



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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Preaching Itinerary for Interstate

The March-May 2020 itinerary was cancelled from Sydney onwards due to the restrictions from the Corona Virus. God willing this itinerary will be rescheduled for a later date.

The two conferences in Sydney were also cancelled to be rescheduled to a later date.

Editor's Comment

The world was suddenly thrown into a cauldron of instability in recent months. The so called 'Corona virus' spread worldwide. Church conferences and services were by edict cancelled. The author saw fear and panic first hand in travel at the time through two states in Australia - with the emptying of shelves of essential goods (and some not so essential), as well as the hype and alarm (driven much by the media). Fear and hype has often outpaced the virus itself.

Some facts concerning this pandemic are worthy of note...

The Facts

At the time of writing, the Corona virus has apparently claimed near *200 thousand lives* worldwide. How does this compare with historic pandemics? The Black Death (Bubonic plague 1346-1353) had a staggering death toll of *200 million*. This plague over 300 years resurfaced every 20 years killing 20% of the population each time. Dead bodies were stacked high. Death touched a majority of families.

The world has seen numerous plagues. Some of the more notable ones are the Plague of Justinian (541-542) which claimed *25 million* lives; a Flu Pandemic in 1918 had a death Toll of *20-50 million*; the Asian Flu (1956-1958) *2 million*; the 1968 'Hong Kong Flu' *1 million* - 500,000 being residents of Hong Kong (15% of its population). The HIV/AIDS Pandemic (2005-2012) killed *36 million*.

It also has to be considered that influenza in general has killed far more each year than the Corona virus will. This is not to say that every precautions should not be taken with the current virus which has been a deadly affliction to the elderly and other susceptible groups of the population.

The Lessons

There have been many stories of panic, greed and selfishness with people scrambling to get supplies. Fights and extreme behaviour have been reported in some places. But the Corona virus does not make anyone worse than the sin nature already in their hearts. It is a sample of what is *already* in the heart of man. The heart of man is described as evil, deceitful, sinful, dark, blind, depraved, wicked (Jer.17:9; Matt.15:19; Eph.4:18). Unsaved man is 'dead in sins' and his heart harbours all the fruit of that sinful nature (Eph.2:1-5; Gal.5:19-21).

Some will point to the good deeds of many in this time. But it is also astonishing that in this pandemic man is trying to save old people from dying, yet the same man advocates the killing of unborn babies in the womb and up to 20 weeks gestation. Why are we so concerned about persons at the end of life and not at its inception? This is the depravity of mankind for which judgement awaits.

What has disturbed me too is ministers fraternal in various towns being more concerned about community 'felt needs' and social helps with the Corona Virus, than with any mention of the need for the Gospel at this time. Is social activism and hygiene benefit more important than souls on the broad road to Hell?

These times are also a test from God as to whether we will succumb to the fear

seen in the world, or trust in and fear a sovereign God. One of the fruit of the Spirit is joy and peace which we should have in even these times of suffering. *This is an opportunity to demonstrate our trust in Christ and God's sovereignty.* We are not in control of death, God is. It is a prelude to eternity. Do we see our need of Christ in these times? Do we want to remain in the world or are we awaiting the Lord to take us home? The worst that could happen to us in these times would be the best thing for eternity, to be with Christ.

The fear in the hearts of many and the selfishness seen in this pandemic is a mini picture of what is to come when there will be *'signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations...Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh'* (Lk.21:25-28).

These times are also opportunities to teach the saints that these events *are from God.* The Old Testament is full of accounts of God sending *'pestilence'* (Ex.5:3;9:15; Lev.26:25; Nu.14:12; Dt.28:21; 2Sam.24:13-15; 1Kngs 8:37; 1Chr.21:12-14; 2Chr.6:28; 7:13; 20:9; Ps.78:50; Jer.14:12; 21:6-9; 24:10; 27:8,13; 29:17,18; 32:24,36; 34:17; 38:2; 42:17,22; 44:13; Ezek.5:12,17; 6:11,12; 7:15; 12:16; 14:19,21; 28:23; 33:27; 38:22; Amos 4:10; Hab.3:5).

In the New Testament there is mention of God sending *'pestilences'* (and earthquakes) as the *'beginning of sorrows'* (Matt.24:7,8). They will increase in intensity like *'birth pangs'* (vs.8 *'sorrows'*) before the coming of the Lord.

This Corona virus pandemic is a minor affliction compared to what is to come! But it is a warning of a rapidly changing world. This epidemic will likely change the way we live and do *'church'*. The laws to stop gatherings may well be a forerunner of the various controls that governments and the antichrist will have in the future...Just how close are we? These recent events have all occurred with such quickness that it arguably gives much meaning to the word *'Maranatha'* (1Cor.16:22) - Lord, come quickly!

But the message from God is the same as it always has been. When Jesus was asked about a tragedy in his day (Lk.13:1-5) He replied *'except you repent you shall all likewise perish'*. Jesus also said *'fear not them which kill the body...but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell'* (Matt.10:28).

The opportunities to preach the Gospel whether in conversation or in assembling of the saints, is arguably heightened by this event. This is a time to preach and speak about eternity. People need to turn to God in repentance and in faith in Jesus as the sacrifice for their sins. Pandemics and death will come and go until Christ comes for his saints. But the message of God and his Gospel remains forever the same.

Church Life

It has been a difficult time for pastors and Christians alike. Decisions as to how to feed the flock have had to be changed day by day as government

regulations tightened. It is this author's belief that the gathering of the saints should continue wherever possible in the midst of afflictions and tragedies.

However, for many Christians restrictions on assembling together will little affect them as commitment to local church meetings has decreased as a priority in these last days. Many Christians already easily engage in other activities at the expense of commitment to corporate worship and fellowship on the one day of the week. The local church to many is not a serious commitment. The Corona virus will arguably little affect these Christians.

But what is commitment to the local church and how important is it to gather together? It is essentially a commitment to brothers and sisters in the Lord and assembling together for the use of gifts to build one another up in the faith (Col.3:16; Heb.3:13; 10:24,25). The early church gathered together for '*teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer*' (Acts 2:42). They were faithful to the preaching of the Gospel and the gathering on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:2), often called 'Resurrection Sunday' or 'the Lord's Day'. This commitment is attested to by numerous early church fathers and historical documents (see our website article '*Sunday or Saturday*' for citations).

The early Christians met in various places and apart from homes (1Cor.11:22). During times of persecution and pandemics they would more often meet in homes and took precautions as necessary. Accounts dating back to the second century show Christians meeting in catacombs beneath the city of Rome. In many places martyrdom was accepted as likely to those who continued to profess Christ and meet together. When persecution ended (near the Constantine era) Christians then met more regularly in larger premises and buildings. Today in China, Christians continue to meet together despite the danger. These meetings encourage and equip Christians to continue in their faith amidst persecution and afflictions.

Pandemics and diseases were also evident in the early centuries. In the third century a plague broke out lasting more than a decade which killed Christians and non Christians alike in great numbers. The symptoms were severe and make gruesome reading compared to the Corona virus today which can be alleviated with drugs. The later Reformation also had times of pestilences which church leaders had to navigate through. Many of those who cared for the sick also were infected and died. These Christians often saw these afflictions, whether persecution or diseases, as a step closer to being with the Lord.

In this Corona pandemic all sorts of measures are being currently implemented to keep saints 'gathered'. However, Live Streaming and modern techniques are arguably only a stop gap and superficial to the real thing, the physical assembling of the saints.

When the virus has run its course and churches return to public assemblies, some believe churches will be increased in numbers attending. This has been the case in other tragedies (such as the 9/11 Trade Towers) where church attendances dramatically increased, only to wane after time. Nevertheless, if it be a wake up call to some that this world and our lives are hanging by a thread, then may the good news of Christ and his plan of salvation ring out to those who will hear.

Terry Arnold

Where Is The Healing From Corona?

As the Corona virus spreads, increasingly those in Charismatic/Pentecostal churches are being infected, *just like the rest of the population*. Key Pentecostal leaders have been struck down. These are people and leaders who expound the doctrine of a healing gospel, that healing is in the atonement and if you just have enough faith God will heal you. So, why has this not occurred for those who believe and teach this who have contracted the Corona virus?

If ever there was a time when the faith healers of today and those who teach a healing gospel should be challenged for their hypocrisy, now is the time! Where are the faith healers and their healing in this epidemic? Why were not the 35 people in Ark Assembly of God church in Kansas healed? Why did one of them die? (He also had previous respiratory and cardiac illnesses which were never healed). Why did the NYC *Hillsong* leader Pastor Carl Lentz not get healed when he contracted the virus? Why did he make no mention of any healing by God, or that anyone else in his mega church could heal him?

Why are not charismatic faith healers like Francis Chan, Todd White and Todd Bentley healing Corona virus victims? All these people have stories of healings. Francis Chan has told stories of people being cured of chronic and mortal diseases and that he raised people from the dead. *‘Every person I touched was healed’* he told an audience at Moody Bible Institute. But he didn’t tell them that nobody can testify to it and there is no video or medical documentation. This is typical of reports today, unlike Jesus and the apostles who healed for all to see.

Some faith healers such as Rodney Howard-Browne foolishly told people they are immune to the virus and encouraged bodily contact. Yet he has spent \$100,000 on a purification system in his church to kill infectious microbes!



Charismatic Gerald Glenn, contracted the virus and DIED after claiming he would not get the disease and that people in his church were healed of the virus! Kenneth Copeland claimed people healed of the virus through their TV sets and his anointing oil. He prophetically commanded God to send an Easter heat wave to kill the virus (a cold front arrived)!

What better way would there be to prove the doctrine of the healing gifts than to go to the victims and start healing people of this deadly disease? Why are they silent? Why were they not in China and other countries in the beginning. The silence on this is deafening.

When Jesus healed *it was obvious*. He healed *‘all’* and *‘every’* disease (Matt.4:23,24; 8:16; 9:35; 10:1; 12:15; Mk.3:14,15...) as well as *‘immediately’* (Matt.8:3; 20:34) and *‘completely’* (Matt.12:13,15; 14:36; 15:28) and *‘at will’* (Matt.8:3) with *no failures*. He healed *‘all manner of diseases’* (Matt.4:23,24). The Corona virus should be easy for the faith healers!

Jesus healed people to prove to the world who he was - *the Messiah* (Jn.20:30,31; Acts 2:22). Those claiming the gift of healing and the same power as Jesus and the apostles he ordained, are *‘false christs’* (Matt.24:24).

Terry Arnold

Roman Catholic Reversal

In a stunning reversal, Pope Francis told Corona virus quarantined Roman Catholics they don't really need a priest to confess their sins to God...People who cannot get to confession...could NOW go to God directly...and request pardon and experience God's loving forgiveness, Pope Francis said.

[This] is a great example of just how Rome will change once unchangeable dogma should the circumstances alter? Rome's priests have always insisted on their single ability to forgive sins...up until now!

...This is where most Roman Catholics fail to make the connection and understand that no one needs an organized church body to be their mediator between them and God. That's the freedom of the Gospel! If you're a Roman Catholic, ask yourself...If the Pope is now telling you to confess your sin directly to God, then why on earth did you ever need to get in a box with a priest and tell him what belongs to God's ears only?...The truth is your priest never had the ability to forgive your sins...Only Jesus can do that and you need to go to Him directly. The Roman Catholic Church cannot do anything for you that you cannot do yourself by simply opening the Bible, reading it, believing it and trusting God.

...Pope Francis shockingly now says '...An act of contrition done well, and our souls will become white like the snow', the Pope said March 20, during his Mass...[But] This is what their own teachings say about Confession... 'Confession to a priest is an essential part of the sacrament of Penance: 'All mortal sins of which penitents after a diligent self-examination are conscious must be recounted by them in Confession, even if they are most secret...

'Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to deceitful spirits, and doctrines of demons; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron' (1Tim.4:1-2).

(Apostasy Alert, 26 March 2020)

Paula White - More Deception

...Paula White claims to have recently been transported to the Throne Room of Heaven, where she received a 'new mantle and anointing from God'...Our apostle Paul tells us that in the end times, false teachers will tickle the ears of lukewarm Laodicean churchgoers with fables, and Paula White is firmly in the fable business. Paula White did not travel to Heaven, Paula White did not physically see the actual face of God, and Paula White did not enter the Throne Room we see in Revelation...She [Paula White] claimed that a weight suddenly fell upon her that pushed her to the floor, at which point her spirit ascended to Heaven. 'I literally went to the Throne Room of God...There was a mist that was coming off the water...I saw...I knew it was the face of God...He put a mantle on me...I saw the Earth...and God brought me back, and he put me in certain places, one being the White House, one being certain continents...'

(Nowtheendbegins, Geoffrey Grider, March/2020)

Christians and Pornography

Statistics in the US are showing two-thirds of Christian men view pornography at least once a month, a leading addiction recovery expert [Mark Denison] has shared...He presented data showing that the majority of Christian men and 37 percent of pastors admit having a struggle with pornography. 'Sixty-two percent of evangelical men view porn, compared to 64 percent of the general population'... 'Christians view porn almost as much as non-Christians and that should scare every pastor that is watching this.'

Next, Denison called on churches to appoint and train an 'addiction ministry leader.'...Denison also called on churches to host 12-step groups such as Sexaholics Anonymous....Churches should also hold annual events where they bring in speakers to address pornography addiction. 'We do a program called 'Pancakes and Porn,' where we come in and for three hours on a Sunday morning, meet with the men and have pancakes and we go through this'...Lastly, Denison stressed that churches need to find a way to provide addiction counseling. 'The best way to do that is with a certified sex addiction therapist', he said...He warned pastors not to 'do this yourself.'

...For pastors that have lost their jobs and career because of their porn struggles, Denison said that churches and churchgoers should look to 'provide financially' for the pastors and their families...

Editor's comment:

For many years we have disagreed with the pastoring and counselling philosophy and methods of such addictions.

The statistics are no doubt shocking if true. It may also raise the uncomfortable question today - how many are 'practising sin' (1Jn.3:6-10) and thus truly not been begotten from above and living in faith and repentance, their addictions surrendered to God?

Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery, a sexual sin, 'go and sin no more'. Would Jesus offer a 10 step sexual addiction programme, 'pancakes and porn', 'sexaholics anonymous', special speakers and trained people in 'addiction counselling' and 'certified sex addiction therapists'? Whatever happened to biblical counselling? Why cannot a pastoring elder or anyone who knows the scriptures and can apply them, counsel such people biblically and in practical ways? Do we need to have 'certified' experts for every addiction, of which there are too numerous now to count?

Since when do we financially support pastors who have fallen in such sins? By all means restore them to faith and repentance, but where in scripture do we, and why would we support, a sinful fall, and to people who might no longer be qualified to be pastors/elders?

The problem too is that so often with these programmes we highlight one sinful area which takes precedence over the week by week preaching of the Word and the Gospel of repentance and faith which is in itself the antidote for all such sinful behaviour.

Pneumatology in History and the Modern Counterfeits

Part 2

In Part 1 we documented the events at the Azusa St. church with William Seymour and Charles Parham. The Azusa St. events would have a profound effect on the formation of the Pentecostal movement worldwide.

The Witness of Bible Teachers of the Day

At the time of the meetings at Azusa St, prominent Bible teachers, pastors and church leaders would visit or hear reports of the meetings at the Azusa St. Church. Many prominent leaders were decisively warning of the theology and the practises.

Campbell Morgan described the Azusa Street activities as *'the last vomit of Satan'* (18); R.A.Torrey declared that this new Pentecostal movement was *'emphatically not of God, and founded by a Sodomite'*. (19) (Charles Parham was charged with homosexuality with a 22 year old man in San Antonio and later acquitted). (20) H.A.Ironside in 1912 described the holiness Pentecostal movement as *'disgusting...delusions and insanities'... 'Pandemoniums where exhibitions worthy of a madhouse or a collection of howling dervishes'...* *'were causing a heavy toll of lunacy and infidelity'* (21); W.B.Godbey said the Azusa St. movement was the result of spiritualism: *'Satan's preachers, jugglers, necromancers, enchanters, magicians, and all sorts of mendicants'* (22); Clarence Larkin stated: *'But the conduct of those possessed, in which they fall to the ground and writhe in contortions, causing disarrangements of the clothing and disgraceful scenes, is more a characteristic of demon possession, than a work of the Holy Spirit...we see that we are living in 'perilous times', and that all about us are 'seducing spirits...'* (23)

Azusa St was closed in 1911 but not before the mission had planted several congregations, initially in Los Angeles, then Memphis, Indianapolis and New York. Each church planted was modelled after Azusa St. (24)

Pentecostal groups such as the Assemblies of God, the Church of God, the Pentecostal Holiness church, the Foursquare Gospel church, the United Pentecostal church, all trace their roots to the 1906 Azusa St. 'Revival' in Los Angeles, pastored by William Seymour. Any attempt to place Pentecostal roots before this must ignore the fact that Pentecostal groups have as their core doctrine: *'tongues as the evidence of a subsequent baptism with the Spirit'*. This distinctive 'evidence' doctrine is clearly traced by historians only to the Azusa St. 'revival' (William Seymour) in 1906; or Topeka, Kansas (Charles Parham) in 1901.

The Azusa 'Missionaries'

Despite the Topeka 'tongues' being shown to be unknown ecstatic speech, the

missionaries who went out from Azusa St were expecting miraculous languages to be used. An article published in 1909 described the results: *'Missionary S. C. Todd, of the Bible Missionary Society, has made investigations personally in three mission fields and...people who have gone from this country to Japan, to China, and to India expecting to preach to the natives of those countries in their own tongue; but in no single instance have been able to do so. They have needed an interpreter...Some of them are in absolute destitution and are dependent on their Christian brethren there for the necessaries of life...In some cases they are in danger of losing all faith...'* (25)

India

The Pentecostal movement in India was founded after embracing the teachings of the holiness movement of the 19th C. and contact with 'missionaries' from Azusa St. As early as 1879 an Amanda Smith had preached a second work of the Holy Spirit and used the term 'Baptism with the Spirit'. Women like Minnie Abrams were teaching that 'signs following' (Mark 16) were to help fulfil the Great Commission. By 1905 the teaching of 'second' and 'third' experiences of Sanctification were prominent, but 'tongues' was yet to come. Until this time 'tongues' had been mentioned only occasionally and with the inference being on *known languages*. But reports of Topeka 1901 and Azusa St. 1906 were filtering through. Stories were told of how pastors preached sermons in 'tongues' and people heard them in other languages.

In November 1906 an issue of the Los Angeles 'Apostolic Faith' was read in India. Leaders Ramabai and Minnie Abrams encouraged people to 'tarry' and in December before Christmas, 'tongues' were claimed to be used by many of the believers in India. (26) There was also now a mention of 'private tongues' to 'edify self'. There arose heated debates over these doctrines.

Italy, Norway, Brazil, Persia

The Pentecostal movement in Italy, Brazil, Norway and Persia owe much to the efforts of a William Durham who visited the Azusa St. outreach in Chicago. In 1907 Durham explained how he received his 'Pentecost': *'He worked my whole body, one section at a time, first my arms, then my limbs, then my body, then my head, then my face, then my chin, and finally at 1am Saturday March 2, after being under the power for three hours, he finished the work on my vocal organs, and spoke through me in unknown tongues...'* (27)

Durham took this experience to Italy and it spread nationwide, and then to an Italian population in Brazil. Norwegian friends of Durham took the experience to their country and later a few Persian men took it back to their homeland. (28)

In 1909 Durham met Aimee Semple McPherson. Durham would recite lengthy tongue messages and Aimee would interpret them. Many were published in Pentecostal papers. (29) One sample read: *'I, the spirit of liberty and of truth, will*

‘speak if you will let me have my way.’ (30)

In 1909 Durham’s wife died after childbirth. Then in 1910 his 6 month old daughter died of pneumonia. He married again in 1912 and later that year died at age 39.

Latin America

A leader in the Latin American Pentecostal movement was Francisco Olazabal. The movement traces its roots back to Azusa St. In 1913 the Mexican Pentecostal church was split in two by the ‘oneness’ movement. More than 20% of Pentecostal groups in America later formed ‘oneness’ groups which denied the orthodox view of the Trinity and believed God had manifested himself in Jesus Christ only. Olazabal was famous for his claims of mass healings which were later refuted as exaggerations.

Women in ministry

Today it is almost assumed as normal in most denominations to have women pastors and preachers. The foundation for women in these positions owes much to the early Pentecostal movement. Most historians agree that *‘women provided Pentecostalism with its first missiology, its first missions training programs, and its first senior missionaries in the field.’ (31)*

Florence Crawford (1872-1936) claimed to be the first white woman to receive the Holy Spirit baptism in Azusa St in 1906. She founded the ‘Apostolic Faith Mission’ in Portland, Oregon. On becoming a Christian she was unsatisfied with her ‘Justification’ and wanted ‘more’. She was told that she would find more at the Azusa St. Mission. (32) At Azusa St. William Seymour told her: *‘Sister, you have got a wonderful case of salvation, but you need to be sanctified’*. *Following this advice and after five days of prayer Crawford testified that ‘the Holy Ghost came down from heaven and fell upon my life, and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire, and spoke through me in another language’*. (33)

While establishing a church in Portland, Crawford practised ‘writing in tongues’, a practise that had originated from Topeka in 1901. (34)

Crawford later separated from her husband. Newspapers were already reporting that desertion and separating in marriages was all too common at the Azusa St. missions. The media relished in the stories of the various divorces and affairs that were taking place. (35)

Alma White (1862-1946) founded the *Pentecostal Union* in 1901. She distanced her church from the ‘shameful things’ that were happening at Azusa St. and opposed Seymour at Azusa St. stating he was a religious fake and tramp (36) and that glossalalia was ‘gibberish’ (37). However, she was an ardent believer in steps to Sanctification and ‘entire consecration’.

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Maria Woodworth-Etter (1844-1924) in 1890 claimed Jesus spoke to her and said ‘*Go, and I will be with you...go here, go there, wherever souls are perishing.*’ (38) She married Philo Woodworth in 1863 and divorced him in 1891, charging him with adultery. He died in 1892 and she married Samuel Etter in 1902. Maria had lots of dramatic visions – bright clouds, weightlessness, liquid fire and angels all around her. She once had a vision of ‘*the Bible on the wall in her room, the Holy Ghost as a dove, and the Lord seems like a great ball of fire*’. She was well known for sending people into trances when they received the ‘power of the Holy Spirit’. As one of the icons of the Pentecostal movement she passed on the ‘mantle’ to Aimee-Semple McPherson...

Aimee-Semple McPherson (1890-1944) is considered by many to be one of the main leaders of the Pentecostal movement in the 20th. C. Her life was full of controversy. McPherson faked her own kidnapping to have an adulterous affair. She had three husbands, the third left his wife and children to marry her. She had a nervous breakdown and her husband filed for divorce. In 1944 she died from an overdose of sleeping pills. She passed on the ‘mantle’ to Kathryn Kuhlman...

Kathryn Kuhlman (1907-1976) married a man who divorced his wife to marry her. Kuhlman then divorced him. A parallel is seen between the three prominent women Pentecostal pioneers – Woodworth-Etter, McPherson and Kuhlman – all three were divorced and were ‘called’ back by God to ministry again.

Kuhlman had a meeting with the Pope and felt ‘a oneness’ with him. Faith healer Benny Hinn claims to have obtained his ‘anointing’ from Kuhlman.

Healing Ministries

John Dowie (1847-1907) was an early example of the many Pentecostal ‘healing ministries’ spawned in the 20th.C. Parham was to hold many of the same beliefs as Dowie, such as bodily healing in the atonement and the denial of the eternality of Hell. Parham had visited Dowie’s own town of ‘Zion City’ just before the Topeka event in 1901.

In 1886 Dowie experienced a vision telling him to carry ‘*the leaves of healing from the tree of life to every nation*’. (39) He built his own Zion City in Illinois and later declared he was the third and final manifestation of the prophet Elijah. On September 1904, in front of 8,000 followers he announced he was ‘*the first apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ...I now have the right to speak as the instructor of nations*’. (40) Like Parham and most of the Pentecostal forerunners Dowie was documented as a prolific exaggerator and was well known for his amazing claims of healing.

Smith Wigglesworth (1859-1947) is one of the heroes of the Pentecostal movement and in particular the healing ministry. He prophesied a mighty

restoration of the sign gifts of the Spirit and a revival before the end of the twentieth Century. He is associated with dozens of amazing stories of miracles, healings and raising from the dead. None are authentically documented. (41) The late Lester Sumner is responsible for many of the stories of the feats of Wigglesworth. Sumner later was exposed for fraud and a false prophesy of the second coming.

The feats and healings of Wigglesworth, although recounted by many modern Pentecostals, have no documentation and many are handed down embellished exaggerations.

Frank Bartleman (1871-1936) wrote much valuable information about the Pentecostal movement in the 20th Century. Bartleman felt the Spirit leading him to move to Los Angeles for 'the latter rain outpouring' in 1904. (42) His family suffered poverty, hunger and sickness. On January 7th, 1905 their first-born child died. Bartleman claimed God spoke to him and showed him God had taken his girl to get his heart in a new and deeper way. He then lived entirely 'by faith' yet the family now began to live on the edge of extreme poverty. In March 1906 he published a tract - '*The Last Call*', predicting an imminent end time global revival. (43) This idea has been the ongoing promise of the Pentecostal movement to this day. Bartleman opened a new church and spoke in 'tongues' and claimed 'languages' came easily to him. (44) He claimed the 'experience' was a greater argument than doctrine.

Bartleman eventually left his family to embark on a personal global tour as a lone evangelist with no finances available to support his wife and children. (45) Many future Pentecostal leaders would be influenced by Bartleman's writings.

Conclusion

Today the Pentecostal movement continues with teaching on the Holy Spirit and sanctification that is radically *new* to historic Bible teaching. Like the Montanists and the Quakers, Pentecostal leaders claim a form of allegiance to the written word of God, yet continue to accept new words from God in the form of messages in tongues and prophetic utterances, as well as in dreams and visions.

The confusion between tongues being a real language or unknown persisted for decades after Topeka and Azusa St. and often was not clarified as to which was meant. Today many Pentecostals when challenged with scripture will at times hold to the idea that their 'tongues' are known languages. However, when asked to have this and any 'interpretation' tested, this author has not found any willing to be tested on this.

The Pentecostal movement was founded in the 20th Century after increasing extra-biblical views on sanctification in the late 1800's reached a new level. From these emphasises in the Holiness movement came a progression to a radically new theology on the Holy Spirit. The distinctive doctrine of the 'evidence' of tongues is clearly traced to Topeka in 1901. Here Charles Parham opened the door for a new teaching that would send out his student William

Seymour to found the Azusa St. mission that would generate the world's Pentecostal affiliations of today. The history of the Pentecostal movement shows clearly all roads lead to and from Azusa St. which was hatched at the feet of Charles Parham in 1901.

There are lessons to be learned from this history: *The leaven of extra Biblical doctrine is often subtly and progressively introduced*. The seeking of 'more' must not be done from outside the confines of 'orthodoxy' - the 'faith once delivered'.

The Christian has received 'all spiritual blessing' at salvation (Eph.1:3). To seek more than promised in scripture from the already indwelling Holy Spirit is surely to grieve the Spirit Himself. The history and the subsequent *fruit* of the Pentecostal movement bears witness to this. Many different 'winds' of the movement and failed revivals have come and gone, with false prophets and their false prophecies.

We would do well to learn from history! Roots determine fruit. A bad tree cannot bear good fruit (Matt.7:17-20). If the roots of the thing have error it will not bear good fruit. Very often we need only go back into the history of something to see the nature of the roots. Those who refuse to learn from history are doomed to repeat it! A study of the roots of every major cult group and every false teaching will find an over emphasis, an extreme, a departure from orthodox historical Christianity in the historical roots. The 'faith once delivered' (Jude 3) is not new, but rather it is historic, 'once' delivered and apostolic.

Terry Arnold

(18) 'Holy Laughter to Holy Fire' by Michael L. Brown, P.197&198 (19) Ibid. For a history of Charles Parham see the book 'Fields White Unto Harvest' by James Goff (20) Goff, 'Fields White Unto Harvest', P.106,136 (21) 'Holy Laughter to Holy Fire' by Michael L. Brown, P.197,198 (22) Ibid (23) Ibid (24) Robert Anderson 'Vision of the Disinherited: The Making of American Pentecostalism', Oxford Uni. Press, P.122-124 (25) A. E. Seddon 'Edward Irving and Unknown Tongues', The Homiletic Review (New York; Funk and Wagnalls, 1909) (26) M.W. Moorehead, *Apostolic Faith*, 1907, P.4 (27) Ibid, May 1907, P.8 (28) Durham, 'Glimpse', P.155 (29) 'Great War', Upper Room No.10, May 1910 (30) 'Messages Spoken in New Tongues Interpreted', BM, April 15, 1908, P.2 (31) American, Robert, P.254 (32) Crawford, 'Teaching the Baptism with the Holy Ghost' P.9 (33) Crawford, Malachi 3:1 (34) Specimen, *Topeka Daily Capitol*, Jan.6th, 1901 (35) 'Women With Men Embrace', LA Daily Times, Sept.3rd, 1906, P.11; 'Wife Prefers Holy Rollers To Husband', LA Express Sept 7th, 1906, P.4; several other sources also; and as well from missionaries (36) White, 'Demons', P.67,68 (37) Ibid, P.10,56,72,87 (38) Woodworth, 'Marvels and Miracles', 1921, P.12,13 (39) Lyndsay, *Life*, 86 (40) Ibid P.234,235 (41) See article on TA Ministries website 'Smith Wigglesworth' (42) Bartleman, *Plow*, P.113-132 (43) Bartleman, *Azusa St.*, P.37-42 (44) Ibid P.72-74 (45) Ibid P.138-46

Your Comments and Questions

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

Women in Ministry and the ‘Gender’ Argument

Dear Mr Arnold, I would like to ask...regarding Women Preaching....When I first became a Christian I was taught that women didn't preach, etc. This I accepted and understood from Scripture. As the years passed I have heard both sides...for and against...I have become confused as both sides use Scripture...I have prayed about it without really getting any peace. Then when visiting a church whilst on holidays the Pastor was preaching a series on Women in Ministry...and women preaching. I was hoping to have my confusion resolved. Then he said, 'spiritual gifts are not gender based'. I felt as though a weight had been lifted off my shoulders and I had a real peace about women preaching.

However, I have just read your article on this subject ['Diakrisis' Jan/Feb - P.7] and I feel confused once again. May I have your opinion on the statement that 'spiritual gifts are not gender based' in relation to women preaching.

Also, I was told that the order in which names appear in the Bible indicates leadership and that the order changed when Paul started to take leadership (Priscilla and Aquila)...Does that not mean that woman took a leadership role?

We have a woman who preaches in our church...it is often better than the men...Would it be wrong to attend when she is speaking if it is contrary to Scripture? ...I want to be obedient to Scripture...so I would like to resolve it...

(Name withheld by request)

Editor's Reply:

This 'gender' argument is a classic 'strawman' argumentation and straight out of the culture of the world today, but NOT from scripture.

No one is saying spiritual gifts are not 'gender based'. Salvation also is not 'gender based' (Gal.3:26-28). The issue is NOT about 'gender'. It's about a rule that God has made clear in scripture. It is based on the *Fall* in Genesis, on *Headship* and *Order*. The command that women not be in leadership in ministry and publicly teach men is because of the fall of man and woman. It is God who says women are '*not to usurp authority*' over the man (1Tim.2:12). It has NOTHING to do with 'gender based' ideas, but rather what God set down *from Genesis*. This is made clear in 1Tim.2:13,14 - 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 creation - 'Adam was first formed, then Eve'; (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).

Paul's convictions here is rooted in Genesis 1-3 and any argument for women in ministry must deal with this, not from worldly 'gender' arguments. Paul uses the fact from Genesis '*Adam was formed first*' (1Tim.2:13) to reason for men and women having *different roles*. Both Testaments teach

Christ, 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 then played out in many scriptures such as Colossians 3:18-19: *'Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands...husbands love your wives...'*; Ephesians 5:23 *'the husband is the head of the wife...'* (see also 1Pet.3:5).

God said this creation with its order was 'very good'. The relationships were never to be reversed. What authority do we have to change this?

Israel was troubled by this issue in their decline: *'As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of my paths'* (Is.3:11,12).

Women can do many things in church - they can evangelise, prophesy, pray, teach women (Tit.2:4). But to change the order and headship is to challenge God Himself.

For almost 1,900 years it was unanimously considered that women could not publicly teach and take authority from God's male leadership...until the late 19th c. Methodist and 20th c. Pentecostal movement which saw women in positions of pastoring, leadership and teaching. Yet elders/pastors are to be the *'husband of one wife'* not the *wife of one husband* (1Tim.3 & Tit.1).

Women are never found to be holding ordained offices or publicly teaching men in scripture or in the early church. Some will cite Priscilla and her husband teaching Apollos (Acts 18:26). But this was not public preaching/teaching by Priscilla and there is no evidence Priscilla was 'usurping authority' over Aquila or Apollos. This is simply a case of the wife being with the husband. No office of ministry or teaching is ever implied here.

Scripture objectively teaches and 'forbids' women to 'teach' in public and to 'usurp authority over a man' (1Tim.2:12). Leadership is male (1Tim.3; Tit.1). No amount of semantic gymnastics, strawman or modern 'gender' or cultural arguments, or arguments from silence, can change Paul's words.

Again, *the Bible has not one single example of any women teaching in public to an assembled group of believers!* Those who twist Paul's commands for male leadership and authority do despite to the creation order as well as nullify the authority of the word of God. *'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).

What is really at stake in this whole debate is the authority of the Bible. If that authority is nullified then marriages and family 'order' are in danger.

Finally, it is impossible to make anything of the 'order of names'. In some places it is Priscilla first, in other places Aquila first. No exegetical argument could be raised here for women teaching and preaching. The rule of headship and order also is well before the book of Acts. Nowhere in the Bible does a woman take a leadership role.

No amount of 'good preaching' or so called 'gifting' in preaching, can nullify the scriptures. We will be judged on the Word of God, not by any of these pragmatic arguments! *'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' (Jn.12:48).

It is clearly wrong and against God's word to sit under a woman preacher or pastor. Obedience to God first is paramount before any other argument can be put up. I would separate from this ungodliness and order against God while you can, lest you be snared by subtle arguments that Satan loves to bring against God's word. The matter is about truth, not pragmatic arguments to satisfy our own cultural winds of change.

Psalm 1 has a blessing for this separation. *'Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper'* (vs.1-4).

Dr Martin Lloyd-Jones on 'Women Preachers' stated: *'...The root trouble, even among good Evangelicals, is our failure to heed the plain teachings of Scripture. We accept what Scripture teaches as far as our doctrine is concerned; but when it comes to practice, we very often fail to take the Scriptures as our only guide. When we come to the practical side we employ human tests instead of scriptural ones. Instead of taking the plain teachings of the Bible, we argue with it. 'Ah yes', we say, 'since the Scriptures were written times have changed'...Take the question of women preaching, and being fully ordained to the full ministry. The apostle Paul, in writing to Timothy (1Tim 2:11-15) prohibits it directly. He says quite specifically that he does not allow a woman to teach or preach. 'Ah yes', we say, as we read that letter, 'He was only thinking of his own age and time; but you know times have changed since then, and we must not be bound...'. But the scripture does not say that. It says, 'Let the women learn in silence with all subjection, but I suffer not a woman to teach nor usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence'. 'Ah, but that was only temporary legislation', we say. Paul puts it like this: 'For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding, she shall be saved in child bearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety'. Paul does not say that it was only for the time being; he takes it right back to the Fall and shows that it is an abiding principle. It is something that is true, therefore, of the age in which we live. But thus you see, we argue with scripture. Instead of taking its plain teaching, we say that times have changed-when it suits our thesis we say it is no longer relevant'...'If you want to avoid terrible disillusionment at the day of judgement, face the Scripture as it is. Do not argue with it, do not try to manipulate it, do not twist; face it, receive it and submit to it whatever the cost'. (From 'Studies in the Sermon on the Mount', Vol.2).*

Beware of worldly, cultural arguments from logic. My advice is to not base any arguments on what pastors or preachers say, including what I say or write. Base it on the Word of God alone. 'Sola Scriptura!'

(Recommended further reading: 'Countering the Claims of Evangelical Feminism' by Wayne Grudem. Available from this ministry)

Dave Hunt on Hell

Editor: The following is an answer by the late Dave Hunt to a question concerning Hell and it's torment, re-printed in the *Berean Call* newsletter and sent to us for comment.

Questioner [to Hunt]: ...*There will be two resurrections: one of the saved, the other of the lost. The latter stand before God in their physical resurrected bodies and are cast into a place of torment, 'the lake of fire' (Rev.20:15). What is the point of eternally tormenting the lost?*

Hunt's Response: *The damned who stand before God at the Great White Throne judgment are cast into the lake of fire (Rev.20:12). Although their appearance before God is said to be a 'resurrection of damnation' (Jn.5:29), it seems clear they do not stand before God in physical bodies which were reconstituted from their decayed and consumed remains. The fact that they are twice referred to as 'dead' seems to indicate rather that they are disembodied spirits.*

...The Bible tells us the pain suffered by the damned has nothing to do with bodies and nerves...[In] Christ's description of the rich man and the beggar...(Lk.16:22-24)...While the words 'eyes' and 'tongue' and 'flame' are mentioned and the torment of thirst for water is implied, these words clearly have another meaning than that which is attached to them in this life. The physical bodies of both the rich man and Lazarus were corrupting in the grave. Therefore the eyes, tongue, finger and flame referred to could not be physical. If the 'flame' that tormented the rich man in hell was not physical, then we have reason to believe that the flame in the lake of fire is not physical either.

Furthermore, we are clearly told that the lake of fire was 'prepared for the devil and his angels' (Matthew 25:41). Physical fire has no effect upon spirit beings. Whatever fire this is must be a special kind of fire for spirits, no doubt far more horrible than physical fire. Indeed, if the damned are in physical bodies and the flames are physical, then it would necessitate a continual, instant-by-instant reconstitution of their burning flesh in order for them to be tormented.

That kind of physical torment hardly seems to be a proper punishment. It makes more sense both logically and biblically for the torment to arise from the burning thirst for God that separation from Him would create, together with the exquisite pain of remorse. The physical torment of incredibly hot fire burning continually reconstituted flesh would be so terrible that it would allow no contemplation of past wrongs, for no remorse, for no regret for having rejected the salvation God offered. There would be no moral dimension to such torment; it would be simply physical and so overwhelming as to allow for no thought or regret. That hardly seems to fit the crime of rebellion and rejection'.

Editor's comment:

This arguably is a lesson in how not to use unnecessary logic to bring to bear on scripture? The questioner asks: 'What is the point of eternally

tormenting the lost? and Hunt states: *‘That kind of physical torment hardly seems to be a proper punishment...That hardly seems to fit the crime of rebellion and rejection’* [underlining ours]. Yet apart from many scriptures speaking of a literal ‘fire’ and ‘torment’, Romans chapter 9 also gives a clear example of God’s purpose: *‘What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory’* (vs.22,23). Several reasons are given here. God *wants to show his wrath* and he *wants to make his power known* (vs.22). Then another reason is given - to show the *contrast* between the *wrath* in Hell and the *glory* in Heaven *for those he has afore prepared for glory* (vs.23). This latter *contrast* cannot be understated. As much as there is His glory in Heaven, there is also His wrath in Hell.

Should we question God’s clear plan for the *eternal fire* and *torment* in Hell mentioned in numerous scriptures (Matt.3:12; 5:22; 7:19; 13:42,50; 18:8,9; 25:41; Mk.9:43-48; Lk.3:17; 16:23,24,25,28; James 3:6; Rev.14:10,11; 19:20; 20:10,14,15; 21:8)?

Why is it necessary to question if the bodies in Hell are the same flesh as we have now? Is this not an unnecessary strawman argument? It is *obvious* that the bodies in Hell are incorruptible spirit bodies as is in Heaven (1Cor.15:52-54; 1Pet.3:4). Indeed, believers have the *‘spirits of just men made perfect’* (Heb.12:23). What is the point of pressing the argument that in eternity we do not have the same fleshly corruptible bodies as we do now and thus necessitating *‘a continual, instant-by-instant reconstitution of their burning flesh in order for them to be tormented’*?

This unnecessary logic then leads to this statement: *‘That kind of physical torment hardly seems to be a proper punishment...burning continually reconstituted flesh would be so terrible that it would allow no contemplation of past wrongs, for no remorse, for no regret for having rejected the salvation God offered. There would be no moral dimension to such torment; it would be simply physical and so overwhelming as to allow for no thought or regret. That hardly seems to fit the crime of rebellion and rejection’*.

The above has more errors committed by applying *assumptions*. Luke 16 clearly has a person being tormented in thought, ‘contemplation’ and ‘regret’. The above logic also does not allow for those who have not actively ‘rejected’ the gospel but are there because they ‘knew not God’ (1Thess.1:8,9). People are in Hell for their sins (Rom.6:23).

In his later years Hunt almost exclusively relied upon his faulty logic. Although it is possible to come to some sound conclusions using some logic, in Hunt’s case he used logic with *unnecessary assumptions*.

Hunt also taught that because ‘God is love’, He could never assign multitudes to Hell without first giving them a ‘choice’. Hence Hunt rejected or added assumptions to the biblical and historic doctrines of election and predestination.

Our logic and reasoning must be subservient to the Word of God.

Your Comments and Questions

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

[Excerpted] Terry... *Where have you been? Off with the fairies?... [With] such evils as the... 'pre-existence', the insanity of 'incarnation', the evil of the doctrine of 'hypostatic union' [Jesus as divine/human]... and a million other sick doctrines, mostly fabricated by Rome... That He was eternal... there is not a single Scripture that you can find... that Jesus the son of GOD was made a curse for us on the cross; that he was punished by God... all doctrines of men and devils... the Trinity... every evil doctrine goes back to the Trinity, a doctrine completely unknown to Jesus or his apostles, or anyone before, about the 3rd and 4th centuries.... 'That he came to earth in the fleshly form of a man'... not a vestige of Scriptural authority for such a statement... the Roman Catholic Church teaches this and all the blind Protestants, including the Reformers, Puritans, but only because they followed the doctrine of demons... 'the incarnation - Phil.2; Jn.1' - 'the word became flesh' - a nonsense of the greatest magnitude... How many gods do you have, or are you still a Roman Catholic, and have your three gods?...*

Editor's Reply: (excerpted)

Here are just some scriptures for the doctrines you say are all '*doctrines of men, and devils*':

The Eternal Jesus: Jn.8:23,24,58; Col.1:17; 1Jn.1:1; Heb.7:3

The Deity of Jesus: Jn.1:14; 8:58; 10:30; 20:28,29; Phil.2:6-11; Col.2:9; Tit.2:12,13; Acts 20:28 (The blood of God)

The Incarnation (I stated '*he came to earth in the fleshly form of a man*'): Jn.1:14; 1Tim.3:16; 1Jn.1:1,2; 4:2...

The Trinity: Gen.1:1,26; Matt.28:19 ('name' is singular). Jesus is God (Jn.1:1; 14; 8:58; 10:30; 20:28; Col.2:9); the Spirit is God and a person (Acts 5:3,4; Jn.16:13,14).

God punished Jesus: Jesus was punished, 'bruised', 'smitten' ('crushed') for our sins (Is.53:4,10).

The idea of the 'Trinity' being invented in the 3rd and 4th centuries and by the Catholic church is FALSE, a lie from the cults. The Trinity was taught in the *first few centuries*, long before there was any Roman Catholic religion. I have attached proof from our website:

<http://taministries.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Trinity-Deity-in-Early-History-v2.0.pdf>

Terry, was King David a prophet, king and priest just like Jesus?

Editor's reply:

The Psalms declare David was a prophet. He was also king of Israel, but never a priest. The priesthood was restricted to the tribe of Levi. David's grandfather, Aaron, was a priest. All are incomparable to Jesus the divine prophet, priest and king.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Hi Terry,

What a GREAT newsletter [March/April] - especially your editorial at the start - warmed the cockles of my heart. I posted the under-noted message to my Facebook site and hope some may make contact with you. In Christ

'Terry Arnold - Excellent Apologist in Australia'.

I have in times past mentioned Terry Arnold and his 'Diakrisis' apologetics ministry based in Australia. At times when I read his articles, I feel that we are 'twins joined at the hip'. His latest ministry newsletter is just brimming with views and information that ticked so many boxes for myself - like his views on the current general apostasy in professing Christendom when it comes to the actual Gospel and how to present it.

He then exposes major problems with Bill Johnson of Bethel, Redding in CA and bravely gives his analysis of the ministry of the late Reinhard Bonkke. There is then Part 1 of his views on the Holy Spirit in history and modern counterfeits.

Cecil Andrews 'Take Heed' Ministries, Northern Ireland
www.takeheed.info

Diakrisis TV

Two new topics has been added to 'Diakrisis TV' - '*Disasters, Pandemics - What Is God Saying?*' and '*Gifts of Healing - the Truth*'.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/Ucvub39fwrzplo8ovmr1whjw>

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