

## 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](mailto:terry.arnold25@gmail.com)

### Prayer / Praise Points

- Praise the Lord for the Hervey Bay Bible Church which is now approaching 6 years (the editor having now pastored it for 5 years). After denominational ties were cut (see article 'The Day They Evicted Our Church'), this event God turned into a great blessing as the church immediately grew. It is now a strong fellowship of like minded participants enjoying much blessing from the Lord with continuing salvations and new people. Please pray for the editor as he seeks God's will to find another pastor or associate pastor for 2019.

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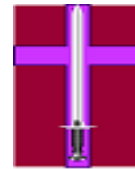
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# Diakrisis (Australia)

*'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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## Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol.4, No.5 September/October 2018

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TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry, *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.

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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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### Pastor Required Hervey Bay Bible Church

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**<http://www.herveybaybiblechurch.org>**

**Any questions, or for more information please contact the editor.**

## Editor's Comment

I rarely take an interest in politics apart from the geopolitical aspects of nations and also a mild interest in the character of leaders. But I have noticed that the shifting of values within cultures and public opinions has in recent decades been fast and furious. The rise of leaders like the U.S. President Donald Trump has shocked many including the media who were largely caught out by surprise when he was elected. Many were left scratching their heads as to how Donald Trump could ever have been elected. In Australia too, the minor political parties and independants are causing minor shock waves to major parties.

People are looking for honesty, integrity, strength and direction in a rapidly changing world where absolutes are almost gone. One of the primary reasons why Trump was elected was because he departed from the wimpy hypocritical shifting political correctness of most leaders of today. People were prepared to overlook the obvious character flaws and the carnality that arguably is found in Trump's character. Yet in some ways he is a throwback more to what strong men used to be like. He clearly distinguishes himself from being the modern effeminate man.

The modern church sadly has gone the way of the world and it is difficult at times to tell the difference between religion and real Christianity? Religious leaders and Pastors are now rated nearly as low as politicians for their lack of integrity and honesty. Yet the church is supposed to be 'salt' and 'light' to the earth (Matt.5:13-16). But today it's more about preaching what the people want to hear; avoid controversy; pacify the people so they will come back next week...and give even more money. Modern 'church growth' methods subtly adopt these axioms.

Yet this author has seen and experienced firsthand where growth can come by simply and honestly preaching the Gospel and scripture. Growth, not just in numbers but growth in people having an increased hunger to read and study God's Word and a desire to see that applied in their lives. It is this kind of growth which should be at the heart of both worship and evangelism.

If one reads the biography of great preachers it is evident that 'church growth', even revival, can come by honest straightforward and passionate preaching of the Gospel and scripture.

Two great preachers who come to mind are Charles Spurgeon and Martyn Lloyd Jones. Both were different in their style of preaching. Spurgeon was more topical (although his topics were often couched in expositions of passages). Martyn Lloyd Jones was more a purist in exposition, some say the greatest and most accurate in the modern era. Both stood out from their fellow preachers of the day. Both went against the liberal apostate tendency of the churches of the day. Neither of them fit the guidelines of today's church growth philosophies. Yet both engendered revival in their own churches and others.

People saw and heard the inherent integrity and honesty in these preachers and their message. Martyn Lloyd Jones was a no frills expositional and Gospel preacher who by the Holy Spirit ignited the hearts of hearers wherever he went.

## **Your Comments and Questions**

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*Dear Terry...Thanks for the latest issue of 'Diakrisis'...We will be happy to receive it via e-mail and also be able to render it into hard copy.*

*Great articles, especially the continued but vital reviews of Catholicism, immorality, Islam, and not least the misuse of technology. Oh! how we all can feel challenged when faced with God's raw truths.*

*The road to Hell must be like a gridlocked six lane right now.*

*God bless.*

**(S&N.H., Qld)**

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*Dear Terry, I have a prayer request - please pray for rain and particularly that farmers like us will be so grateful for even 4 ml. of rain. May they rejoice in the fact that God will meet their needs - eg. food on their tables, food for stock, and fuel bills, as these are the main things. Praise His Holy name.*

*Just love to get the 'Diakrisis in the post and read it from 'cover to cover'. God bless you for being so honest and thankyou for your teaching. With Christian love,*

**(M.M., NSW)**

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*Dear Terry & family, with prayer and a thankful heart I would like to acknowledge the loyal sending of 'Diakrisis'. I have kept all the editions received over the years and read portions of them again and then share articles to others. There is much meat in many editions...*

**(A.S., NSW)**

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*Dear Terry, Thank you so much for 'Diakrisis'. I have learned so much by reading the eye opening facts that you bring to our attention. Like you I am anxiously looking for the return (or the upcall I mean) by our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus.*

*I am sorry I have no e-mail, so do require the hardcopy of the newsletter...*

**(M.R., NSW)**

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*Dear Terry, your regular issues of 'Diakrisis' are very much enjoyed and valued for the truths they contain...*

**(D.S., NSW)**

## Your Comments and Questions

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**Sub-editor's reply (Mike Claydon):**

Firstly, we never stated the early church was 'dispensational'. The problem with many is that they assume pre-mill people and pre-trib people are all 'dispensationalist' and they attack that as a strawman. At times there appears to be an unwarranted hatred of it from some who yet have their own invented 'covenantal' system. These systems are simply to explain different economies of God or grid systems of events.

But the '*freak exegesis*' mentioned here *IS* actually taught by many of the Church Fathers, and the great divines and *long before Darby!* We gave examples of this in the last newsletter and more in depth in our two articles.

We have never called it a 'secret' rapture - that's an expression dubbed by retractors of the Rapture. I actually find the 'rapture' quite a noisy affair. '*The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a SHOUT, with a VOICE of an archangel and the TRUMP of God. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord*' (1Thess.4:16,17).

I have in my personal library dozens of commentaries on 1 Thessalonians. Many of them use the Latin word 'rapture' to describe the event in vs.17. The Greek word for '*caught up*' is '*harpázo*' - literally 'to snatch away' (or some say 'steel secretly'). The *same word* is used when Philip was '*caught away*' by the Lord (Acts 8:39), when Paul speaks of a man being '*caught up*' to the third heaven (2Cor.12:2,4) and when the '*man child*' is '*caught up*' to God (Rev.12:5).

Darby also did NOT invent the 'rapture' or the 'pre-trib rapture'. This is an internet lie and easily exposed from historical records, commentaries before Darby (Doddrige, Gill, Macknight, Scott, etc), as well as church fathers (see *Diakrisis* Nov/Dec 2010). The word and its teaching was used well before Darby (1800-1882). A sermon by Ephraem the Syrian (306-373) speaks of '*all the saints and elect of God are gathered, prior to the tribulation that is to come, and are taken to the Lord...*'. Puritan leader, Increase Mather (1639-1723), argued that '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 the battle of Armageddon. The Baptist Morgan Edwards in 1740 also taught a 'rapture' before a 'Tribulation'.

Many who reject the literal pre-mill view abandon the teaching of any 'rapture'. Yet 1Thess.4:16,17 clearly teaches a 'rapture' - the Latin word for the Greek '*harpázo*' which is a sudden snatching away. It will do no good to throw the baby out with the bathwater in not believing in a pre-trib event by throwing out altogether the scriptural event of a rapture, which cannot be ignored.

Many quiet revivals occurred under his preaching as is evident by the hundreds of later testimonies of salvations and personal growth of those who were riveted by his preaching. His biography is well documented in a two volume series by Iain Murray titled '*David Martyn Lloyd-Jones - the First Forty Years*' and the second volume '*The Fight of Faith*' (the next 40 years). This author would urge all preachers and pastors to read these two volumes and glean the backbone of what a true pastor and preacher might be and who God might use.

What is lacking today in many pastors and preachers is the resolve that these men had - to preach biblically regardless of the outcome and the 'results'. Those things were left to the Spirit.

These men of old were not necessarily controversial unless a stand was necessary through circumstances. However, both Spurgeon and Lloyd Jones in their later lives had to take stands against liberalism and apostasy. Both stood against the new views on inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible.

But what is very evident in their lives was the integrity and honesty before the Lord first and then to his Word. Their days were consumed with the study of God's word, the preparation of sermons and the teaching thereof. They were simply 'addicted' to the ministry (1Cor.16:15). They put forth the Gospel and God's Word in an accurate but simple fashion. The accuracy came in the form of detailed preparation, exegesis of scripture; and the simplicity came in putting forth this in simple straightforward language that the Spirit would use to grip people with truth. The truth of scripture and the applications were not compromised.

Both Lloyd Jones and Spurgeon avoided alliances with those who compromised sound doctrine. Lloyd Jones in particular was asked to be on many boards of both denominational and non denominational groups, but he refused most of them. Both kept apart from ecumenical drifts and at times when necessary spoke against the effect this movement had on the Gospel. Both went against a general apostasy in England. Both ended up being non denominational themselves and yet Lloyd Jones preached across a large section of denominations. Both saw their own churches grow through revivals. Both were marked by characters of integrity and honesty.

Although this author does not applaud the likes of any world leader as Christian, it seems obvious that a backlash is coming against weak compromising leaders whether in government or the apostate church. (Yet it may well be that such a man opposing these things could be most attractive as the last antichrist).

As Christians we have the word to test to see if people and their words are of God. The church needs leaders and preachers who will be decisive and honest in preaching the word as it is written.

Jesus stated that He always spoke what his Father wanted him to speak (Jn.8:26; 12:49,50). Likewise we must speak what God has written as His final revelation. This is the only revelation that shows the way of eternal life for the sin deadened soul. Integrity and honesty spring from truth and that truth is only found in Jesus and His Word (Jn.17:17).

**Terry Arnold**



## Rome and LGBTQ

*'The Vatican this month is showing unprecedented outreach on issues of human sexuality, using what's believed to be for the first time the term LGBT [lesbian gay bisexual transgender] in a planning document for a huge upcoming bishops meeting.*

*...I went to the website of the Catholic Church where I grew up, and was surprised/not surprised to see a prominent graphic announcing that St. Mary's Church was now a proud, LGBTQ [Lesbian gay bisexual transgender queer] welcoming church. I clicked on the link to that graphic, and it brought me to a site called the Tri-State LGBTQ Interparish Collaborative. A tab on that site invited me to attend the St. Francis of Assisi Pride Mass on June 28th...Pope Francis has been acquiring by stealth the LGBTQ community for years now...Not an outreach to give them the gospel, mind you, but an outreach to confirm them in their lifestyle choices and to comfort them with the false hope that God accepts you as you are and will leave you that way. The message of the pope to the LGBTQ community is loud and clear – God made you gay, be proud and embrace it. Will the Vatican change their official position on homosexuality? They already have.*

*On Tuesday, the Vatican released the details of the upcoming bishops' synod...While the document was released only in Italian, the National Catholic Reporter noted that it was the first time the acronym was used. The Catholic Church 'has in the past formally referred to gay people as 'persons with homosexual tendencies', the Reporter said'.*

*(Geoffrey Grider, June 20, 2018)*

### **Editor's comment:**

**Rome is a master at chameleon like disguises and doublespeak. The language by the Pope may appear to embrace LGBTQ people as accepted in the church, but the official dogma on this issue by the Roman church arguably teaches otherwise. But this is the confusion created when the world's religions attempt to follow the spirit of the world. The language of God's Word is unchanging on this issue. Either God got it wrong and what was just decades ago immoral and outlawed by western society as unlawful is now right; or God from the beginning condemned these acts as abominations, unnatural and sinful, to be judged in the end.**

**The world certainly cannot look to the Roman church and its allies for guidance on these issues when courts are busy convicting and jailing many of its leaders for unspeakable crimes and deceptions!**

*'And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities' (Rev.18:4,5)*

## **Your Comments and Questions**

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### **Eschatological View - 'Freak Exegesis'?**

*Terry, (in reference to your articles in the last newsletter on the Millennium and the views of the church fathers),...below are 2 quotes from writers who believe in a LITERAL 1000 year millennium:*

*'The suggestion of Darby, backed by vigorous efforts of Kelly and others, to prove from this magnificent passage of 1 Thessalonians 4, that a secret coming, a resurrection and a secret rapture are supported, followed by the rise and reign of Antichrist, is among the sorriest in the whole history of freak exegesis'. (Alexander Reese, 'The approaching Advent of Christ', P.146)*

*'In this survey of the early centuries we have found that the Church interpreted the book of Revelation along futurist lines; i e they understood the book to predict the eschatological events which would attend the end of the world. The Antichrist was understood to be an evil ruler of the end-times who would persecute the Church, afflicting her with great tribulation. Every church father who deals with the subject expects the Church to suffer at the hands of Antichrist. God would purify the Church through suffering, and Christ would save her by His return at the end of the Tribulation when He would destroy Antichrist, deliver His Church, and bring the world to an end and inaugurate his millennial kingdom. The prevailing view is a post tribulation premillennialism. We can find no trace of pretribulationism in the early church; and no modern pretribulationist has successfully proved that this particular doctrine was held by any of the church fathers or students of the Word before the nineteenth century...'*

*(George E Ladd 'The Blessed Hope')*

*Other millennial writers seem to have no problems with those arguing for a literal 1000 years. It is the points mentioned in Reese and Ladd quotes that they feel are wrong...To have a 1000 years with only the militant church and resurrected believers on it looks much better than some non-believers mixed with others and an uprising at the end as the Dispensationalists would advocate. Christ's 2nd. Humiliation...The first was his coming to earth. The 2nd is being attacked at the end of the millennium. If he is sitting NOW at the right hand of the father who has put all things in his hands. Note the 'I wills' in Rev.2-3...*

*Myself and others get the impression that when you say the early church believed in a 1000 year millennial, you are saying that they WERE Dispensationalists which is not true. Above 2 writers agree.*

*In reading books on different perspectives I find little criticism by others of the historic Pre-mill view. Wayne Gruden in his big Systematic Theology ( Baptist) holds the usual millennial 1000 year belief.*

*(R.L., NSW) Continued next page >*

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### The 'Pure Word'?

Hello Terry, there is a new translation of the Bible called 'The Pure Word' which is mentioned in [prophecynewswatch.com](http://prophecynewswatch.com) and which has an article stating 'Theologians Finally Translate 2,000 Year Old Greek Scriptures'. Here's what it says: 'After 20-years of research and development, a team has successfully retranslated the New Testament with the original lost Greek meaning!...'

John 3:16 is given as an example with the following: 'Because, God has Loved in such a manner the satan's world, so that He Gave His Son, the Only Begotten Risen Christ, in order that whoever is Continuously by his choice Committing for the Result and Purpose of Him, should not perish, but definitely should, by his choice, be Continuously Having Eternal Life'.

I think it will interest you and I would be interested to know your comments.

(G.J. Qld)

#### Editor's reply:

I am absolutely 100% and fiercely opposed to this translation! It is NOT a 'translation' and it is NOT the 'Pure Word' of God. It is in fact quite impure. These so called translators are not true translators but 'theologians' as stated. They have mixed exegesis with translation which ends up in an eisegesis as well as a false translation!

The translation of John 3:16 here is not just clumsy but WRONG. Words have simply been added here from the original Greek! Not even many of our loose modern versions do this to John 3:16.

Lets look at how an interlinear would properly translate John 3:16 word for word and you will see the *additions* in this new translation. The Greek is literally: 'Thus for loved God the world that son his only [one] begotten he gave that [in order] all the believing ones in him not should perish but should have life eternal'. Any translation must work from these words.

Here is what has been added: '*in such a manner*' is not in the Greek; '*Satan's world*' is not in the Greek; '*risen christ*' is not in the Greek; '*by his choice*' is NOT in the Greek; '*purpose of him*' is not in the Greek; and the second '*by his choice*' is not in the Greek (note also the Arminian theology inserted). I am not speaking about just some of the Greek manuscripts but *all* the ones available. These words are simply not in *any Greek*. To take the Greek and preach it with ones own exegesis is one thing but this is a *translation of God's word!*

I rate this as false teaching, evil and I fear for the people who have done this! And I have only seen one verse. They have tried to make it 'relational' but actually made it more clumsy even by translation rules. This translation like many of the modern translations should have a match put to it. There is a judgement for *adding* to the Word of God not to be treated lightly.

## UFO's: The Supernatural Deception?



*'Unidentified flying objects are part of our culture from childhood, and they have been and are today used to influence our thinking whether we realize it or not. From childhood cartoons to motion pictures and TV, they mould how we see and even feel about them.*

*The 1950's through the early 2000's had us labelled as being a touch crazy if we dared to believe in them; they were anything but real...the media kept filling*

*our subconscious with imagery of what they should be...*

*At some point after 2005, the media, governments and executives determined it was time to bend our thinking once again with the idea that they are now, not just real, but also...a higher civilization...This was the message which came from the flood of data released by country after country from the secret files they had compiled over the years.*

*...The veil of Top Secrecy had been dropped; the files are now in the public domain...Let me mention the secretive areas without going into detail: D.U.M.B. (Deep Underground Military Bases), RFID Implants, Missing People – abductions, missing hardware (ship and planes), and of course entire groups of people being taken at once with no explanation or follow-up investigation.*

*The information we were allowed to have consists of files verifying sightings and diverse races...Within 70 years, we've gone from being crazy for believing into, yes, you should believe...They are a higher power looking to help us with the many problems and troubles we have today. They will have the answers, but we alone will ask the questions.*

*...The powers behind UFO/alien events are also very aware of timing and exactly when things should be released to the public...The people releasing the information are also forming the things we believe about them...The message from these so-called 'other worldly' beings are cousins to Ouija Boards, Tarot Cards, Palm Readers, Telephone Psychic's, Séances and even Satan Worshipers; it all depends which size and flavour appeals to you. They have something to meet almost every curiosity and level of interest.*

*...Use Caution; use extreme caution, remembering that the only true means of protection comes through God's Holy Spirit and remaining grounded in the Full Armour of God (Ephesians 6:11-18).*

*Within one lifetime, we've gone from 'don't you dare believe' into 'yes, believe, but only what we tell you'...Simply search YouTube for 'great deception' and you'll be showered with a cascade of information. This is a major event coming to mankind...If you're born-again, it will not include you; but it will impact others you may know that are not yet saved'.*

(Jack Bolek. Published on: June 22, 2018; *Apostasy Alert* July)

**Another similar view and more information on this subject can be read at Creation Ministries: <https://creation.com/journey-to-remember>**

## Archaeology, The Bible and Camels

No book has suffered attack like the Bible. Historians, archaeologists and now 'Bible scholars' diligently attack its divine authorship.

However, in archaeology such findings as the burial boxes of New Testament figures and the official seal of Jezebel (1&2 Kings) have put an end to many debates. Not one single archaeological find has conclusively disproved Bible facts.

For years King David was said to be a myth by Bible 'scholars' because there was no physical evidence. That questioning collapsed in 1993 when archaeologists in northern Galilee found a rock with an inscription dating to the ninth century BC. It included the words 'House' or 'Dynasty of David'.

Recently I read an article by an archaeologist, which we reproduce excerpts of here\*: *'When I was a student at the Hebrew University, Professor Avraham Malamat told our class no camel bones had ever been found from the time of the Patriarchs. The problem, as the professor saw it, was that the Bible incorrectly placed Abraham and his kin in the second millennium BC even though camels were not domesticated until the first millennium BC. Scripture teaches that Abraham owned camels and that Rebekah and Rachel rode camels (Gen.12:16; 24:10; 31:34). The majority of critical scholars contend there is no support for the domestication of the camel before 1200 BC, well after the Patriarchs; and they consider these scriptural accounts anachronisms, meaning they belong to a period other than the one in which they appear. In this case, they say, they belong to a later period, when camels were domesticated. (1) ...However, archaeology has demonstrated that the domestication of the camel, at least on a limited scale, took place much earlier than previously supposed. The problem is not the lack of domestication but, rather, which type of camel is in view. Two species of camels were associated with the Ancient Near East: the dromedary (long-legged with a single hump) and the Bactrian (stocky with two humps). Archaeological sites like the Umm an-Nar island, Tell Abraq, and Al Sufouh have produced examples of dromedary camel bones dating to the third and second millennium BC. But the strongest support for early domestication is for the Bactrian camel. (2)...Michael Ripinsky argued for domestication in the fourth millennium BC, (3) and R. W. Bulliet traced a first stage of domestication to southeastern Arabia in the fourth or third millennium BC. (4) Early Bronze Age discoveries of model camels attached to miniature clay carts in Southern Turkmenistan also show the Bactrian camel was in use by the early third millennium BC. (5) In addition, third millennium BC gold and silver vessels depict Bactrian camels, (6) as does a cylinder seal from Syria in the 18th century BC with two figures riding astride. Also, a Sumerian love song from the Old Babylonian period (third-second millennium BC) mentions the camel being milked, which also implies domestication. (7) There is no reason why the species of camel used by the Patriarchs could not have been the Bactrian, which is precisely what the archaeological record shows is most probable. Archaeology again has demonstrated that we have every reason to trust the text of Scripture, first*

*before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will' (Eph.1:4,5). The scriptures which teach that God sovereignly chooses us for salvation are too numerous to list! (Here are some: Matt.20:16; 22:14; Mk.13:20; Acts 9:15; 22:14; Rom.16:13; Eph.1:4; 2Thess.2:13; 2Tim.2:4; Rev.17:14).*

*There is not one single Scripture that teaches that unsaved man can or 'wills' to choose God as His Lord and Saviour. Yet a large proportion of the church in the last 150 years have taught so!*

The reader may well ask: If man in his unsaved state *cannot* seek after God and does not *choose* God, then how can he ever be saved? Jesus answered this very question when a rich young ruler came to him and asked how to be saved. Jesus knew his heart and told him to sell his goods and follow him. The rich ruler could not do this. Jesus then stated: *'It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God'* (Lk.18:25). His disciples were troubled and the issue quickly turned from riches to salvation: *'And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? Jesus replied: 'The things which are impossible with men are possible with God' (vs.26,27).*

The question asked by the disciples here is surely the very question that further defines *Grace!* - the unmerited favour from God to an unsaved man who is totally unable in and of himself to seek after, or do anything, toward his salvation. Anything less than this is not 'Grace'! God makes something that is *'impossible'* with men into something which is *'possible'* with God.

The apostle Paul was saved by God - it can hardly be said that he was seeking or wanting to choose God. He was at the time on his way to persecute Christians! Yet God called him a *'chosen vessel'* (Acts 9:15; 22:14). Other individuals are also mentioned as *'chosen'* by God. Rufus was *'chosen in the Lord'* (Rom.16:13). Paul writing to the church at Thessalonica said *'God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation'* (2Thess.2:13).

Charles Spurgeon once said: *'When I was coming to the Lord, I thought I was doing it all myself, and though I sought the Lord earnestly, I had no idea the Lord was seeking me...the thought struck me: How did you come to be a Christian? I sought the Lord. But how did you come to seek the Lord? The truth flashed across my mind in a moment - I should not have sought Him unless there had been some previous influence on my mind to make me seek Him...I saw that God was at the bottom of it all, and that He was the author of my faith, and so the whole doctrine of grace opened up to me...I desire to make this confession, 'I ascribe my change wholly to God'. (Autobiography, Vol.1:168-69)*

Do we really trust the Holy Spirit to work effectually with unfailing grace in the hearts of those He chooses as we preach the Gospel? Or do we, because of preconceived notions of the ability of man, feel it necessary to go further than preach the Gospel and have man *do* something - to 'decide', make a 'confession', a 'profession' or a 'commitment', say the 'sinners prayer', walk the aisle?...*Or to use such scriptures as Revelation 3:20 out of context?*

## Your Comments and Questions

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

### Revelation 3:20

Hi Terry, does Revelation 3:20 speak at all of salvation? Do we have to choose God for salvation?

(L.P. Qld)

Editor's reply:

Although we have addressed this issue in the past we expand in more detail here as well as answer the second question.

If this verse is applied to salvation or evangelism, then it is a misuse of God's word and what the apostle John was meaning - Revelation 3:20 states: *'Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me'*

Many tracts and Gospel presentations use this verse as speaking to the *unsaved*. Was this verse addressed to unsaved sinners? No! The words are specifically addressed to a *church* at Laodicea that needed correction. This church would be no different to many churches today that need to hear God's Word. If Christ came and spoke to such churches today would we then wrongly use this verse and address it to the unsaved?

The context is to *'the church of the Laodiceans'* (vs.14) who were in danger of being *'rebuked'* and *'chastened'* as those he *'loved'* (vs.19). Christ does not do this to the unsaved! The Old Testament verses on chastening show clearly it is to *believers* (Job 5:17; Pr.3:11; Is.26:16). The New Testament is also clearly only to believers: *'speaks unto you as unto children, My son, despise not you the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loves he chastens...If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasten not? But if you be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are you bastards, and not sons...chastening...'* (Heb.12:5-11).

The second question: *'Do we have to choose God for salvation'*? By experience all believers might say that at some point they *'chose'* to believe. But where did that ability come from? Who chose whom? Does the ability to choose come from ourselves, or from God alone (*'monergism'*); or a combination of both ourselves and God (*'synergism'*)?

When Jesus chose his disciples he said *'You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain...'* (Jn.15:16).

Did we ever seek him?: *'There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God'* (Rom.3:11). *'For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost'* (Lk.19:10).

The Bible teaches we did not even will to be born again (Jn.1:11-13).

So, who chose whom and when?: *'According as he has chosen us in him*

*because it is Scripture and second, because God has left us evidence to confirm its historicity and, therefore, its truth'.*

Dare we minimise, question or dispute the inspiration and thus inerrancy of God's word? Jesus said: *'He that rejects me, and receives not my words, has one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day'*.

Terry Arnold

\* The article is titled *'Archaeology on the Back of a Camel'* by Professor Randall Price and found in the *'Israel My Glory'* magazine July/August 2018, P.35. (I recommend this magazine which features many scholarly articles).

(1) John Van Seeters, *Abraham in History and Tradition* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1975), 18.

(2) M. Heide, *The Domestication of the Camel: Biological, Archaeological and Inscriptional Evidence from Mesopotamia, Egypt and Arabia, and Literary Evidence from the Hebrew Bible*, Ugarit-Forschungen Vol. 42 (2010), 337.

(3) Michael Ripinsky, *'The Camel in Dynastic Egypt'*, *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 71 (1985), 131-141.

(4) R. W. Bulliet and Randall Yonker, *The Camel and the Wheel* (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1997), 36.

(5) *Ibid.*

(6) *Ibid.*, 344.

(7) *Ibid.*, 356. The primary source can be found in *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago I/J*, 2 (lines 18-27).

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### The Falling Away

*We are witnessing a religious shift that is unprecedented in size and scope in American history. With each passing year, the percentage of Americans that claim no religious affiliation is growing, and this trend is especially pronounced among our young people...We are rapidly becoming a nation where people are choosing no religion at all...There is a mass exodus from Christian churches...most of the people that are leaving are remaining unaffiliated. [In] 1991 only 6% of all Americans were 'unaffiliated'...today that number has shot up to 25%...In 1991 6% of Americans identified their religious affiliation as 'none'...By the end of the 1990's, 14% claimed no religious affiliation. The rate accelerated further during the late 2000's and early 2010's, reaching 20% by 2012. Today, 25% of Americans claim no formal religious identity, making this group the single largest 'religious group' in the U.S.*

<http://theeconomiccollapseblog.com/archives/mass-exodus-from-the-church-the-percentage-of-young-adults-with-no-religious-affiliation-has-nearly-quadrupled-since-1986>

(Apostasy Alert July 2018)

## Movies and Images



I am often asked for a review on certain movies concerning Bible stories and with actors that may portray Jesus Christ. I personally have never been impacted by fictional accounts of what is in the Bible. I also have always been uncomfortable with actors portraying an image of Jesus Christ. (Perhaps this has come about from having separated from the use of images in my former Roman Catholicism). Can Jesus'

face really be portrayed in the way movies do?

Another reason why I am not a fan of such movies is that invariably they are produced by non christians; or the story line has been changed for dramatic effect, thus *adding to an account of scripture*. From thereon subjectivism takes the place of facts. (I am not talking here about movies that simply have their own drama stories apart from the Bible or Bible characters There may well be harmless moral entertainment in such movies).

No doubt we can grab people's attention emotionally with movies. But unless the Gospel and the word of God has touched the heart with understanding, such effect will fall away. Discernment is lessened with increasing subjectivity and emotionalism. Is not the Bible sufficient? Do we have the right to add to that Word which many modern movies do? *'Every word of God is pure...Add you not unto his words, lest he reprove you, and you be found a liar'* (Pr 30:5-6).

Popular movies such as *'The Passion of Christ'* and *'Noah'* openly admit to adding to the word of God, sometimes with fanciful ideas and additions to the words of scripture. Beware of the subtly of the Hollywood effect.

**Terry Arnold**

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## Keep Looking Up

*Whilst many Christians are now suffering end-time fatigue and have become largely disinterested in the seemingly slow and halting progress in prophetic fulfilment, developments on the ground are surging ahead without vital information being shared by the Christian and secular media.*

*This is giving the false impression that everything has settled down in the Middle East since events over the Passover/Pentecost period passed without apparent upheaval as was anticipated – not to mention the usual time-setting for the Rapture of the Church.*

*Nothing could be further from the truth than this current viewpoint – and every day now, admittedly under-reported – all the key players in the prophetic collage are in place and inching toward very decisive action – it is imperative that the watching church does not become distracted by an impression that all is well! It isn't! Keep looking up.*

*(Israel Report, July 2018)*

saved'. 'Once saved always saved' is arguably not a suitable term for God's promise to preserve His saints. It has been used by some to argue for a carnal life. But salvation is not a licence to sin. Paul issued this exhortation to Christians *'Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling'* (Phil.2:12). There is human responsibility involved in this Christian life. Yet Paul then went on to say, *'For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure'* (vs.13). Here is divine sovereignty. Here is a similarity to the antinomy of divine election and man's responsibility. We can do nothing without God. All true believers are under God's preservation and thus they *will* persevere in their faith to the very end (Matt.10:22; Mk.13:13). A person who is truly born again will never be lost.

The terms 'perseverance of the saints' or 'preservation of the saints' express the scriptures that speak of an endurance to the end rather than any false security. The true believer is secure but a false security is dangerous. There is no doubt that many professing Christians are living in a false 'eternal security'. The scriptures teach this and the statistics show that there is currently a massive falling away rate of those making a 'decision' for Christ.

Perseverance encourages people to endure and guards against people saying they are secure without examination. The scriptures clearly teach to examine oneself concerning salvation as to whether it is true or not (2Cor.13:5). It is dangerous to assume that a professing believer is secure regardless of how they live. Any security is not inseparable to their persevering and preservation by God's Spirit. *'He that endures to the end will be saved'* (Matt.10:22). A true Christian is a *'new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new'* (2Cor.5:17). For this new person to lose salvation would mean that what God has created is reversed.

We have been *'redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ'* (1Pet.1:18-19). The word 'redeemed' means to purchase with a price paid. Does God make a mistake here in this transaction? For a Christian to lose salvation, God Himself would have to revoke His purchase that He paid for with the precious blood of Christ.

We have also been *'justified through faith...not of works...[and] counted for righteousness...we have peace with God'* (Rom.4&5). For a Christian to lose salvation, God would have to go back on His Word and annul his previous decree.

When the Bible speaks of God's 'life' given to a person it is *'eternal life'* (26 times in New Testament). If this life can be lost then how can it be *'eternal'*? It is as God says 'eternal' and nothing can remove such a person from God's hands (Jn.10:28,29)

Our eternal security rests in the work of Christ at Calvary, not in our performance as Christians. We must not confuse Justification with Sanctification. Christ will lose none that the Father has given Him and no one will ever be able to snatch you out of His hand. And that's a promise.

**Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon**



salvation can in any way be lost. *‘For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 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’*. Paul speaks of this glorification as something God has already decreed in the past as finished! Many miss the tenses here which irrefutably show an unbroken chain of salvation. The Greek tense of the verbs and that of the word ‘glorified’ is Aorist Indicative Active - it is a snapshot of something God sees as having already happened (aorist); it has been done once in time and is unrepeatable (indicative mood); and the action is done by God (active voice). Paul speaks of a ‘glorification’ here as something God has *already* decreed in the past as being finished! However, in our time we know that on this earth ‘glorification’ has yet to come to pass. This is a remarkable passage that irrefutably shows a salvation, a decree and a promise that is preserved until the very end of this life *and into eternity!*

Apart from the scriptural proofs for this argument of preservation of God’s elect, historically the great many of the church leaders, revivalists and Reformers have attested strongly to the eternal preservation of the saint. Charles Spurgeon once stated: *‘Numbers of persons think that the Lord Jesus is available for the pardon of passing but they cannot trust him for their preservation of the future. They trust the years past but not the years to come. Whereas no such subdivision of salvation is ever spoken of in Scripture as a work of Christ. Either He bore all our sins or none. And either He saves us once for all or not at all. His death can never be repeated and He must have made expiation for the future sin of believers or they are lost since no further atonement can be supposed and since future sin is certain to be committed. Blessed be His name! By Him all that believe are justified from all things. Salvation by grace is eternal salvation. Sinners must commit themselves to the keeping of Christ for all eternity. How else are they saved men? Alas, according to the teaching of some believers, some believers are only saved in part, and for the rest must depend on their future endeavours. Is this the Gospel? I think not. Genuine faith trusts the whole cross for the whole of salvation. Is it any wonder that many converts fall away when in fact they were never taught to exercise faith in Jesus for eternal salvation but only for a temporary conversion? A faulty exhibition of Christ begets a faulty faith. And when this pines away in its own...who is to blame for it? According to their faith so it is unto them. The preacher and possessor of a partial faith must unitedly bear the blame of the failure...[But] delivered from the fear...and inspired by gratitude to his redeemer the regenerate man becomes capable of virtue and is filled with an enthusiasm for God’s Glory’*. (Spurgeon: *‘The Soul Winner’*).

### **The Terminology?**

The writers of this article believe ‘perseverance of the saints’ or ‘preservation of the saints’ are better terminology than ‘eternal security’ or ‘once saved always

### **The Deception**

In line with Roman Catholic dogma and Arminianism, millions of Christians worldwide suffer under the burden of believing that their salvation is not assured. And they have been taught so from a vast number of pulpits across the Protestant denominations.

This, in spite of overwhelming scriptural statements to the contrary. Throughout the churches a confused and shallow theology has allowed what was once considered heresy to become an accepted position on this subject.

Pentecostalism and Charismatism have been much to blame in this apostasy. They have been the single most damaging catalyst in the setting aside of Reformational doctrine and building the 20th century ecumenical bridge to Rome. Some Baptist fellowships also hold to this error and in so doing they shun the teachings of one of their greatest divines, Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

Many accuse those that hold to the eternal security of the believer of promoting ‘Cheap Grace’ or ‘Easy Believism’. But to label Grace as ‘cheap’ is to say that too little a price was paid. That’s a denial of Grace. Grace comes as a free gift and cannot involve any payment on man’s part...the price paid by God Himself is infinite! Therefore for anyone to think that the works of man can play a part in either earning, or keeping Grace, is to devalue this infinite gift to the level of human effort. Paul declares *‘...if by Grace, then is it no more of works; otherwise Grace is no more Grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more Grace, otherwise work is no more work’* (Rom.11:6). Salvation is not any combination of works and Grace.

We must come to the point of realisation that our works have nothing to do with Justification - that state of being made eternally right with God in the courts of Heaven. Salvation cannot be purchased even in part, because it requires a payment we cannot make. If our Justification and ultimate salvation cannot be bought by good deeds, then it naturally follows that it cannot be lost through bad deeds! The penalty must be satisfied infinitely. Unlike God, we are finite beings.

Some would agree with us that salvation is not earned, but insist it must be ‘kept’ once received. This overlooks the fact that we received the gift when ‘enemies’ of God and yet we were immediately acquitted of the penalty for all our sin - past, present and future (Rom.5:10). If Christians have to pay further for the just penalty now fully satisfied, then we are surely the most miserable and deluded of all people?

### **But What About Hebrews 6?**

The argumentation mainstay has always been Hebrews 6 - misread and taken out of context. The text *‘if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance...’* follows a dissertation regarding sound doctrine or ‘strong meat’. The author is at pains to show that it is *‘impossible’* (vs.4) for a believer to fall

from Grace and be renewed again by another crucifixion.

But doesn't the word '*again*' mean they had already fallen away and repented at least once? No! This passage is actually one of the strongest for showing that a believer cannot be lost! The phrase, '*to renew them again unto repentance*' does not mean that they have fallen away and are being renewed again. The '*again*' refers to being saved after having fallen away. That this could not happen even once, let alone multiple times, is clear from the phrase, '*...impossible for those who were once enlightened...if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance...*' (vs.4-6).

The author doesn't say '*when they shall fall away*' but '*if*'. This '*if*' precedes an 'hypothetical clause' from verses 4-6 with the supposition in verse 6. The nature of the impossibility is tied directly to the phrase in verse 6 '*to renew*'. Why would it be impossible to be saved again if salvation could be lost? Two hypotheses are given: 1) '*they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh*'; and 2) '*put him to an open shame*'. In other words, if the crucifixion of Jesus 1,900 years ago was not enough to keep one saved, and if salvation could be lost, then Christ would have to be crucified again for one to be saved again. This is the hypotheses many miss in this passage! Furthermore, if Christ purchased salvation at a price we could never pay and gave it to us eternally, He would be held up to '*open shame*' for such folly. To expect someone with total inability to bring all this about and then endeavour to hold on to it would be absurd. If Jesus' dying in our place for our sin and rising from the dead is not sufficient to keep us in His hand then He died wasting His time!

This section about '*falling away*' is then proved to be hypothetical - something that could never happen. Look at the way it ends: '*BUT, beloved, we are persuaded BETTER things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak*' (vs.9). In other words, falling away does not accompany salvation!

### **Other Misconceptions**

Some of the Arminian persuasion also attack the perseverance of the saints by confusing it with 'Calvinism'. The late Dave Hunt of the '*Berean Call*' was an example of this. Although he professed to believe in 'eternal security', Dave stated that he once thought of himself as a 'one point Calvinist', in that he held to the doctrine of the perseverance of the Saints as one of the 'points' of 'Calvinism'. But historic 'Calvinism' taught that a believer is secure because of his election to salvation, whereas Dave believed that our perseverance is brought about by our clinging to the promises of God. If, as Dave stated, we have a 'freewill' ability to choose God in salvation by making a 'decision', surely we don't lose that 'freewill' at regeneration? Therefore what is to stop us from falling away from that position? That's not 'eternal security'.

Our eternal security rests in the work of Christ at Calvary, not in our performance as Christians. We must not confuse Justification with Sanctification.

The Doctrine of Campbellism prominent in some denominations (such as the Church of Christ) and Wesleyanism holds to the idea of the 'possibility' of the

believers falling away and losing salvation.

With such Campbellism is another misconception - in connecting baptism with salvation (Baptismal Remission for sins) which also thus implies strongly that the security of the believer is not eternal. At its core it denies the preservation of the saints and that God has Justified and Glorified his people (Rom.8:29,30) and '*sealed*' them '*unto the day of redemption*' (Eph.4:30).

If our sin still holds power to affect our standing in Justification then what amount and what sin would it take for us to be discarded? No scripture is given to inform us of this. Scripture simply states that '*if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*' (1Jn.1:9) - therefore we can be forgiven all sin! Rarely do you hear a Christian say they were 'saved again' - rather, they confessed their sin and were forgiven.

As if anticipating such teachings the Apostle John wrote in His Gospel account to clear any misconceptions: '*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hears my word, and believes on him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life*' (5:24)...*All that the Father gives me shall come to me; and him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out* (6:37)...*And this is the Father's will which has sent me, that of all which he has given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day* (6:39) *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which sees the Son, and believes on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day* (6:40) *No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day* (6:44) *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believes on me has everlasting life* (6:47).

### **More Scriptures**

One of the cardinal tenets of interpretation of scripture is that *scripture interprets scripture*. When there is a point of controversy it is wise to search the scriptures used on both sides of the argument. But on this issue of whether one can lose one's salvation, the scriptures that teach that this is impossible and that salvation is eternal are *clear* and very *numerous*, far outweighing the one or two that people might use against the final preservation of the saints.

There are of course many more scriptures which clearly speak of the preservation of God's saints (Jn.10:28; Phil.1:6; Jude 24). One of the most compelling is Paul's Ephesian statements on the sealing of the saints '*until the redemption of the purchased possession...until the day of redemption*' - speaking of the surety of our glorified body (Eph.1:13,14; 4:30).

The Bible also speaks of an '*inheritance...reserved*': '*To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time*' (1Pet.1:4,5).

In Romans 8:29,30 is a verse that, although not often used to prove the preservation of the saints or eternal security, dispels the falsehood that our