



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

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

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

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

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Itinerary Sept - Dec 2023

A preaching/teaching itinerary is being planned for Queensland, NSW, Victoria, Sth Australia and Tasmania during August - November 2023. If any churches or fellowships would like to join in please contact Terry on taministries2@gmail.com or phone 0411489472. A topic list is available on request.

Editor's Comment

This newsletter is now 26 years old. We began with articles on the divisive 'Toronto Blessing' which split most churches it infected. In March 1996 we produced the first 'Diakrisis' newsletter which now more than two decades later has thousands of subscribers in Australia and overseas. We have written about trends and movements which have blown through churches. We have warned of the trojan horse of ecumenism and new Pentecostal/Charismatic teachings.

In the first issue of March 1996 we wrote: *'This is the first newsletter of what we hope will be a series of many, that will inform and equip Christians with knowledge, literature and resources, with which they can be better able to serve Jesus Christ. We should all know what we believe and perhaps more importantly - why. We should be **ready always to give an answer to every man** (1Pet.3:15)...It is hoped that many of our articles will encourage readers to test what they believe and why...We need to encourage each other to **test all things** (1Thess.5:21) by the Word of God, (the Bible). Scripture alone must test doctrine and practice, **'for all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness'** ... (2Tim.3:16).*

*The inspiration for this newsletter came partly from...seeing countless numbers of Christians being **'tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine'** (Eph.4:14). In recent years the church has seen a proliferation of new teachings...which have swept through even mainline churches. Some of these teachings and practices that were once extremes are now the norm!...*

May God give us much needed discernment. May we have the humility and love that Jesus had even to His death. May the Holy Spirit enlighten, convict and convince us as He leads us into more and more truth'. [Diakrisis March/96]

Our focus of *teaching, informing and equipping* has little changed. The world today is a very different one than in 1996. As our sub-editor recently wrote: *'We have been plunged headlong into the maelstrom of yet another highly prophetic year - 2023...Our Adversary appears to have had his leash extended a little - with drag queens teaching our children and even giving sermons in some mainline churches, and now an openly homosexual man is the speaker of the new Knesset in Jerusalem. In 2022 we learned that men can become women and give birth, girls can become boys, we can be imprisoned for not addressing someone with their preferred pronoun, and public washrooms have been declared open for any cross-dressing paedophile to wander in.*

It is now just a matter of when God finally pulls the pin on this insanity and commands the last seven years of Gentile rule to commence. It can't be far away now? 'Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sits in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure' (Ps.2:1-5). (Mike Claydon - Israel Report & Apostasy Alert, Dec.)

Terry Arnold

Pastor Statistics

At least a third of senior pastors in the United States believe one can earn a place in Heaven by simply being a good person, according to a nationwide survey. The findings were among surprising responses as part of a survey conducted earlier this year by the *Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University*.

The American *Worldview Inventory 2022* examined more than three dozen beliefs held by pastors. Researchers found that in addition to believing that people can merit salvation based solely on their good works, one-third or more of senior pastors surveyed also believe the Holy Spirit is not a person but rather ‘*a symbol of God’s power*’. Others said that moral truth is subjective; sexual relations between two unmarried people who love each other is ‘*morally acceptable*’; and biblical teaching on abortion is ‘*ambiguous*’.

After data reported earlier this year found just 37% of Christian pastors have a biblical worldview, the latest CRC report analyzed that research across all major U.S. denominations, and found that a ‘*loss of biblical belief is prevalent among pastors in all denominational groupings*’.

The current report focuses on roughly half of those beliefs, revealing that a shockingly large percentage reject biblical teaching on the basic Christian beliefs.

Among Evangelical pastors, 39% surveyed said there is no absolute moral truth and that ‘*each individual must determine their own truth*’. Roughly the same percentage (38%) said human life is sacred, while 37% said having faith, in general, is more important than in what - or more specifically, Whom - one has faith.

Perhaps most startlingly, 3 in 10 Evangelical pastors (30%) do not believe that their salvation is based on having confessed their sins and accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior.

George Barna, CRC’s director of research, said the results could be linked to another trend he observed in the data. ‘*While studying the spiritual behavioral patterns of pastors, it became evident that a large share of them do not have a regular spiritual routine*’, Barna said. ‘*There was a correlation between possessing biblical beliefs and a consistent regimen of Bible reading, prayer, worship and confession. In some of the denominational groupings, a majority of pastors do not engage in those foundational spiritual practices on a regular basis. Yet, among the pastors who have the most consistently biblical beliefs, there is also a daily routine that incorporates all of those disciplines*’.

The data from this latest report came from a nationwide study of about 1,000 Christian pastors in May across several segments of churches and/or denominational families.

Editor’s comment:

‘Evangelical’ has lost its meaning nowadays. Bible colleges and seminaries arguably are to be held accountable for this falling away. May we fear God and what will be the ‘greater judgement’ for elders/pastors/teachers (James 3:1).

Drag Queen at Children's Sermon



Will drag queens in the pulpit become ‘mainstream’ in the United Methodist Church (UMC)? That’s what one Methodist critic is warning after a UMC pastor in Florida invited a man dressed in women’s clothing to preach a sermon with children seated next to him during a church service.

Allendale Senior Pastor, Andy Oliver, said he invited Isaac Simmons, who performs in drag as ‘Ms. Penny Cost’, to deliver the sermon on October 2 because he wants ‘*all people to see people like themselves called by God to preach the Gospel*’...Simmons was seen in a video clip of the service wearing a wig and a sequin dress - ‘*an angel in heels appearing to shepherds in the fields on the night shift, telling them that Good News had arrived on their doorstep*’. Oliver...called Simmons ‘*an incredible preacher, grounded as Allendale is, in Wesleyan and liberation theology*’.

Mark Tooley, the president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, believes drag queens like Simmons are becoming the ‘*new public face of United Methodism*’. For Tooley, Simmons and others like him are among the reasons that United Methodism ‘*has never enjoyed a single year of growth in its 53 years, and is imploding*’.

Two young girls wearing face coverings were seated behind Simmons as Oliver asked him about his dress. ‘*Are you always dressed up like this?*’, asked Oliver. Simmons replied, ‘*I wish! No, I only get dressed up like this on special occasions. I kind of feel powerful when I put on a dress like this and a big wig and lots of makeup. It kind of helps me to say things that I don’t have the confidence to say outside of it*’. Simmons went on to make an apparent comparison between the final days of the life of Jesus to what he sees as the ‘*end of injustice...We, members of the United Methodist Church...have...a duty to change the very doctrine and systems of oppression which surround us*’, said Simmons. He went on to warn that ‘*those of us with the privilege of whiteness, of ‘cis-ness,’ and the privilege of the access to power must be willing to get uncomfortable*’.

Oliver then turned to address the children and referenced Romans 12:2, which reads in part, ‘*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*’. *One of the things I think is great about Ms. Penny Cost is that she reminds us that we follow a God who calls us not to conform to things of this world...We are supposed to be transformed by the renewal of our minds. That means what I think today may have to change tomorrow if I continue to renew my mind*’.

Simmons, an associate pastor at Hope UMC in Bloomington, Illinois, has a video on his website in which he declares ‘*the Bible is nothing*’, adding, ‘*God must be nothing / Religion must be nothing / It is all nothing / Until we wield it into something*’. Simmons is the first drag queen to become a certified candidate for UMC ordination.

Southern Baptist Warning Against Women Pastors



More than 700 Southern Baptist pastors are calling on the Southern Baptist Convention to prohibit women from serving *'as a pastor of any kind'* at SBC-affiliated churches.

Pastor Mike Law of Arlington Baptist Church in Arlington, Virginia, penned an open letter to the SBC's Executive Committee calling on the board to amend the convention's constitution to include requiring Southern Baptist churches to not *'affirm, appoint, or employ a woman as a pastor of any kind'*. Titled *'A Call To Keep Our Unity,'* Law's letter warns of a trend of SBC churches hiring women in pastoral roles *'...five Southern Baptist churches, roughly within a five-mile radius of our congregation, are employing women as pastors of various kinds, including women serving as 'Sr. Pastor...While often using modified titles like 'co-pastor', 'worship pastor', or 'youth pastor,' these roles...all 'trade on the office of 'pastor'...*

...The Baptist Faith & Message statement adopted in 2000 already affirms that *'while both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture'*. Citing a number of passages from Scripture that state only qualified men can hold the office of 'elder' or 'overseer', terms Law described as *'synonymous with pastor'*, including 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, the letter also warns...*'Abiding women in the pastoral office...cultivates disunity where we have long been united...Devaluing our doctrine will not lead to faithfulness or fruitfulness. Rather, if we learn anything from history, embracing empty doctrines will soon empty our Convention too. Consider the exodus among the liberal and mainline denominations. They abided with women as pastors for a time, then they embraced the practice - thereby abandoning sound doctrine - and so began their rapid decline'.*

Last year, Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, drew scrutiny from many within the SBC when the church ordained three women...

(Ian M. Giatti, *Christian Post*)

Editor's Comment:

Other denominations are further than this towards apostasy. The Presbyterian church, one of the earliest reformation churches and the tradition which once saw the major thrust of revivals and awakenings, is now in some countries in full decline. The Presbyterian church in the United States (UPCUSA) has abandoned the Westminster Confession, inspiration of scripture, and embraced the latest cultural claims of human sexuality. In 1983 it had 3.2 million members and 12,000 churches; today with a decline of 63% it has 1.19 million members and 8,800 churches. Others including Baptist churches in many countries are also now well down the same path. Independent churches also have not escaped this trend.

The tragedy is that the Gospel is being lost amid a quagmire of worldly, humanistic and ungodly values of an age heading for judgement.

When will we ever learn from history?

Deaths From ‘Faith Healing’

A panel discussion organized by The Campaign To Protect Idaho Kids, a nonprofit organization, said more than 200 children in Idaho have died of preventable illnesses and diseases since a 1972 state law began allowing parents with religious objections to medical treatment to have the legal right to let their children die from medically preventable illnesses. Idaho is one of six states in the U.S. where religious exemptions are allowed for negligent homicide, manslaughter or capital murder...

Followers of Christ Church, an infamous religious group that shuns western medical practices and embraces only healing by the power of prayer, have been accused of allowing children to die from preventable deaths. The causes of death range from food poisoning, diabetes to pneumonia and heart defects.

...Coroner’s reports reviewed by the Idaho Statesman ‘showed eight child deaths, including stillbirths, associated with faith healing since the start of 2020 in Canyon County, where the Followers of Christ Church largest church group is located’. Another report by the publication in February 2020 found 11 faith-healing deaths in the same county during the previous five years.

(Leonardo Blair, Christian Post, Jan/2023)

Editor’s Comment:

How many people all over the world die of the same cause - misguided healing practices? God does *not* guarantee healing and never has (Phil.2:25; 1Tim.5:23; 2Tim.4:20; 2Cor.12:7-9).

There is no one today who has the true ‘*gift of healings*’ (1Cor.12:28) and the ‘*signs of an apostle*’ (2Cor.12:12) as it was in the first century! They are not healing ‘*all*’ and ‘*every*’, ‘*all manner of diseases*’ (Matt.4:23,24; 8:16; 9:35; 10:1; 12:15...); ‘*immediately*’ (Matt.8:3; 20:34...); *completely* (Matt.12:13,15; 14:36; 15:28...); *at will* (Matt.8:3...) and *organic diseases* (AIDS, Down’s syndrome, etc (Matt.4:23,24; 9:35; 15:30,31...)).

Those who claim this are false prophets and deceivers in signs and wonders (Matt.24:24; 2Thess.2:9-11). The death toll and injury caused by faith healers and the healing gospel is probably thousands each year.

Church Attendances Still Short of Pre COVID

The average church reported 63% of its pre-pandemic in-person attendance in September 2020. By August 2021, that number climbed to 73% and jumped another 12 points in 2022, according to the study’... ‘Much of this decline in attendance was due to people completely abstaining from worship’, the survey says’.

(Excerpts from study ‘Faith After the Pandemic: How COVID-19 Changed American Religion’ by the Survey on American Life, a project of the American Enterprise Institute)

'Herald of Hope' - False Teachers

Recently some of our readers alerted us to an article by editor John Ecob in the magazine '*Herald of Hope*', which taught that '*every baby born is sinless*'.

We wrote a letter to every state and overseas listed representative urging them to consider correcting this false teaching.

Our letter was as follows:

'Dear sirs, I am Terry Arnold, editor of 'Diakrisis Australia', a bi-monthly Bible teaching publication. Some of our subscribers who receive Herald of Hope magazine have alerted us to a December/2022 article by John Ecob where he states from Psalm 51:5 that 'It is perfectly clear that every baby born is sinless in God's sight and David could not be saying that he was sinful when he was conceived...'

We here are astonished that such an historic cardinal doctrine of hereditary (some call it 'original') sin could be rejected in this way. Even a basic exegesis will have the Psalmist saying that this is describing sin at conception. All the early commentaries, the early church fathers, the Reformers, the Puritans, Spurgeon, Wesley, and a host of other leaders also have the same for the verse. (I am happy to send a list of quotes).

Psalm 51:5 'Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me'. This is in the Hebrew passive voice (the subject as the recipient of an action). It is not referring to any action outside of the recipient, David. More could be said of the words 'shapen' and 'iniquity' that would also completely contradict what Ecob has written, but I spare it here unless you require more.

The Septuagint also bears out this as sin at conception. Psalm 58:3 also matches Psalm 51 - 'The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies'. The words are themselves clearly going back to before birth to acknowledge the roots of sin - the sin nature. Spurgeon says of this scripture 'He goes back to the earliest moment of his being, not to traduce his mother, but to acknowledge the deep tap-roots of his sin. It is a wicked wresting of Scripture to deny that original sin and natural depravity are here taught. Surely men who cavil at this doctrine have need to be taught of the Holy Spirit what be the first principles of the faith. David's mother was the Lord's handmaid, he was born in chaste wedlock, of a good father, and he was himself "the man after God's own heart;" and yet his nature was as fallen as that of any other son of Adam, and there only needed the occasion for the manifesting of that sad fact. In our shaping we were put out of shape, and when we were conceived our nature conceived sin. Alas, for poor humanity! Those who will may cry it up, but he is most blessed who in his own soul has learned to lament its lost estate' ('The Treasury of David').

Many other major commentaries can be quoted, many referring to a 'tree' and its 'root'; sin being traced back to birth and before; and the sin nature inherited from Adam. I am happy to send them if you desire to study further. The scripture itself if read honestly simply says David was brought forth in sin! No amount of logic or gymnastics with the text should change this. We do not earn a sinful nature by 'choice' [as stated in the article], we are born with it. Only Jesus was sinless!

(1Pet.2:22). Death comes because of sin. Babies die like adults. But other scriptures also bear out the adamic sin inherited: Rom.5:12,18,19 'Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned...Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous' ['men' here is 'anthropos' - generic for all mankind]

Ephesians 2:3 'Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.'

1Cor.15:22 'For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive'.

Pr.22:15 'Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him'.

Job 15:14 'What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?'

Jer.17:9 'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?'

I have fathered children and now have two grandchildren, one a year old. Even by experience, I never had to teach them to be selfish and sinful. Selfishness and the 'I' is already exhibited at birth, an early age. Their sinful flesh is part of them.

Ecob makes a blunder when he says: 'We sin by choice and until a child has reached the age of understanding it cannot make a responsible choice'. No scripture is given for this. But he here misses completely that it is the nature behind any 'choice' that is inherited from Adam. As for the 'age of understanding' - where is this in history or in scripture? That is a new and false modern doctrine.

But there are more errors in this article. Ecob says it is the Roman Catholic doctrine of 'original sin'. It is a Roman Catholic doctrine, but the doctrine was established long before Roman Catholicism was ever founded. It is also a Protestant doctrine taught by the Reformers, the Puritans and the other major leaders, and in all the major Confessions of Faith that our denominations came from! Why is 'Catholicism' singled out?

Then Ecob targets the 'Calvinists' who believe in 'Total Depravity'. However, inherited sin is only part of that doctrine. But why then add this: 'unelected babies must be sinful and go to Hell'? This is not what historic 'Calvinists' teach concerning inherited sin. This is more to do with hyper-Calvinism. I do not call myself a 'Calvinist' but do teach the 'Doctrines of Grace' as Spurgeon and most of the Reformers and Puritans did. On the issues of babies I concur with Spurgeon: 'If they are saved we believe it is not because of any natural innocence. They enter heaven by the same way that we do - they are received in the name of Christ'.

We have found the Herald of Hope's writings on 'Calvinism' to be nothing short of shocking, and confusing historic Calvinism as hyper-Calvinism. We in this ministry have several times tried to correct John Ecob and Vince Wall yet to no avail and received either no replies or arrogant replies. We then exposed and corrected these in our newsletter (We can send you the issues). When John Ecob

and Vince Wall state untruths - like Spurgeon taught 'TULIP' in a 5 point 'sermon', one knows they have not a clue as to the history - for 'TULIP' was not even invented till the 20th century! Despite irrefutable facts sent, nothing has ever been corrected either by these two authors or in the magazine. Both refused to even acknowledge the most obvious, even historical errors.

Finally, Ecob has also confused marriage with what the verse clearly says. Also, it is possible that King David's mother was a second wife to Jesse David's father but her name is not mentioned in the Bible.

Even if Ecob was correct by his eisegesis then what of all the other verses that clearly state all are sinful, not just becoming sinful at some mythical age, but simply sinful by nature.

We are asking you to consider where this magazine is heading when the writers will not take any correction and do stray into areas not really eschatological. (And we are saying that as pre-millennialists).

We rate this article by Ecob as heresy. It affects other doctrines and the Gospel. Many of our subscribers are subscribers to the Herald of Hope and in the past I once did recommend it. But we are asking you to please reply and let us know where you stand. If this is not addressed we would feel it necessary to publicly expose the magazine and the writers. We say this not as any threat but it is a sense of urgency to us that readers not be confused and deceived by a doctrine which is not historic, orthodox or scriptural. Please consider'.

In Christian love and for the truth,

Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon (Sub editor)

Following the letter above we had one reply from a listed state representative who had already previously asked *Herald of Hope* for his name to be taken off their list. A second person said they were 'passing on the letter to the editor'. Not a single other representative, nor the editors sent anything in reply, even after more than two months and sending the above letter a second time to each representative.

Both Vince Wall before and now John Ecob, have taught that infants are born sinless: 'Every child born into this world is innocent until it comes to the age of understanding when it must choose God or Satan...' (Wall).

Isaiah 7:6 and Ezekiel 33:11 were quoted as proof texts for this. However, Isaiah 7:16 or Ezekiel 33:11 nowhere state anything about salvation or a child being 'innocent' or sinless! Ecob denies what Psalm 51:5 literally says when he states 'every baby born is sinless in God's sight and David could not be saying that he was sinful when he was conceived...' Yet the Psalm says 'Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me'.

No amount of logic or gymnastics with this text should change the meaning of the words 'iniquity', 'sin', and 'shapen' and 'conceive'. God's Word must not overrule our fallen logic. Psalm 58:3 matches Psalm 51 which also states that newborns 'go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies'. And we do not just 'sin by choice' as Ecob says, for we sin by nature which we are born with.

Sin and death are passed upon all from Adam, even babies and others without

any Law (Rom.5:12-14). *All die* in Adam (1Cor.15:22; Rom.5) *without distinction*. Nothing born of a woman, except the virgin birth of Jesus can be ‘*innocent*’ before God (Job.25:4-6; 15:14-16). Ephesians 2:3 says we are ‘*by nature children of wrath*’. This can only be because we are all *by nature* sinners. We fell into sin and became sinful due to the sin of Adam.

This has been the historic orthodox teaching on hereditary (original) sin which Psalm 51 and many other scriptures clearly go back to the roots of - the *sin nature*, resident in the heart of man (Jer.17:9).

Why does one have to be ‘born again’ if we are not born in sin? Sin is not just something mankind does, thinks or says, it is an *inherited condition*.

A History of Errors

The *Herald of Hope* magazine is unscholarly and heretical in many articles. We have before written of their false teaching in using 1Thessalonians 2:3 to teach the ‘*falling away*’ is a ‘rapture’, which is new teaching dated to the 20th century. Misrepresentations in Greek were used to teach this [See *Diakrisis* Nov/Dec/2007].

Then [in ‘*Diakrisis*’ Jan/Feb/2007] we wrote of their blatant errors in the history of ‘Calvinism’ and the acronym ‘TULIP’, and the utter confusion with hyper-Calvinism. Further [in ‘*Diakrisis*’ May/June 2015] we wrote of more historic errors and woeful scholarship in claiming Spurgeon taught a ‘TULIP’ Calvinism; and that ‘*Calvinism is rooted in Catholicism*’ and then misquoting the Westminster Confession. More recently in the February 2023 edition of *Herald of Hope*, John Ecob has also accused John Calvin of putting people to death and not being saved himself. The history here is shockingly skewed and misreported.

The *Herald of Hope* often strays from their focus which is predominately eschatological. Even in this field, readers have expressed concerns concerning unbiblical suppositions. As one stated to us: ‘*they state a supposition and then go looking for scriptures to support it*’.

Final Assessment

We have no choice but to again warn our readers to separate themselves from a ministry (The *Herald of Hope*) that teaches an early Pelagian heresy and false teaching on sin, completely abolishing what Psalm 51:5 clearly states. It is not the teaching of the church fathers, the reformers, the Puritans nor any major commentator down the running centuries.

Again, we quote the ‘prince of preachers’ on Psalm 51:5: ‘*It is a wicked wresting of Scripture to deny that original sin and natural depravity are here taught. Surely men who cavil at this doctrine have need to be taught of the Holy Spirit what be the first principles of the faith*’ (‘*The Treasury of David*’).

Unless the writers and board members of this magazine explain or correct their unbiblical doctrines we advise anyone seeking biblical truth to consider cancelling their subscription.

Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon

A Biblical World View in Disturbing Times

As a Christian, how are we to interpret and respond to devastating circumstances that take place in our community, in our nation, and on the world stage?...

Illustration 1: A man in the prime of his life, was travelling along Goulburn Valley Hwy, Thornton with a colleague from work, when their vehicle collided with another vehicle and claimed his life. He was a father, husband and well known member of our community. How do we interpret and respond to that situation?

Illustration 2: In 2019, dozens of people died in the bush fires with more than 50 uncontrolled fires. The state of disaster was declared, the army deployed, and panic was widespread. How do we interpret and respond to this situation?

Illustration 3: The Russia-Ukraine war has seen hundreds of thousands of people die on both sides, with many innocent civilians included. How should we interpret and respond to this situation?

In such times we need to restate, recalibrate, and reinforce our biblical world view so that our 'structure of faith' is sound, and our responses and actions are aligned with God's will. An individual's world view affects everything. How do we understand such fatalities, natural disasters, and wars?

The Definition of a Biblical World View

The Biblical world view refers to the framework of ideas and beliefs through which a Christian interprets the world and interacts with it. 'Conservative Christianity' is another way of describing those who defend a biblical world view.

A biblical world view is based on the infallible Word of God. When you believe the Bible is entirely true, then you allow it to be the foundation of everything you say and do. This is what we refer to as 'Sola Scriptura' or Scripture Alone.

The further a nation moves away from God's moral laws, the more the Biblical world view is treated with contempt, and those who boldly uphold the fundamentals of our faith are subject to severe persecution. It should not surprise us that we come under fire!

Unfortunately, in today's society, a so-called 'Christian world view' is not necessarily the same as a 'Biblical world view'. For example, many 'Christians' have moved away from the absolute authority of Scripture and therefore take unbiblical positions on homosexuality, abortion, worldliness, repentance and faith, and many other hot-button topics. The true Biblical world view is becoming increasingly diluted.

The Dilution of a Biblical World View

The Biblical world view is under constant attack. The battle never subsides, and its casualties are many! Non-biblical and anti-biblical world views are not passive, they are pro-active, and are spearheaded by the Devil himself.

We are bombarded by humanistic, atheistic, rationalistic, pragmatic, relative,

god-denying philosophies. This is evident everywhere we look: in our homes via television and Internet; in our workplaces through employment policies, anti-discrimination acts (highly discriminatory of Christians), discussions in the lunchroom, magazines, books, and the media; in our education systems by means of academic theories posing as objective truths (evolution, etc.); in our politics by means of climate change theorists and alarmists, the Greta Thunberg's of the world, and scientists who are hand puppets for Satan himself; in our religious establishments via weak, unsaved preachers who coddle, entertain, and finally damn their congregants by preaching secularistic, spirit-of-the-age sermonettes that are void of spiritual truth and cannot save.

Because of this widespread spiritual erosion, many 'Christians' have watered down their souls with worldly wisdom and have been taken captive '*by philosophy and vain deceit*' (Col.2:8). They are more concerned about the ice age than the church age; more concerned with saving the whales than preserving the sanctity of life; more concerned with the rainforests than redemption; more concerned with climate change than spiritual change; more concerned with bush fires than eternal fires; and more concerned with carbon reductions than the rampant moral decline.

Like a gnawing rodent, the Devil continues to consume the moral fabric of society, leaving a trail of destruction in his wake. The Bible tells us that in the last days lawlessness will increase and because of this, '*the love of many will grow cold*' (Matt.24:12). Inevitably, the dilution of a biblical world view finally leads to a total departure from the Biblical world view...

The Departure From a Biblical World View

Many (so-called) Christians have departed from the Biblical world view because they have applied worldly logic and wisdom to the circumstances of life. They have become captives of philosophy and empty deceit. Whenever we depart from God's written revelation, we open ourselves up to the enemy's deceitful darts, and he operates without mercy.

These departures should not surprise us, but should disturb us. The Galatians had '*quickly deserted him who called you into the grace to Christ and are turning to a different gospel*' (Gal.1:6). Paul names Hymenaeus and Philetus as those who had '*swerved from the truth*' (2Tim.2:18). Demas was once a fellow-labourer with Paul, but '*fell in love*' with the world and what it had to offer (2Tim.3:9).

The aged apostle John, speaking of some of antichrists said, '*They went out from us, but were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might be plain that they all are not of us*' (1Jn.2:19).

Doorway To The Biblical World View

'Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him...' (Col.2:6).

The entrance into a biblical world view comes by means of receiving Christ. To 'receive Christ' is to believe in Him. It is to exercise faith in His person and work

of redemption on your behalf. It is to acknowledge your desperate need of a Saviour, and your absolute dependence upon Jesus to meet that need. I believe that there are many pseudo-Christians - men and women masquerading as believers but without having truly received Christ Jesus the Lord. This is why there is utter confusion in the 'Christian camp' with so many varied opinions rather than a unity and purity of doctrine stemming from a biblical world view.

Have you truly received Jesus Christ? Has your life changed since the Spirit made His abode within? Have you been masquerading as a Christian and yet not spiritually alive? Is your life marked by a pursuit of God and His will?

Developing a Biblical World View

'Walk in Him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving' (Col.2:6,7).

Paul provides us with three distinct metaphors in this text: *Walking, Rooted, Built*. Though distinct, these metaphors teach one unassailable truth: *Be established and keep growing*.

'Walking' speaks of motion, effort, muscles, and energy. This denotes the believer's daily conduct. To walk in Christ is to live a life patterned after His.

In like manner the believer is to be moving in the direction of godliness, faith, and sanctification. Where once we were all stumbling in the darkness, now we are walking in the light, and all the more as we see the day approaching!

'To be rooted' speaks of a tree whose roots strike deep into the earth which act as an anchor when the winds blow, and the weather is tempestuous. This illustration speaks of firmness, strength, maturity and resolve.

'Built up in him' is to be layered. In building terms today, there are a number of stages/layers: The foundation stage (Jesus Christ); the frame stage (theology and doctrine); the lock up stage (windows, fascia, gutters, electrical, plumbing); the fix stage (plaster, skirtings, benchtops etc.); the final build stage (paintwork, walk-in-robos, air con, etc.); the inspection stage (the sign off); and the settlement stage (time to move in).

Paul also uses the word *'established'* which again speaks of soundness, firmness, to be robust and solid.

In other words, the responsibility of *every* Christian is to grow in their development of a Biblical world view. Faith must grow and permeate every thought, every deed, every decision, every attitude. Another way of saying this is - *pursuing sanctification*.

The last phrase in verse 7 must not be overlooked: *'abounding in thanksgiving'*. The life of faith and the sound structure of a Biblical world view will overflow with thanksgiving to God in all situations.

Practical Applications

It is the Christians responsibility to continually feed his soul with the Scripture so that he can think right, decide right, and finally act right throughout the

circumstances of life.

A Biblical world view sees the sudden death of a local through the lens of Scripture, understanding that death has come about because of sin and does not blame God; applies the truth of God's sovereignty and goodness; feels the inexpressible pain of those who today no longer have a husband and father, or wife and mother; decides to help in ways that will soothe pain and point the hurting towards Christ.

A Biblical world view sees the bushfires through the lens of Scripture and applies the truth of God's goodness and sovereignty (to the *mind*); feels empathy towards those who are hurting (to the *emotions*); decides upon a godly path of action to help (to the *will*); and thanks God for doing mysterious things.

We must ensure that the Scriptures are the compass, the light, and the basis for our thinking and decision making. We cannot trust our logic; we cannot follow our hearts; we cannot be led by our emotional responses.

Defend the Biblical World View With All Your Might

'See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ' (Col.2:8).

There were some very specific errors threatening the Colossae Church and they are the same ones that continue to terrorise the church. Paul says, '*see to it*' or '*beware*' - be vigilant, on guard, ready to defend the truth at all times.

To be '*taken captive*' is to be seduced, spoiled, cheated, robbed, and made a prisoner of war. '*Philosophy*' is the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom outside of God. '*Vain deceit*' is the tricks, delusions, traps, and worthless deceptions.

If we are not actively defending, we are losing the battle. If we are not walking, we are stumbling. If we are not being rooted deeper all the time, we are being plucked up and eroding. If we are not being built, we are being torn down. If we would think and act aright in a culture of continued perverseness, we must strengthen our Biblical world view each day, and sharpen our powers of discernment. *'Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing you are dull of hearing. For when for the time you ought to be teachers, you have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that uses milk is unskillfull in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil' (Heb.5:11-14).*

If we do not develop and defend a biblical world view, the culture and the spirit of the age will chew us and our family up and spit us out. As we observe the many difficult circumstances that surround us, may we exercise the mind of Christ, and lie with a Biblical world view which glorifies God, and points the lost to Christ!

Daniel Kriss

(Daniel Kriss - former pastor of Mt Cathedral Baptist church, Victoria)

Testimony of Deliverance From a False Gospel

[The following is an example of many testimonies that are coming from an African Gospel church and Bible college in Kenya]

I am Fred Otieno K'ombewa, from Kisumu County in Kenya. I came in contact with the Gospel of Grace in 2017, after I had preached the so called gospel of prosperity (word of faith) for 26 years.

Since this gospel of prosperity is the view which is prevalent within our area, I thought I was saved during all that 26 year period in which I believed a false view of the gospel. What enticed me when I thought I got saved was that I was told of the things God could do for me, things I could get by becoming a Christian. They did not tell me about my sin, and the solution of that sin; which in actual sense was the purpose of Jesus coming into the world. This is clearly what Mary was told by the Angel in Mathews 1:21, that Jesus shall save His people from their sins.

...I had no idea of my lost condition even as a practicing preacher. But while I was in class [at Wisdom Training Centre (WTC) in Mumias Kenya] we studied a unit which talked about the total depravity of man. This was a strange teaching which I had never come across before during all these 26 years in preaching. Here I was trapped in an inner struggle with myself, in relation to my condition before God. But by this time, we had been taught to rely on the scriptures only as the source of information for the Christian faith. I struggled with the instructor who would refer me constantly to the Bible only.

I thought my dedication to God, and my service in preaching what I knew to be the Gospel was my way of earning greater acceptance with God. It was really a works salvation...When I understood this doctrine of total depravity as revealed in the scriptures...I realized that in all these years I had not known myself. Fear came upon my heart, and I saw myself under the terror and wrath of God. Even though I struggled in my heart, I found myself a captive of the scriptures. All these great truths uncovered me, and I knew there and then I had not been saved. During this time, what I was left with was only to ask "what I could do to be saved", just as the hearers of Peter asked in Acts 2:37, for I saw the judgment of God...

The lectures took a new turn...The Gospel of Grace brought an assurance to my thirsty struggling soul, and joy filled my heart as if I had found a great treasure.

Thanks be to God for he never left me without showing me what he had done for me in His son Jesus Christ. This time the death of Jesus became a reality to me. I heard that my sins were laid on him, so that His righteousness could be credited to me. The gospel of grace arrested my soul, and I readily found peace in my heart by believing on the work He had done for me.

As I write this, I would like to declare publicly my faith in Christ by going for water baptism...I never understood its meaning as I do now...I see that it's the appointed time by the Lord to be baptized a fresh, after understanding Christ's work of atonement, and what He has done for me on his cross of Calvary. Blessed be the name of the LORD who never allowed me to die before this great time...'

(From Gospel Mission Agency Church, Mumias, Kenya)

Thomas Spurgeon - Son of Charles Spurgeon

Thomas Spurgeon visited Toowoomba, Queensland, in the late 1800's and spoke of the work at Highfields Baptist church:

'Labour for the Lord is very encouraging, although much discomfort is incurred for want of some comfortable lodging at night. I have often to lie down with many of those little jumping cattle, which are more lively than lovely. In perils of these robbers is one of my greatest trials in my bush work; but it must be cheerfully endured for Christ's sake and the gospel's. Otherwise the country is most enjoyable. Some time ago I held a meeting in the wild bush or scrub, as we call it, at which over 150 people attended, many being Germans. We assembled in the open air at three o'clock in the afternoon and held service till dark, when we adjourned to our little chapel which could accomodate only half the people. Here we sang and preached in German and English until 12 o'clock when I closed the meeting. After some refreshment, I returned to the chapel and found the people as fervant as ever. The Spirit of God began to work mightily, and we continued pointing the anxious to the Saviour till 3 o'clock in the morning and finished by singing, 'Ring the Bells of Heaven'. I am confident that some souls will always remember with great joy that midnight meeting in the bush'.

(From a history article about Highfields Baptist church, Toowoomba)

Thomas Spurgeon (1856-1917) was one of the twin sons of the famous Charles Spurgeon (1834-92). Thomas carried on in a trade as an engraver until he felt the call to be a preacher of the Gospel.

His health troubled him (lung congestion) and he sought a better climate. While still young he spent one year in Australia in evangelistic work before returning to England. Again his health determined he return to Australia. In the 1880's he preached in many places in Australia and New Zealand. Eventually he settled as a pastor in Auckland, New Zealand, at the Baptist Tabernacle. In 1888 he married Eliza McLeod Rutherford and in 1891 had a son, Thomas Harold Spurgeon.

Ill health forced him to resign in 1888. Thereafter when he could, he travelled as an evangelist throughout New Zealand and Australia for some years.

When his father Charles died, Thomas was not impressed with the politics involved in who would take the pulpit after Charles. Thomas tended to distance himself from the scene for a time until eventually he was asked to come back to England and help in the church. He returned to England and took the pulpit in the London Tabernacle between 1893-1908. He had a heavy ministry load preaching several times each week, lecturing at the college, in editorship of the *Sword and Trowell* magazine, and as the head of several attached ministries including the Stockwell Orphanage. After nearly 15 years he resigned for health reasons in 1907 at age 51. However, he continued on with the college and the *Sword and the Trowell* and writing five books of sermons and one book of poetry.

He died following a stroke in 1917 at age 61, having run the race God had set before him.

Terry Arnold

Your Comments and Questions

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

From an 'Apostle, Prophet & [Word Faith] Teacher'

Terry Arnold, is your ministry of Heaven or of men? Your own words will judge you - then God will tell you His!... You have issues with the person of God the Holy Spirit Himself? You are in the most dangerous position a Christian could ever be found in by God when He asks you! Matthew 7:23 'Then I will declare to them, I have never known you; keep away from me, O you that work iniquity' (iniquity is still of man and not of God; carnal, natural, religious intellectual, heady, and high minded) Definitely not The Mind of Christ!

(From 'Ron, an Apostle, Prophet & Teacher by the Will of God, to all the Saints and Faithful in Christ Jesus, (not of men, neither by man, but by the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ, and God the Father who raised him from the dead')

(R.B., Canada)

Editor's reply:

...I have no issues with the person of God the Holy Spirit who saved me. The Holy Spirit is His power to me (Eph.1:19,20), He reveals truth (2Tim.3:16,17), He baptises me into body of Christ (1Cor.12:13), He fills me (Eph.5:18-20), seals (Eph.1:13,14), teaches truth (Jn.16:13), lead's & guides (Rom.8:14-16; Jn.16:12-15), gives assurance (Rom.8:16), glorifies Christ (Jn.16:13,14), convicts of sin (Jn.16:8-11), intercedes (Rom.8:26), gives fruit (Gal.5:22,23), anoints (is the anointing - 1Jn.2:27), Sanctifies/makes holy (2Thess.2:13; 1Pet.1:2; 1Jn.3:3; 1Thess 4:3,4; Phil.2:12,13; Phil.1:6)....

If you want to go beyond the scriptures and have your extra biblical teachings, then perhaps you need to quote correctly and not add your own interpretations to your scripture: Matt.7:22,23 'Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity'.

You are a false apostle to the true in scripture, which were the foundation of the church, eye witnesses of the Lord, with 'signs of an apostle' (Matt.24:24; Eph.2:20; 2Cor.12:12; Acts 1:22; 3:33; 5:12)...*The Word of Faith* teaching taught in your ministry is *NEW* to the 20th.C, extra-biblical and heretical. I am happy to send an article why this is so but you may again think me '*religious intellectual, heady, high minded*'?

In Christ Jesus and for the truth of His Word.

[Second e-mail from same 'apostle' R.B.]

...I found your website trashing the ones God Himself called His Servants - like Smith Wigglesworth and Maria Woodworth-Etter... God called me Himself for His Last Move coming...and my call is about to be fulfilled very, very soon! Wait and Watch! The world will know it's here so you should be able to recognise it too!...

The 'word faith...Romans 10:8 'But what says it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, "the word of faith", which we preach'. Jesus Christ and Apostle Paul are both my examples of Word of Faith! Paul's Word of Faith here is 1st and 2nd Century! Same as mine! Same Holy Spirit!

...My studies since 1979 with the Holy Spirit; Himself teaching me based on God calling me Himself - in recorded hours is now well over 100,000+ study hours! What do you want to know that the Holy Spirit, Himself has taught me! That spans what He told others also in the past over 400+ years! Those that could actually know Him and could hear His Voice!...

Who called you into a ministry and qualified you to teach anything? ...What are you - Catholic, Baptist and into apologetics, a Spurgeonite? What is your affiliation...Mental 'discernment' isn't the Holy Spirit', it's natural, intellectual thinking - adding Bible to that is just religious thinking! If you had meat of the Word of God you would be like Jesus doing all the same works He did like he said!

(R.B., an Apostle, Prophet & Teacher...The Voice of God's Word; The Voice of Faith...)

Editor's reply:

The 'word of faith' here - you forgot to go to the next two verses - those verses ARE the 'word of faith' being spoken here by Paul (not your own 'rhema', but the 'confession' and 'belief' in the next two verses spoken by the apostle Paul - '....the word of faith which we preach That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you shall be saved'.

You do err greatly in the reading of this scripture to make your own doctrine when it is here the words of the apostle Paul that is the 'word of faith'!...You call yourself an apostle, equal to Paul who wrote this? The Spirit has written the final word in the Bible (Heb.1:1,2). The 'more sure word of prophesy' is not your words you think you hear from God but 'the prophecy of the scripture' (2Pet.1:20). Adding to that will not God judge?

PS. Re: Smith Wigglesworth - I challenge you to find one single documented case of a healing or miracle by him.

'Logos' & 'Rhema' - 'Word of Faith' Confusion

Many Charismatic teachers teach that the Greek word 'Logos' translated 'word' was the *written* word of Scripture and that 'Rhema' (another Greek equivalent), was the subjective *spoken* word, such as in prophecies or God speaking to us privately (separate to the written word). They teach a distinction between the two words and that we should accept *new revelations* through a 'Rhema' (spoken) word.

However, these Greek words are *synonyms*, used *interchangeably*. Sometimes 'Logos' is used for the spoken Word (Jn.4:50; 1Cor.12:8), rather than the written Word of Scripture. *This invalidates the theory of a distinction* between 'Logos' and 'Rhema' as taught by Charismatics. It fails to give support for any 'new revelations'.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry,

I have been receiving your newsletter for approx. 25 years. The article in the latest Jan/Feb 2023 on the 'new birth' is in my opinion the most informative and useful article you have written for the purpose of eternity for mankind.

Thankyou for the effort you put into working. Love in Christ.

(G.C., NSW)

Terry, Christianity has gone soft at the knees and highly 'WOKE'? No one can be offended now and the Doctrines of Grace are way too brutal for the snowflakes of today to accept? That God says we are sinful and deserve an eternity in Hell is simply beyond the pale. Just watch the media today - they portray Christianity and the Bible as HATE speech. Dutton [opposition leader Australia] said as much too over the sacking of a football manager because he attended a church where a sermon was preached saying that God viewed abortion and homosexuality as sin...and Dutton described the sermon as an abomination! And he claims to be a Christian?...

(M.C. Sth Aust)

Dear Brothers and sisters in the Lord, we pray for your continued blessings from our Lord and Saviour...May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to use you. I think we need to buckle our seat belts as this year is shaping up to be a very bumpy ride. We rejoice that our Lord is in control. Yours in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(E.V., Qld)

Revelation Booklets

Several subscribers have been asking for booklets of the Revelation series done in 'Diakrisis' over the last few years. The commentary series on the book of Revelation in 'Diakrisis' between 2019 and 2023 is now available in two booklets. This covers the entire chapters of revelation.

The cost for the two booklets including postage is \$25. Order by e-mail to taministries2@gmail.com or phone 0411489472 (text is best).

Webmaster Needed

The taministries website (www.taministries.net) needs a webmaster - someone to maintain the site, make changes, etc. If any are skilled and interested, please contact Terry on taministries2@gmail.com

Terry's Itinerary

Feb.28th (Tues) & **March 3rd** (Frid) 7.30pm Evangel Church, Bass Hill
Ph.0412670995

March 5th (Sunday) 10am Fellowship Baptist 226 Nuwarra Rd, Moorebank
Ph.0488555981

April 10th-15th Youth camp (Far Nth. Qld)

Itinerary Sept - Dec 2023

A preaching/teaching itinerary is being planned for the editor for Queensland, NSW, Victoria, Sth Australia and Tasmania during August - November 2023. If any churches or fellowships would like to join in please contact Terry on taministries2@gmail.com or phone 0411489472. A topic list is available on request.

Conference Video Available

A video of the recent '*Charismatic Confusion*' conference in Sydney will soon be available. The video includes all 4 sessions. Free with donation for postage.

Order by e-mail to taministries2@gmail.com or phone 0411489472 (text is best).

Prayer Points

- Pray for clear direction and wisdom in planning the Sept-Dec itinerary.
- Pray for effective use of, and distribution of, the recent conference videos.

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