

Conferences (Sydney)

March 21st (Saturday) St. Johns Park Baptist. 9.30am - 4.30pm

Topics: 'The History of the Pentecostal movement'; 'The Baptism With the Spirit'/ 'The Filling'; 'Tongues'; 'Healing & the Gifts'...and more.

May 23,24th (Saturday/Sunday) Sovereign Grace Bible Church, Ryde.
Saturday 9.30am & 11am; Sunday 10am & 1.30pm.

Theme: *What Is God Saying Today?*

Diakrisis TV

This ministry once again is reproducing short 5-10 minute **YouTube clips**. We hope that the Gospel series could be used to give understanding of the Gospel; and now on other topical subjects as they are added.

The site is '*Diakrisis TV*' or the link is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvUb39fwRzpl08OVMr1whjw>

- Gospel series (4):**
1. *What is the Gospel?*
 2. *The Heart of the Gospel*
 3. *Which gospel?*
 4. *Another Gospel*

New Topical:

- 'The Greatest Deception - True and False Believers'*
'Total Depravity' - How Free is unsaved man?'

New Website Articles

The TA Ministries website has recently been updated. There are now several **new articles** in various sections. The website address is: www.taministries.net

Subscription Form

I am interested in receiving the *free* monthly
TA Ministries newsletter '*Diakrisis*' by
hardcopy - by *e-mail* - (tick boxes)

Send this form to:

TA Ministries
PO Box 1499,
Hervey Bay, Qld, 4655, Australia

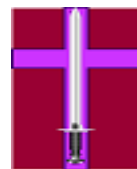
Name-----Address-----

E-mail-----Phone-----

Signed-----Date-----

I enclose \$----- as a donation for costs and postage.

For transfer deposits: National Bank, Hervey Bay, BSB 084 705 Account No. 02737 1856



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)

PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, Qld. Australia, 4655.

E-mail: taministries@bigpond.com Ph. 0411489472

Website: www.taministries.net

Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol.4, No.13 January / February 2020

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.

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.

Contents

- P.2,3** Sub Editor's Comment
P.4 Millions Flocking For
'Personal Encounter' With
God
P.5 Benny Hinn's Hypocrisy
P.6 Questions Muslims Ask
P.7,8 Women Preachers - The
Recent Controversy
P.9,10 The Martydom of
Maria de Bohorques
P.11-18 Comments/Questions
P.19 Terry's Itinerary
P.20 Diakrisis TV; Website

Preaching Itinerary for Interstate

The March-May 2020 itinerary is now near full (see P.19).

Conferences

Please note the two conferences in Sydney

March (Sat/Sun) 21/22 Conference St. Johns
Park Baptist

[*Charismatic Issues* - see P.19]

May (Sat/Sun) 23,24 Conference Sovereign
Grace Bible Church, Ryde

[Theme: *What is God saying today?*]

The Years that Were....and Beyond...

Some 24 years ago the very first *Diakrisis* newsletter slid from the printer and was snail-mailed to a small number of subscribers. It was a time of theological craziness featuring the likes of 'Holy Bartender' Rodney Howard Browne, the 'Toronto Blessing' and its 'laughing revival', Kenneth Hagin, the Copeland's, Benny Hinn, the Pensacola Revival, and the beginnings of the global Hillsong empire.

Thousands joined the movement and were to be witnessed writhing around the floor in hysterics, often in a state of undress. Wild prophecies were being uttered telling of enormous revivals just ahead. Being 'drunk in the Spirit' was the thing to be seen doing. Scripture was wrenched from its moorings and used to convince the hearers that God Himself was speaking.

The false 'Kansas City' prophets announced that the church was to become politically triumphant and fight imaginary end-time battles. To win them and have the world ready to welcome the post-millennial returning Christ. Prayer towers were built in cities deemed to be more evil than others. Whole nations were promised revival and if they turned to God they would be 'healed'. Scripture such as 2 Chronicles 7:14, written to the nation of Israel, were broadly applied to the current day.

Pages could be filled with the details of the heresies swirling around the churches world-wide. Many of our younger and later subscribers may not remember these aberrations?

As time passed many of these false teachers and prophets passed from the scene, and yet the heresies continued to grow as the health and wealth 'gospel' took hold of a new generation who had been attracted to the church through the music, and the promise that they would be greatly rewarded by generous tithing.

Then, and more so today, the leaders of this movement became multi-millionaires trotting around the globe in their private jets and filling enormous stadiums with people eager to receive the treasures promised to them by these greedy charlatans.

We wrote against this tide of error in an effort to demonstrate its un-Biblical origins. A sea-change in doctrinal teaching was upon us and something had to be said.

It was difficult to find a Christian who wasn't buying into the hysteria and as a consequence we were labelled as divisive and accused by some of 'quenching the Spirit'. It was often a disheartening time and yet we were convinced that worse was to come and that many would begin to realise that what was being taught as truth was in fact a lie of immense proportions.

Overtime our thinking was vindicated and our readership grew rapidly, as did the apostasy within the Church. Over the ensuing years we published our, hopefully Biblical, view on many subjects; Pentecostal origins, the gifts of the Spirit, decisional regeneration...to name but a few.

It became quite obvious where all this declension was heading...Rome.

Terry's 2020 March-May Itinerary (updated next edition)

NSW & Sydney

March 8th (Sunday) 9.30am Grace Bible Church Brunswick Heads RSL Hall 24 Fawcett St (02)66856056 0402393373

March 15th (Sunday) 10am Katoomba Baptist Ph.0407866671

March 15th (Sunday) 5pm Central Mountains Baptist Church, Hazelbrook Ph.(02)4758778

March 21/22 CONFERENCE (see P.20) Saturday 9.30am - 4.30pm; Sunday services 10.30am & 6pm St.Johns Park Baptist 178 Humphries Rd, Ph.0417179610

March 29th (Sunday) 11am & 5.30pm Eden Aboriginal Fellowship, Cnr Moorehead & Clare St. Ph.0401340393

Tasmania

April 5th (Sunday) 10am Epiphany Ministries, Huonville (Salvation Army Hall) Ph.0417382702. Sunday 1pm Q&A

April 10th (Easter weekend) to be advised (details next edition)

Melbourne & Victoria

April 19th (Sunday) Open Doors Baptist, Melton 10am Adult Sunday school; 11am service; 6pm service Ph.0432862979

April 26th (Sunday) 10.30am Heritage Baptist, Ballarat Ph.0403161522

April 26th (Sunday) 7pm Numurkah Gospel Fellowship Ph.0407040820

April 29th (Wednesday) Numurkah Gospel Fellowship 7.30pm Bible study

May 3rd (Sunday) 10am Kangaroo Flats Baptist (Bendigo) (03)54410836

May 3rd (Sunday) pm Albury/Wodonga Ph.0414680096 (details next edition)

NSW & Sydney

May 10th (Sunday) 10am Cootamundra Presbyterian, Cnr Parker & Francis St. Ph.0421333743

May 10th (Sunday) pm Free

May 17th (Sunday) 9.30am Evangel Church, cnr Neville & Clarke St, Bass Hill Ph.0412670995

May 23,24th (Saturday **CONFERENCE** - 9.30am & 11am (see P.20) Sovereign Grace Bible Church, Ryde. Sunday services 10am & 1.30pm Ph.0298071493

May 30th (Saturday) 5pm Sovereign Church, Lake Innes Community Centre, The Ruins Way, Port Macquarie Ph.0421353803

Conferences - see next page

Puritans like Jonathan Edwards, William Carey (the Father of Protestant missions), George Whitefield, David Brainerd,...George Mueller, Francis Schaeffer, Machen, B.B. Warfield, John Piper...All Calvinistic heretics??...along with most of the founders of the Protestant Reformation...

The book is a corrupt work, filled with educated ignorance...published by Lighthouse Trails Research...Do not spend your time on a straw man...The publishers of this book also publish John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress'...Oh my! - the publisher produces a book railing against Calvinism and yet the #1 book read of all time (after the Bible) was written by a confirmed Calvinist!

...Read this from the Synod of Dort which addressed the false accusations of Calvinism: 'Moreover, the Synod earnestly warns the false accusers themselves to consider how heavy a judgment of God awaits those who give false testimony against so many churches and their confessions, trouble the consciences of the weak, and seek to prejudice the minds of many against the fellowship of true believers'. [End of review quote]

[Editor] Our book 'Calvinism & Arminianism - Out of the Maze' sets the record straight on what historic 'Calvinists' and the major Confessions of faith really believed and taught and what was *not* taught. The historic 'Calvinists' did believe in a 'free agency' and that the Gospel is for all. They did not believe 'God is the author of evil'. Here are some more very common lies on this subject: 'Calvin had five points'; 'Arminianism did not have 5 points'; 'Calvinism' had 5 points of 'TULIP'; 'TULIP' was invented at the Synod of Dort (1618) as 'five points'; Historic 'Calvinism' teaches a predestination to Hell'; 'Calvinism teaches the Gospel is only for the elect'; 'God is the author of evil'...all untruths.

Although we do not identify ourselves as 'Calvinists' as it is wrongly portrayed today, this is the one subjected to the worst misrepresentation and lies. Authors and Christians who misrepresent this issue and confuse 'Calvinism' with 'hyper-Calvinism' will be judged as a false witness and a testimony against many saints now and of old.

Thankyou Terry for the 'Diakrisis' newsletter in hardcopy - much appreciated - I am appreciating all that you have in the newsletter and especially the Revelation series - our church had a Bible study on it and I am looking forward to what you will write further as I had differing views to what my church taught.

*Thankyou so much for your faithful service in serving our Lord Jesus Christ.
(B.W., Qld)*

Editor's Reply:

We hope to return to the Revelation series in the later issues in 2020.

*Terry, I watched some of your Diakrisis TV yesterday – EXCELLENT!
(M.C. Sth Aust.)*

The Vatican entered the charismatic movement with gusto, endorsing the speaking in *unknown* tongues, false prophecies and repetitive, mindless contemporary worship music. Charismatic/Pentecostal luminaries fell over each other rushing to meet popes Benedict and then Francis, and Protestant mainline denominations surrendered to papal supremacy in droves.

We spoke of the Major and Minor prophets and what they foretold regarding the nations and Israel. This was done because so many Christians held to a view of scripture which required reducing much of the Bible to allegory and symbolism. And yet it was so obvious that we were entering the time when the church age would come to a close. All the signs that Christ spoke of concerning His return were falling into place like nine-pins. All those years ago it took a long time to compile details of geopolitical events that were occurring just as scripture said they would. Yet, as time passed it became starkly obvious that these epochs were changing with greater frequency - in the manner of human birth pangs. It was quite suddenly no longer possible to report on all that was happening globally of Biblical significance in each newsletter. It was, and is, overwhelming.

As we bid 2019 farewell and enter 2020 it is easy to see that it will be a year unlike any in previous human history. For the first time we now have in place all the nations mentioned in the prophets arraigned against tiny restored Israel, raging for her annihilation. The battles and times of great tribulation are now in plain view; Psalms, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Obadiah, Zephaniah, and Zechariah are now able to commence without further delay. The nations are in uproar. Financial collapse and a global currency reset is inevitable. Humans are already willingly being micro-chipped so that they can survive without hard cash.

Satanism is the flavour of the day, a world religion of 'Climate Change' endorsed by Rome is in the making, a clamour for strong political leadership is growing and global governance is seen as the solution to political woes.

Just how much more evidence is required before we believe that our Lord is at the very door? There is only one thing, and one thing alone, that is holding all the events of John's revelation in abeyance – the church and the indwelling Spirit. 'And now you know what withholds [restrains] that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity does already work: only he who now withholds [restrains] will do so, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked One be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the breath [spirit] of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming (2Thessalonians 2:6-8).

Could 2020 be the year He is taken out of the way?

As the nations hurtle into 2020 we would wish our loyal subscribers a greatly blessed year and express an enormous thank you for all your encouragement in 2019. We look forward to being able to serve you in the coming year

Mike Claydon

Millions Flocking For 'Personal Encounter' With God



Dr. George O. Wood, chief executive officer of the Assemblies of God Church and global co-chair of the Empowered21 Spirit-empowered movement and co-chair William Wilson, president of Oral Roberts University, lead a prayer session on the Empowered21 Global Congress in Jerusalem, Israel...the Empowered21 Global Congress convenes in Jerusalem, Israel, in spring 2020...One of the main items on the agenda will be how to get every person on the planet to have an authentic experience with the Holy Spirit.

'...The global Spirit-filled movement working to connect the generations for blessing, impartation and a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the 21st century...[There is] a hunger among people around the world for a personal encounter with God.

Spirit-empowered Christians...Pentecostals/Charismatics...emphasize the direct experience of the presence of God by the believer...This fills the believer with the Holy Spirit in an encounter revealed through speaking in tongues and other spiritual manifestations.

'Young people...want an authentic encounter with a real God...in a powerful, real tangible way', Wilson said 'there was need for new language, new strategies, new ideas...so Empowered21...is listening to the voices of young people, the next generation...'Tracing its roots to the Azusa Street revival in 1910...'Our goal is to bring together a broad cross-section of the Spirit-empowered movement, everyone from charismatic Catholics to traditional Pentecostals...'

(Leonardo Blair, Christian Post; Nov.17, 2019)

Editor's comment:

The terms *'impartation'*, *'fresh outpouring'* are typical of the new language introduced by Charismatic/Pentecostal doctrines from 120 years ago. The so called *'hunger for a personal encounter'* has come at a cost - the true Gospel. The Charismatic/Pentecostal gospel today is mixed with a healing, signs and wonders and a prosperity message. Placing so much emphasis on the Spirit instead of Jesus Christ crucified for our sins also grieves the Spirit.

The quest for a *'direct experience'* with *'manifestations'* has led to *'another spirit'*, *'another gospel'*. The only way to experience the real Holy Spirit is not through new teachings but through the old grid of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and believing in Him and turning from sin in repentance. Any other *'new language'* and *'new strategies'* is a false way. This *'encounter'* experience is one of the great counterfeits introduced into the church. At its essence is mysticism. The roots of this is found in a movement (including *'Azusa St'*) which was wracked with false prophets, shocking immoral extremes and fleshly manifestations. For the shocking history of this movement and *'Azusa St.'* see our website under *'Articles'* and *'Pentecostal/Charismatism'* - http://taministries.net/?page_id=131

Your Comments and Questions

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

Book Review

Dear Mr. Arnold, I have been given a book 'None Dare Call It Heresy' by Bob Kirkland ('Spotlight on the life and teachings of John Calvin'). I think it more portrays hyper-Calvinism than true historic 'Calvinism'. So please send me your book 'Calvinism & Arminianism - Out of the Maze'...so I can at least know what real 'Calvinism' is. There seems to be a lot of confusion...

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Editor's reply:

I have not read the book. But the blurb itself on the cover is the usual misrepresentation of true historic 'Calvinism' (which term is a misnomer for what was rightly called the 'Doctrines of Grace' and nothing like the description of 'Calvinism' today). You are correct in assuming the confusion between 'hyper-Calvinism' and 'Calvinism'. Almost all the common refutations of 'Calvinism' today are flawed in this respect. This book says it is a 'gospel in itself' and 'another gospel' and that 'John Calvin taught that God will be glorified by bringing billions of people into this world for no other purpose than having them burn in Hell for eternity. This...makes the sacrifice of Christ no longer freely available to whosoever may come. Salvation is no longer a matter of choice. Furthermore, the Calvinist can never actually know if he or she is one of the elect thereby placing the Calvinist Gospel on a foundation of doubt rather than true biblical belief in the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ at Calvary. If that is not heresy, then what is?'

This above is unscholarly nonsense and lies! Calvin did not teach such a 'purpose' of God, and historic 'Calvinism' and the major Confessions (eg Westminster) did not teach a positive or double predestination as such, but rather all are justly condemned already for their sin.

One of the 'reviews' for this book states the truth about this book: 'This book is a clear misrepresentation of classic Calvinism - it is dishonest...The author...doesn't even understand what Calvinism is or what a Reformed person believes. He builds a straw (fake) man and then tears it down...The book mostly contains cheap shots and very false arguments...His research is very flawed...He defines Calvinism in such a way that it does not represent most of the Reformed people I know...He accuses Calvinists of changing the meaning of words in the Bible and then HE HIMSELF changes the meaning of words in the process (look up the Greek meaning of the word 'foreknowledge' - he doesn't even believe the word for what it means - he puts an Arminian spin on it)...That makes me shudder - the damage he has done...

...By the way, here are the Calvinists he personally condemns as heretics (while somehow keeping them in the kingdom of God): Dr. RC Sproul, Charles Spurgeon, Charles Hodge, Dr. John MacArthur, Dr. John Murray...the

But Piper goes further with ‘prophecy’ and speaks about giving a word to someone as a ‘sense’. Yet one is infallible, the other is fallible. One is ‘speaking forth the word of God’ literally; the other is *our own* ‘sense’ and thoughts. He says one can go to another person and say ‘*I have a sense that...*’ But again *this is actually not ‘prophecy’ as the word has meaning.*

As stated before, on top of this he confuses *miracles* with *tongues* and *prophecy*. A lot of his examples (experiences) are actually claimed *miracles* rather than the *gift as it was used in Scripture and the first century.*

Again, I see this halfway approach with tongues and prophecy as confusing and extra biblical. Put simply the gift of ‘tongues’ and ‘prophesying’ seen today is not that of the scriptures or the first century. Any adaption, modifying of the authentic gift is a counterfeit and will lead people into extra biblical practises. The judgement for altering His gifts and His word is too serious to be ‘half way’ or to be found ‘sitting on the fence’?

As much as I have once appreciated John Piper’s teaching and passionate preaching, I have for some years been disappointed at his fence sitting with those who are false teachers (for example, Rick Warren). On Charismatic issues I would also prefer he get ‘off the fence’ and be on one side or the other. His teaching in both these clips is such, but also somewhat confusing.

John Piper is well known for his sympathy to Charismatic views. I stopped reading his books when he lauded and agreed with Rick Warren who has done much damage to the church with his new teachings, ecumenism, Christo-Islamic syncretism, etc. I know churches in Australia with testimonies that have split through Warren’s teachings and programmes. Piper appears to encourage the likes of Rick Warren.

Dear Terry, we have read the Nov/Dec ‘Diakrisis’ and as usual greatly encouraged, especially the article on ‘Social Justice and the Gospel’...

(J&K.A. Sth.Aust)

Hi Terry Re: ‘The editor - a ‘Son of Belial’? (Diakrisis Nov/Dec, P.16). It’s OK Terry - I think the fellow was referring to himself as he said ‘one of us is a son of Belial’! Just the old Devil trying to discourage you...when that happens you must be a concern to him. Praise the Lord God that you are on His side. Yours joyfully in Christ.

(C.T., Vict)

God’s blessing and love to you all. Thank you Terry for your service to us in the Lord and the truths of his Word to us in the Gospel of Christ. God bless you for teaching and equipping us, when we are surrounded by all sorts of false teaching. Again thankyou. In God’s love in Christ to us all.

(J.M., WA)

Benny Hinn’s 2019 Hypocrisy



Late in 2019 Benny Hinn claimed to have forsaken the prosperity gospel. Should we trust him?

In this newsletter we have many times in the past reported on Benny Hinn’s deceptions. His false prophecies are numerous and ongoing, of which we documented many in earlier ‘*Diakrisis*’ newsletters (Nov/97; May/June 2000; Oct/Nov 2000; March/April 2001; May/June/2002). Our

website articles ‘*Benny Hinn - A Closer Look*’ and ‘*Benny Hinn - Lest We Forget*’ also have many earlier false prophecies and healings.

We have warned of his false teaching on such things as ‘the anointing’ and the Trinity (he once claimed ‘*nine of them*’ in the Trinity); his outright lies as exposed by the media and documented in books like ‘*The Confusing World of Benny Hinn*’; and his false claims of healings - his top 5 ‘healings’ being all exposed as fraudulent or non miraculous. He failed to even heal his wife when she suffered an accident and went to hospital in 1983. Hinn has lied and been exposed for lying by both the secular media and christian organisations. He has even brazenly lied about healing Down Syndrome people (*Diakrisis* Jan/Feb 2019). People have also died through believing this man has healed them (*Diakrisis* March/April 2013). The videos ‘*Signs and Wonders-Exposed*’ Parts 1 and 3 expose many of these deceptions and some deaths as a result (see Part 3).

Benny Hinn was sued by a book publisher for \$250,000 for violating a morality clause when he had an admitted ‘inappropriate relationship’ with Paula White (‘*Diakrisis*’ May/June 2011).

Recently Hinn amazingly claimed to have forsaken the prosperity gospel he has been preaching for years, citing the Holy Spirit told him he ‘is fed up with it’. Hinn added that ‘the gospel is not for sale’. The ‘Charisma’ magazine stated Hinn was ‘brave’ for admitting this and that he should be ‘applauded’. But can we really believe him after so many documented lies?

Just weeks after, Hinn was asking for more money as usual. Benny is a charlatan who is deceiving thousands of professing christians. For an inside look at this man and his ministry as well as others of the same ilk we suggest the books ‘*Defining Deception*’ and ‘*God, Greed and the Prosperity Gospel*’ by Costi Hinn (a cousin of Benny Hinn who formerly travelled with Benny in his crusades and saw the deceptions firsthand).

The books of 2Peter and Jude accurately detail the character and lifestyles of these false teachers. ‘*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingers not, and their damnation slumbers not*’ (2 Peter 2:1-3).

Terry Arnold

Three Questions Muslims Ask

Christian apologist Andy Bannister says there are three questions he commonly receives from Muslims in the U.K. Bannister...who holds a Ph.D. in Islamic studies, gave a speech at a Ravi Zacharias International Ministries event in London...

The first question he addressed was 'Hasn't the Bible been corrupted and changed?' ... "The reason they raise this question...is because when Muhammad, the founder of Islam, was preaching between 610 and 632 AD...he claimed...his new Quran was identical to the Bible...After Muhammad's death...Muslim scholars came into contact with the Bible for the first time...And when they read the Bible, they discovered a massive problem: the Bible and the Quran contradicted each other...They began to argue that the Bible had been changed and altered, hence the differences'. Bannister counters that the Bible had not been corrupted, pointing to the many consistencies found between the various surviving manuscripts and fragments of the books... 'We have thousands and thousands...of ancient manuscripts or fragments...many predating Islam'.

The next question... 'Isn't Muhammad mentioned in the Bible?' noting that some Muslim groups...argue that certain verses in the Bible predict the coming of Muhammad...among them John 14:16... '...the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever'. Bannister rebutted the claim, pointing out that...the verses before and after speak of the Counselor being a Spirit and living inside His disciples.

Finally, Bannister responded to the question of 'Why do Christians worship Jesus?', noting many verses in the New Testament call for worshiping Jesus. 'Either Jesus was the most useless religious teacher in the whole of history - He didn't want people to worship Him and He failed to communicate that...or else, Jesus did claim to be God and did so in ways His followers perfectly understood...

In England, Scotland, Wales, the Muslim population is around 3,372,966 according to the annual population survey compiled 2017-2018. In 2015 the Islamic population of England and Wales grew faster than the general population over a 10-year period, from 1.55 million in 2001 to 2.71 million in 2011.

(Michael Gryboski, *Christian Post* 25/Sept/2019)

The Wonders of the Gospel

'That God had a Son as old as himself...and equal to himself...that this man Jesus Christ should be in Heaven when he was on earth...that this God that made the law should be subject to the law...that God who is nothing but spirit should have blood to redeem men by...that he, that is God blessed forever, should be made a curse...that God should never be more angry with his Son than when He was more pleased with him...'

(Thomas Goodwin, 'Discourse of the Glory of the Gospel')

Your Comments and Questions

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

John Piper on 'Tongues' and 'Prophecy'

Terry, what do you think of the John Piper clips...on 'Tongues' and 'Prophecy'?
(M.C. E-mail)

Editor's Reply:

The 'Tongues' clip: 'What is Speaking in Tongues'.

1. There are many 'stories' of real gifts of tongues (languages). These are so often 'stories' only. Piper alludes to these but he and others do not actually have a documented use of real 'tongues'. For years I tracked down many of these stories and found them all to be either gross exaggerations, handed down reports that could not be traced or 'stories' from Charismatic sources. The closest I came to a real one was from the Wesley Methodist church of Australia quoting something that happened overseas. But when I asked for more evidence they stated they 'borrowed' it from elsewhere! In short I have yet to find one single 'story' that is documented. Where is the real gift today?

We must also distinguish between the 'gift' which was ongoing at that time and a possible one off occurrence which would rather be a *miracle*, rather than the *gift*.

2. Piper seems to waver on the 'ecstatic' tongues and possibly endorses a form of it? The real tongues were *real languages*. The Greek proves this when 'Tongues' is translated from '*dialektos*' (dialects) - real known foreign languages (Acts 2:6,8).

The rest of what he says about tongues is biblical as far as I can hear at one viewing. I just wish he would be more definitive in what this 'tongues' really was? His view appears to be halfway between Charismatic/Pentecostal understanding and an historic biblical view?

The Prophecy clip: 'What is Prophecy in the New Covenant?'

1. Again, Piper is somewhat vague as to what real 'prophecy' is today? He says it is 'down a notch' from the OT. What exactly does that mean?

2. He says today a form of the gift can be used to *edify someone else*. But then his example of that is actually more a 'word of wisdom' as it is in scripture, which is actually a separate gift!

3. He seems to say preaching is a form of prophesying, which it is, but then *adds* that his own thoughts can come into it and be used to convict? But it is *only* the Holy Spirit and the Word that convicts people, not one's 'promptings'. What Piper is speaking of here is thoughts as a preacher puts forth the words of God in 'application'. Piper arguably has confused application with the word of God in conviction? The line seems blurred?

Women Preachers - The Recent Controversy

Jesus (vs.14 - healing Peter's Mother in Law) and *proof* of his Messiahship. He *'...healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses'* (vs.16,17). This scripture in Matthew was written *before the cross and any atonement*. Jesus did take away 'infirmities' and 'sicknesses' in *proving he was their Messiah, fulfilling Isaiah's prophecies*. He did not at this time become a sin bearer in any atonement at the cross.

Sin in the body has not been eradicated. The body cannot be fully 'healed' until the resurrection. Any healing of the body now is temporary. Any healing of the body in the atonement is future (Rom.8:23).

All the offerings in the Old Testament atonement were *for sins*, never for any healing of the body. The New Testament consistently has Christ as a sin bearer in His atonement (Matt.20:28; Jn.1:29; Rom.4:25; 5:6-8; 8:3; 1Cor.15:3; 2Cor.5:21; Gal.1:4; 3:13; 4:4,5; Heb.9:28; 1Pet.3:18; 1Jn.2:2...).

A key verse is 1Peter 2:24,25 *'Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes you were healed. For you were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls'*. This is specifically about the *healing of sin and is a direct quote from Is.53:5,6*. Even Charismatic theologians admit this (eg. Wayne Grudem).

Search the scriptures and Jewish Rabbinical writings and one will find **NIL** sacrifices for bodily healing in the atonement. *The atonement was for sin* (Lev.16:3). The teaching of healing of the body in the atonement is **NEW** teaching of the 19th C. and accentuated in the 20th C. Charismatic movement.

Psalm 103:2-5 - Similar to Ex.15:26 and probably relating to the Jews?

Oral Roberts: This signs and wonders leader was well exposed for a trail of deceit, lies, false prophecies and false claims of healing.

Paula White

What is your comment on Paula White who has (apparently) had a great deal to do with the effect of prayer in (or on) the life of President Trump.

(A.O., NSW)

Sub-editor's reply:

'Reverend' Paula White is a Word of Faith/Prosperity heretic, an adulterer, three times married, (once to Kansas City false 'prophet' Jonathon Cain) and who also had a short 'relationship' with Benny Hinn (as admitted by him). Paula is wealthy (yet bankrupt in 2014), attractive in the Hollywood mould and exposed by many as a charlatan. Her doctrine is a mixture of prosperity, Word of Faith teaching and with all the usual extra biblical visions and dreams, etc. It does not get much worse.



Today there are many prominent women who are public speakers, teachers and pastors, who have large numbers of followers. In October 2019 pastor John MacArthur was asked a question on stage concerning the popular Beth Moore and asked to give a quick answer. He bluntly replied she should *'go home'* and then followed it with *'There is no case that can be made biblically for a woman preacher. Period. Paragraph. End of discussion.'*

Many took issue with what they saw as a 'mocking tone'. Beth Moore received an outpouring of support from leaders in the evangelical Christian community. J.D. Greear, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, tweeted that Beth Moore was *'welcome in our home any time'*. Kay Warren, wife of megachurch pastor Rick Warren, called Moore a *'class act'* and a *'faithful witness of how to be clay in the Potter's hands; a flesh and bone disciple willing to be made something or nothing'*. Bestselling author Max Lucado said he was *'grieved'* over MacArthur's *'derisive'* comments, adding: *'Are we, white, male, aged leaders of the church, listening? Are we heeding the message of our sisters in Christ?'*

Beth Moore noted: *'I did not surrender to a calling of man...I surrendered to a calling of God. It never occurs to me for a second to not fulfill it. I will follow Jesus - and Jesus alone - all the way home. And I will see His beautiful face and proclaim, worthy is the Lamb!...'* and further: *'...You don't have to let me serve you. That gets to be your choice. Whether or not I serve Jesus is not up to you...'*

In a more recent explanation MacArthur stated: *'I do not like to give short answers. I don't like to get put in a position to do that, because I feel like that just escalates confusion, so I want to take the opportunity to address the issue of women preachers...to give you a more thorough answer from the Word of God on this very, very important subject'*. MacArthur then warned that *'empowering women makes weak men'* and *'weak men make everybody vulnerable to danger'*. He stated that Scripture exhibits *'no lack of clarity'* regarding the role of women within the church. *And that 'Women pastors and women preachers are the most obvious evidence of churches rebelling against the Bible...Women who pastor and women who preach in the church are a disgrace and openly reflect opposition to the clear command of the Word of God. This is flagrant disobedience...When the roles [referring to headship and Adam, Eve] are reversed, the women are deceived...the men are made weak, worse things happen. The whole human race went down with Adam. You tamper with this order, chaos is unending...authority and submission were established in the fall...'*

Editor's response:

Regardless of the manner in which MacArthur originally answered a question, (to which some may see as lacking empathy), what is the *truth* here about this controversy? Why did not the leaders refer people to the Bible for the truth of what God says about the issue?

Continued next page >

Does the Bible support women publicly teaching men in roles of authority? The answer is as MacArthur stated *'there is no case'* for this.

Beth Moore is not a *'class act...a faithful witness'*, she is in fact in *'flagrant disobedience'* to scripture! And Max Lucado's comment is sadly *'conforming to this world'* (Rom.12:2) with all his *'white male'* gender rhetoric. Why are these leaders not addressing the real issue?

Moore's response also cleverly created a strawman with *'I did not surrender to a calling of a man...I surrendered to a calling of God...I will follow Jesus...'* But the calling of God for her *position and practise* is NOT in God's plans and she is not *'following Jesus'* in this. The role of men and women are clear in scripture for elders/pastors and for positions of authority. We break God's order and His commands at our own peril!

There was no real division over this issue until the late 19th C. when the holiness movement and then the new Charismatic/Pentecostal movement introduced women preachers. Major denominations did not accept women pastors or preachers until at least the mid 20th C. and not until the 60's and 70's did it become so divisive. *The church is simply following close on the heels of the culture of the world* in this aspect against God's word.

I Timothy 3 is clear that elders/pastors as well as deacons are to be male - *'the husband of one wife'*, (not *'the wife of one husband'*)! No amount of semantic gymnastics, strawman arguments or arguments from silence can change Paul's words.

Paul in 1Timothy 2 *'forbids'* women to *'teach'* in public and to *'usurp authority over a man'*. In verse 12 Paul uses the word *'suffer'* (*'epitropo'*) as an exercise of his apostolic authority. It does not mean anything that can change with the culture. The proof of this is in the verses following (vs.13,14) where the *headship of Genesis* is referred to - and this from Genesis is universal! The rule of *'I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man'* is because of two reasons given in the following verses: (A) vs.13: The original creation - *'Adam was first formed, then Eve'*, and (B) vs.14: The original order of sin (Adam was not deceived by Satan as was the woman. The women took the lead in sin).

The New Testament teaches Christ as the head, then man, then woman: *'But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God'* (1Cor.11:3). The order has not been changed from Genesis and is played out in many scriptures (Col.3:18-19; Eph.5:23). God said this creation with its *order* was *'very good'*!

The scriptures are plentiful with women ministering to men in serving, (Matt.8:15; Mk.15:41; Lk.8:3; Phil.4:2,3) but these women did not have any teaching authority. Women are never found to be holding ordained offices either in scripture or in the early church.

What is really at stake in this whole debate is the *authority of the Bible* which many of these church leaders have ignored!

Terry Arnold

Your Comments and Questions

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

Scriptures on 'Healing'

[This was part of a discussion on signs and wonders; healing in the atonement] *Hi Terry, the verses below speak for the healing nature of God (Jehovah Rapha): Exodus 15:26; Isaiah 53:4 (quoted in Matt.8:17 'infirmities', sicknesses)...And what of healing in the atonement?...Psalm 103:2-5. Also, I didn't realise that the quote I had learned concerning 'healing is the bread of the children' isn't actually Scripture but rather an Oral Roberts' interpretation!...*

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Editor's Reply (Excerpts only):

Ex.15:26 - *'...I will put none of these diseases upon you, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that heals you'* - This refers to Israel and the plagues that God had just previously put upon the Egyptians for their lack of repentance in not letting the Israelites go free (see Deut.28:27,60 - *'the boils of Egypt...tumours...the scab...itch, from which you cannot be healed...60...he will bring upon you all the diseases of Egypt...'*)

Signs and wonders (including healings) were in *clusters* throughout history. The period in Exodus saw many signs and wonders with some healings. These were to attest and *prove* the credentials of prophets like Moses who were given these signs to *prove* who they were from God. However, there were periods (eg. 400 years between the OT and NT) when God was silent and there is no history or references to any signs and wonders.

When Christ appears there is another cluster of signs and wonders and with healings - but *what was the purpose?* - *To prove the Messiahship of Christ* (Jn.20:30,31; Lk.7:21,22; Acts 2:22). Especially read Lk.7:21,22 - these signs were straight from Isaiah and *PROOF* to John that this was *the Messiah!* Our Lord also quoted from Isaiah 61:1,2 and 35:4-6 which angered and shocked the Jews because the clear sign and *proof* was given to them that this was their Messiah. Today people claiming to do these same signs are imposters and false *'anointed ones'* (Matt.24:24 - *'pseudochristos'* - false anointed ones).

The Jews *'required signs'* (1Cor.1:22). After they rejected the Messiah, the signs and wonders waned. By the end of Acts they were all but ceased (Paul's physical *'infirmit'* not healed (2Cor.12:9); Epaphroditus *'sick nigh unto death'* (Phil.2:27); Trophimus was *'left at Miletum sick'* (2Tim.4:20); Timothy took medicine for sickness (1Tim.5:23). By the 2nd Century they ceased as unanimously attested to by the church fathers.

However, it is the gifts that ceased, not necessarily any sovereign miracle or healing by God. *These two aspects of 'healing' must be distinguished.*

Isaiah 53:4 - *'Surely he has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows...'* When this is quoted in Matthew 8:17 it is referring to the healing ministry of

15:40; 18:25; 19:20; Rom.10:13; 11:34; 1Cor.10:21; 10:26; 11:32; 16:10; 2Cor.3:17 (twice) 3:18 (twice); 8:21; Eph.5:17; 6:4; 6:8; Col.1:10; 3:24; 1Thess.1:8; 4:15; 5:2; 2Thess.2:2; 2:13; 3:1; Heb.12:5; James 1:7; 4:10; 5:4; 5:10; 5:11 (twice); 5:14; 1Pet.1:25; 3:12; 2Pet.3:10)

The Greek word 'Kurion' for 'Lord' is mistranslated as 'Jehovah'

(Matt.4:7; 4:10; 22:37; Lk.1:16; 1:46; 4:8; 4:12; 10:27; 30:37; Acts 2:25; 8:24; 15:17; Rom.15:11; 1Cor.10:9; 10:22; 2Cor.3:16; Col.3:23; Heb.8:11; James 3:9)

The Greek word 'Kurio' for 'Lord' is mistranslated as 'Jehovah'

(Matt.5:33; Lk.1:17; 2:22; 2:23; Acts 13:2; 14:3; 14:23; 16:15; Rom.12:11; 14:4; 1Cor.2:16; 2Cor.10:17; Eph.2:21; 5:19; 6:7; Col.3:22; Heb.8:11; James 3:9)

The Greek word 'Theos' for 'God' is mistranslated as 'Jehovah'

(Heb.2:13; Rev.4:8)

The Greek word 'Theou' for 'of God' or 'of God's' is mistranslated as 'Jehovah's'

(Matt.4:4; Jn.6:45; Acts 13:44; 13:48; 16:32; 18:21; James 2:23; 2Pet.3:12)

The Greek word 'Theon' for 'God' is mistranslated as 'Jehovah'

(Acts 16:14)

The Greek word 'Theo' for 'God' is mistranslated as 'Jehovah'

(Rom.4:3; Gal.3:6; Col.3:16; James 2:23)

The Jehovah Witness Bible ('New World Translation') is a shockingly deceptive mistranslation and as proven by their own interlinear ('Kingdom interlinear').

'Retirement'?

Hi Terry, I think the Bible does not support 'retirement'. At the second coming of Christ, He will expect to find His disciples working (not 'retired')? Two New Testament quotes tend to support this thinking of mine: Matthew 24:45-47; Luke 12:42-44. What do you think?

(J.C., Brisbane)

Editor's Reply:

Although I have learned the hard way that 'sabbaticals' or periods of rest are needed in full time ministry, but what is 'retirement' exactly? Do we retire from being a Christian and what we can say and do for Jesus? Can we ever retire from the use of the gifts which have been given to us by His Grace and for His church? Can we ever retire from testifying and preaching and teaching the Gospel and truth? Can I ever retire from teaching scripture?

At the coming of Christ for his saints surely He will require us to be working, serving...and the scriptures you have given would attest to that.

The Martyrdom of Maria de Bohorques

(Warning: This article may contain some graphic details)



THE REFORMATION

Maria was a 21 year old victim of the Roman Catholic Spanish 'Inquisition'. This was a Roman Catholic reaction to the spreading of the Protestant faith with Bibles, the Reformers writings and tracts, which were banned in many parts where Catholicism held sway. One of the towns where the Gospel was spread was Seville, a town in Spain of lively trade and rich in churches and buildings.

In Seville was a court of the 'Inquisition' - a tribunal set up to examine those who renounced the religion of the land. The prison attached had underground dark and damp cells. Many died in these cells before any trial or execution.

The 'inquisitors' were a class of monks who searched for any who would not submit to Popery where it reigned. Many Christians were tried and burned alive as a result. The assistants to the Inquisitors were called 'Familiars' - those attached to the order or 'family' of the monks. These Familiars wore dark hoods over their heads and interrogated the prisoners to get more information about their family members. If any were found to have a Protestant book or to have aided someone in a cell they too would be seized.

Maria de Bohorques was the daughter of a nobleman and from a distinguished family. She had some years before been drawn by God to commit herself to Christ and had set her affections on heavenly things. Her tutor, who also had come to know Christ personally, was doctor Juan Gil, considered by some to be one of the most learned men of the times. He encouraged her to study the scriptures in their original languages. She mastered Latin and Greek. She discovered that the Roman religion of the day was contrary in many parts to the Bible and she began to make known what she read and knew.

She met with other Lutherans in a house. They read the Bible and some Reformation writings. Maria was aware of the dangers of her thoughts being spoken out aloud and the growing 'Inquisition'. One day Maria and 18 of her other members were arrested. Maria was taken and seated at a table in a chamber and faced several inquisitors wearing dark robes. On the table was a small wooden cross and a scroll with her charges written. Soft words were at first spoken to convince her that they wanted to 'restore her soul to the true faith'. Maria boldly spoke of her faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and refused to give in to the increasing threats of her judges. She claimed her faith was indeed 'Catholic' (meaning 'universal'). They told her that she must return to the Church of Rome or suffer torture. They showed her the instruments of torture - a 'rack' with a pulley that raised the person to the roof with weights attached to their feet and they were then 'stretched'. She was also shown the fire to burn the soles of the feet as the prisoners were hung up.

Maria was challenged to make known her fellow Christians who were in the same faith but she refused. Thus she was placed on the rack, her wrists and feet fastened. The turn of the wheel stretched and tore her limbs. They called on her

Your Comments and Questions

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

to recant her faith but she again refused. They continued the torture mercilessly. As did many of the sufferers, she cried out in pain and for mercy. Marie at one point somewhat gave in and mentioned her sister Johanna as knowing her views.

Johanna was six months pregnant and was then brought to the cells with another evangelical believer for a cell mate. Johanna later gave birth but 8 days after the child was taken away. Her cell mate was tortured on the rack and returned with dislocated and broken limbs. Johanna was then likewise tortured and during the process a blood vessel burst and two days later she died in her cell.

Maria was devastated. In response to her naming her sister, they had taken her off the rack and laid her on the hard floor in a cell to be later sentenced to death.

Two priests at a time (two Jesuits and then two Dominicans) came to her on several occasions to have her recant her faith and profess faith in Rome's religion. She calmly disputed and contradicted the priests and told them she could not deny her Lord. She refuted many of their arguments and told them she was more certain of her salvation than they were. They were angered at this stubbornness and sent other theologians to convince her.

On the morning of the 24th September 1559, a number of the reformed faith were to be burned that day with Maria, including some women. Some of her group had recanted and one at the place of execution advised Maria to do the same. Maria refused and denounced the women as ignorant, an idiot and a gossip. Marie had to be assisted to the place of execution since she was unable to walk after torture on the rack. She was ready and prepared for the flames and the glory beyond. She attempted to comfort the others and asked them to join her in singing a hymn. Despite the noise of the crowd, some could hear their voices singing the praises of God. The martyrs encouraged one another. More priests tried to have Maria in particular to recant, since they were aware of her noble family connections. Finally, she was asked to repeat a creed which she did but as well explained some parts with Protestant understandings. Before she finished this officers were ordered to strangle her. Her body was then burned.

Her spirit passed into glory to be with her Saviour.

This is the faith worth dying for. These were of the Reformed faith of that day. They believed that God sent His Son to die for their sins. That person, the Lord Jesus Christ, propitiated God the Father for their sin with a perfect finished sacrifice, enabling them to be forgiven of their trespasses. In dying on the cross their Saviour offered his life for theirs as a substitute to satisfy God's wrath upon them as wretched sinners. The righteousness they looked to was in the Lord, alien to them but credited to their account so that the just penalty of sin could be paid for.

These many martyrs, such as Maria, kept the faith of Christ alive. The more the Roman church punished these thousands of martyrs the more the church grew.

Lest we forget the price paid for the Bible we have which contain the revelation of Jesus Christ and his grace in salvation and the faith once delivered to the saints.

(Information adapted from various historical sources)

Terry Arnold

Dear Terry, how would a Jehovah Witness answer Isaiah 26:3,4; 12:2?

Editor's Reply:

Isaiah 26:3,4 *'You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on you: because he trusts in you. Trust you in the Lord forever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength'.*

(The Jehovah Witnesses in their *New World Translation* (NWT) have changed the words here to *'Trust in Jehovah forever, For Jah Jehovah is the eternal Rock'*). The Jehovah Witnesses would rightly see these verses as referring to the one God Jehovah. What they would not accept is that the New Testament also has Jesus Christ called *'the rock'* and *'Lord'*. Hence they would deny the Trinity as well as the deity of Christ.

Isaiah 12:2 *'Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation'*

Again, Jehovah Witnesses would rightly see Jehovah here as the one God. But again, they would not accept that Jesus also is called the *'saviour'* and *'salvation'* and in whom we are to trust (Lk.2:11; Jn.4:42; Acts 5:31; Acts 13:23; Eph.5:23; Phil.3:20; 2Tim.1:10; Tit.1:4; 2:13; 3:6; 2Pet.1:1,11; 2:20; 2Pet.3:18; 1Jn.4:14).

They refuse to believe that God has given Jesus to save us from the wrath of God. There is no way to the Father except through Jesus (Jn.6:37,40,44; Acts 4:12). Whoever denies one denies the other (Lk.12:9; 1Jn.2:22,23).

Changes in the JW Bible (as proven by their own Greek Interlinear)

The Greek word 'Kurios' for 'Lord' is mistranslated as 'Jehovah' or 'Jehovah's'
(Matt.22:44; 23:39; 27:10; Mk.5:19; 12:29; 12:30; 12:36; 13:20; Lk.1:25; 1:28; 1:32; 1:58; 1:68; 2:15; 20:42; Acts 2:34; 2:39; 2:47; 3:22; 7:33; 7:49; 12:11; 12:17; 13:47; Rom.4:8; 9:28; 9:29; 12:19; 14:11; 1Cor.1:31; 3:20; 4:4; 4:19; 7:17; 14:21; 16:7; 2Cor.6:17; 6:18; 10:18; Col.3:13; 1Thess.4:6; 2Tim.1:18; 2:19 (twice); 4:14; Heb.7:21; 8:2; 8:8; 8:9; 8:10; 10:16; 10:30; 12:6; 13:6; James 4:15; 5:15; 2Pet.2:9; 3:9; Jude 5, 9, 14; Rev.1:8; 4:11; 18:8; 19:6; 21:22; 22:5; 22:6)

The Greek word 'Kurios' for 'Lord' is mistranslated as 'Jehovah'
(Jn.12:38; Acts 1:24; 4:29; 7:60; Rom.10:16; 11:3; 14:6 (three times); 14:8 (three times); Rev.15:4; 16:7)

Greek 'Kurios' for 'of Lord', 'of Lord's' is mistranslated as 'Jehovah', 'Jehovah's'
(Matt.1:20; 1:22; 1:24; 2:13; 2:15; 2:19; 3:3; 21:24; 28:2; Mk.1:3; 11:9; 12:11; Lk.1:6; 1:9; 1:15; 1:45; 1:66; 1:76; 2:9 (twice); 2:23; 2:24; 2:26; 2:39; 3:4; 4:18; 4:19; 5:17; 13:35; 19:38; Jn.1:11; 1:23; 1:38; 12:13; 12:38; Acts 2:20; 2:21; 3:19; 4:26; 5:9; 5:19; 7:31; 8:22; 8:25; 8:26; 8:39; 9:31; 10:33; 11:21; 12:7; 12:23; 12:24; 13:10; 13:11; 13:12; 13:49; 15:35; 15:36;