shall not come except the aforementioned departure [of the Church to heaven] comes first...' This is from the 1959 edition. Hardly new teaching.

(P.M.)

Editor's reply:

Our website has a full article on this. By 'recent' I meant less than 100 years old in comparison to 1900 years of history where this was not taught. This new view is traced to articles by E. English, titled '*Re-thinking the Rapture*' which first appeared in '*Our Hope*' magazine Oct./1949 to March 1950. Before this there were only isolated references to this view as in 1859 from a J.S. Mabie during an address to an annual conference on the Lord's coming, Los Angeles, Nov/1895 - later published. John R. Rice also suggested this view in 1945: '*I believe this refers to the Rapture of the saints, when the invisible ties of gravity will be broken and we will suddenly fall away into the air to meet Jesus*'. (*The Coming Kingdom of Christ*, P.152).

However it was E. English who popularised the view, followed by Wuest, Walvoord, Lewis, Tan, Ellisen, Wood, Davey and House. Walvoord later recanted and abandoned it. In recent years, this view has returned. In Australia it has been promulgated by *Herald of Hope* ministries and thus assumed by others. But a careful analysis of the context and a word study will not exegetically hold to this view. It is not part of early church teaching.

I grant my use of the word 'recent' may have been misunderstood. (The article you read from the last newsletter was a very short reply to the matter). Having said all this, the *main reason for it being false teaching* is because the scriptures teach otherwise and the word 'apostasia' in Greek studies does not mean 'rapture'.

The 'rapture' is taught well enough on its own (1Thess.4:17). The extremes taught today in this will not do any favours to the truth of the Rapture in 1Thess.4:17. On one hand I have heard many say '*I don't believe in a rapture*'. Regardless of the timing of the rapture, they completely disregard 1Thessalonians 4:17, throwing the baby out with the bathwater. But on the other hand this new teaching on 2Thess.2:3 is new and unnecessary teaching which cannot be backed from the original languages.

'Literal'; 'Formal' and 'Dynamic'...

True 'literal' or 'word for word' is really only found in an *Interlinear* which attempts to precisely show a translated word for each original word. But even interlinears are to some extent subject to the translators choice of words. Interlinears are excellent for testing the accuracy of a translation and word meanings yet it must be remembered that they cannot be read sensibly in the target language and would make little sense in English as the word for word translation would have to be re-arranged to the grammatical construction of the target language which is entirely different. For example, try reading the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:9-15 in an Interlinear. It will probably read something like this: '*Like this therefore pray you father our the in the heavens Let be hallowed the name your let come the kingdom your...*' But nevertheless, the 'accuracy' word for word is there. In John 3:16 an interlinear will also show a more 'literal' view of the words '*whosoever believes*' as being '*all the believing ones*' ('*pas o pisteuon*').

'Formal equivalency' is said to be 'literal' or 'word for word' and close to the original language. But no translation is strictly so. 'Dynamic equivalency' is said to be a 'looser' translation to show more the 'thought for thought' intent of the original author. The King James version (KJV) is said to be 'formal equivalent', a 'literal' translation. It is certainly so in many areas. For example, when the father meets the prodigal son in Luke chapter 15:20 the KJV reads that the father '*fell on his neck*' - which is certainly more 'literal' than other versions which will change this Hebrew idiom to something supposedly better understood in the target language. (Again, an interlinear is a worthy tool here to clearly show this literal meaning of 'fell on his neck'). The New International Version (NIV) reads '*threw his arms around him*' and other versions have '*embraced him*' in an attempt to create what might happen in the world of the target language. The argument is that '*fell on his neck*' makes no sense literally. However, this author's view is that '*fell on his neck*' actually shows better the Jewish aspect and the love of the father, since it would have been considered almost outrageous that a Jewish father would do this to a sinful rebellious son who would normally have been punished severely and publicly. Added to this the very next words are '*and kissed him*' which thus puts the '*fell on his neck*' phrase in context if one might question the meaning? When versions stray from the more 'literal' rendering, sometimes they may lose the force of the passage.

However, in some passages a literal rendering might make *less sense* than an alternative 'dynamic' equivalent. Although it could be argued the KJV is *more* 'literal' and 'formal' equivalent than most Bibles, it is not exactly so in many passages. For example, the KJV translates '*me ginomai*' as '*God forbid*' (Lk.20:16; Rom.3:4,6,31; 6:2,15; 7:7,13; 9:14; 11:1,11; 1Cor.6:15; Gal.2:17; 3:21; 6:14) - when neither '*God*' (Theós) or '*forbid*' (kolúo) are in the Greek. This is not to say this was an inaccurate translation in any way since the words 'God forbid' well describe the force of the '*me ginomai*' which if translated 'literally' arguably would not suffice. But it shows how the KJV is not always

‘literal’ or ‘formal equivalent’ in the way we might understand these terms. There are many other examples that could be given in various ‘literal’ versions where it is simply not ‘word for word’.

In the KJV the Greek word ‘*logizomai*’ is translated into many different English words: ‘reasoned’, ‘numbered’ ‘reckoned’, ‘thinkest’, ‘counted’, ‘concluded’, ‘imputed’, ‘accounted’, esteems’, suppose’, charged’. Even within the same context (of ‘righteousness’) in Romans chapter 4 three different English words are used. The KJV translators have chosen many different words here for the one Greek word.

Which Bible and For What Work?

We are told to be ‘*workman...rightly dividing the word of truth*’ (2Tim.3:15). One of the ‘Bibles’ or ‘tools’ that this author feels is lacking in this ‘work’ is the Interlinear. It is a tool to test any version for accuracy word for word as well as sometimes showing extra pronouns, articles and parts of speech in the original. It may often show up some versions as poor translations. It is this author’s persuasion that versions such as the ‘Good News Bible’, the Living Bible’, ‘the Message’ and even the New International Version (NIV) and many of the modern versions are so far at the end of the ‘dynamic equivalent’ spectrum that the original meaning is often lost, or worse, changed. They attempt to bring the Bible down to the reader instead of bringing the reader up to the Bible *and to maintain accuracy*.

For preachers, Bible teachers and those who are exegeting meanings from scripture and engaged in expositional work, a more ‘literal’ version coupled with an interlinear are most accurate and necessary tools for these works.

This author has a distinct preference for a KJV interlinear coupled with a KJV, KJV2000 or a literal version taken from the majority texts. Accuracy in preaching and teaching is paramount in a day when so many new doctrines are taught and so many new Bibles are dumbing down meanings in scripture.

Further than this are programmes available with scriptures having words attached to ‘Strong’s numbers’ linking meanings from the Hebrew and Greek to various words and showing such extras as Greek ‘tenses’, ‘voices’ and ‘moods’. These are ‘tools’ which can be used without having a working knowledge of the original language. (‘E-Sword’ is one of these programmes in which one may need some guidance in how to use these above word studies).

Terms such as ‘literal’, ‘formal equivalent’ and ‘dynamic equivalent’ need to be understood in the complexities of Bible translation. It is a marvel that God has preserved his word in accurate translations today and through translators centuries ago who were gifted and skilled in the original languages beyond their years. Our personal Bible and Bible tools are precious in a day and age when they are again being attacked and tampered with. We are to be students and workmen of God ever learning of the truth which sanctifies us (Jn.17:17).

Terry Arnold

Your Comments and Questions

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

Letters Concerning Billy Graham Article

Terry, just read ‘Diakrisis’...very good...I found out 20 or 25 years ago that Billy Graham’s book titled ‘Approaching Hoofbeats’ was ghost written by homosexual ‘minister’ Mel White. They both knew that at that time people wouldn’t read a ‘Christian’ book by such a person. A day or so after Billy died, I went on the net to find a bit of info about the book (which I used to have) and found an article by Mel White. Below is the site, and attached is the text. <https://www.truthdig.com/articles/last-real-evangelical/>

This homosexual ghost writer pays tribute to Billy Graham and applauds Billy’s changing beliefs. This is not someone who is not a fan of Billy, otherwise people might suggest bias...

(Name withheld at editor’s discretion)

Editor’s comment:

The article details how this man worked closely with Billy Graham. It applauds Graham’s refusal to use the word ‘inerrant’ for the Bible and his increasingly social gospel, as well as changing views on other religions and thus having even Muslims and Rabbis on stage with him...

Terry...The latest ‘Diakrisis’ was a blessing, especially the article on Billy Graham. ‘There is nothing new under the sun’ except it is more sophisticated today...Rick Warren’s career is following Billy Graham’s...Praying for you all.

Terry, Mike, I have read comments by Billy Graham before he died: (<https://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/in-his-will-billy-graham-urges-family-to-defend-gospel-at-any-cost.html>). In it he says: ‘I ask my children and grandchildren to maintain and defend at all hazards at any cost of personal sacrifice the blessed doctrine of complete Atonement for sin through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ once offered, and through that alone. I urge all of you to walk with the Lord in a life of separation from the world and to keep eternal values in view’. Graham also encouraged his family to read the Bible daily and to trust in Jesus for salvation... ‘I have done my best before the Lord and I have confidence in all of you that you will consider that you are only trustees of what I have left’, the famous evangelist concludes’.

It amazes me that Billy Graham could ‘admonish’ everyone with such a statement in death that he wasn’t willing to perform in life. What about his Catholic friends? What about all the altar-call responders he sent back to Rome?

(H.S. Qld)

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- 'Countering the Claims of Evangelical Feminism' by Wayne Grudem. Excellent reference: Should women have authority in teaching, preaching, pastoring, etc?

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TA Ministries is a Ministry of *Teaching, Informing* and *Equipping*. This includes providing updated and researched material for pastors, church leaders, Christians and non-Christians who have an open mind.

Terry Arnold is pastoring elder of the Hervey Bay Bible Church. He holds a Doctorate in theology and a Masters degree in Arts and Biblical Studies as well as diplomas in Bible and Ministry Studies and a diploma in teaching. He is currently doing further studies in New Testament Greek.

His ministry has included preaching/teaching/lecturing in a wide range of churches and colleges in Australia and overseas.



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