

Gospel Confusion Conference

Due to a health issue the editor was forced to postpone this conference last October. It is now rescheduled for Saturday, May 10th, God willing.

Some of the sessions are: *Which gospel?; The Theology Behind the Gospel - Which Depravity / Which Grace?; What does Regeneration, ‘born again’ mean?; Gospel Methods/Mediums/Testimonies; the Presentation of the Gospel...and more...*

May 10th, from 9.30am-3.30pm at St. Johns Park Baptist church, Sydney. Please support this!
Cost: Free. Lunch and coffee/tea provided.

Sydney Itinerary (May)

- May 10th** (Sat) St Johns Park Baptist, Sydney - **Gospel Conference** - see above
- May 11th** (Sun) 10.30am & 5pm (Sun) St Johns Park Baptist, 178 Humphries Rd, Ph.0417179610
- May 16th** (Frid) 7.30pm Evangel church, cnr Neville & Clarke St, Bass Hill Ph.0409090568
- May 18th** (Sun) 10am Fellowship Baptist, 226 Nuwarra Rd, Moorebank Ph.0488555981

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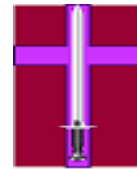
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Diakrisis (Australia)

‘But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern [diakrisis] both good and evil’, (Heb.5:14)

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TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry,
Teaching, Informing and Equipping the church.
Editor: Terry Arnold (Dr.Th; MABS; Dip.Bib.&Min.)

The editor may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by subscribers in this newsletter.

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

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

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

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Gospel Confusion Conference

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Sessions: *Which gospel?; The Theology Behind the Gospel - Which Depravity/Which Grace?; What does ‘born again’ mean?; Gospel Methods/Mediums/Testimonies; the Presentation of the Gospel...and more...*
Cost: Free. Lunch/coffee/tea provided. See Page 20

The Truth Behind the Madness

The Madness

Non Christians and Christians alike are acknowledging what appears to be a certain madness that has descended upon the world.

There is surely madness in the middle east. The current Middle East war was started on October 7 by what was the worst atrocities to civilians since the Jewish Holocaust. However, the October 7 event is now rarely mentioned and daily the mainstream media mostly puts out a narrative of Israel committing 'genocide'.

Although both sides have their narratives, some of the reporting is blatantly calculated and untrustworthy. Recently an overseas *Sky News* published a story of an 80 year old Palestinian grandmother in the West Bank who was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers. The article emotively reported this innocent grandmother fell to her knees as the Israeli soldiers shot her six times during a raid. However, one journalist upon investigating the story discovered the journalist who wrote the story had a history of previous media posts strongly opposed to Israel, even to arguably a racist extent...hardly impartial. The original report given to the journalist was that the lady was killed with 'live bullets', not 'six bullets'. More detail showed a history of the family being involved in terrorist activities, one of her boys being killed in war and another in prison - photos showed them holding guns. There were also two people killed in the story, not just the one old grandmother, the other killed being a confirmed terrorist - but that would have spoiled the story of the one 'innocent' and 'old grandmother'?* Although it is terrible that any civilian is killed, what is not understood in this war is that most Palestinians are brainwashed from an early age to hate Jews, and thus many support the terrorists and sadly suffer when terrorists hide amongst them.

No doubt Israel makes mistakes in war, but stories like this abound in the media and fuel the antisemitic madness we see. Demonstrations around the world do not now mention the October 7 atrocities, but rather the collateral deaths on one side, yet it was *a war to deliver hostages after a brutal mass murder of civilians*.

But there are also other 'wars' to show the madness - the 'culture wars' rage on with gender 'experts' being unable to even define for us what is a 'woman'. The 'offence industry' has countless people having to make apologies for things said that offend others. Immigration policies have caused some countries at times to appear to be on the brink of anarchy and social collapse. Youth crime and disorder show the breakdown of the family unit. The nations certainly do rage (Psalm 2:1)!

There are the few in the media who call out the madness and the immorality thereof. Others well clarify the hypocrisy and the immorality of the state of the world at the moment. They are rightly shocked and perplexed as to why this is happening. They ask 'why' the madness, but have little clue as to the answer...They are busy analysing and trying to figure it all out and come to solutions. Although some are to be commended for their bravery to correct the false narratives, they are naturally ignorant of *the spiritual truths behind the madness...*

Continued next page >

[More from Editor]: Dear M...I am astonished that you cannot discern that the details in many of Wilkinson's prophecies *did not come to pass* - his '*nuclear...hydrogen holocaust*', the '*economic collapse*', the '*mass hysteria*', '*banks closing, financial institutions crumbling*'...Where was the '*nuclear strike by Russia*'...Where were the '*500 fires*' which Wilkerson said would occur (then he claimed '*503 fires*' actually occurred in the Gulf War), even though the '*500 fires*' was never in an original prophesy, but added later...?

The article you question was written 22 years ago - ample time for his prophecies to come to pass which were '*imminent*', '*soon*' and '*next few years*'...

Our '*discernment*' was in simply *testing* Wilkerson's prophecies and his teaching...If you dig further, there are many more prophecies we did not have in our original article: here is one more: '*Right now I sense in my spirit that in less than 5 years there will be no more so-called gospel television networks. They will all fall into bankruptcy and absolute ruin*' (Wilkerson's newsletter '*In the Solomon Church*' 12-19-94). How many false prophecies make a false prophet?

David Wilkerson often stated '*I bring you a prophetic word from the Lord*'. But please hear the *true Word* of the Lord!: '*The prophet which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken? When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken, but the prophet has spoken it presumptuously: you shall not be afraid of him*' (Dt.18:20-22).

[Editor's note: Miss M. has since replied favourably and agreed to read a further article from our website (in the Pentecostal section). Please pray]

Worth Listening To!

Martyn Lloyd Jones - two sermons...

1. *A Tribute by Iain Murray*. This historical address, delivered by Iain Murray a few months after the death of Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones in 1981, details how Lloyd Jones saw his impending death, his sense of eternity with unwavering faith...

<https://www.mljtrust.org/sermons/tributes-dr-lloyd-jones/dr-martyn-lloyd-jones-the-latter-years/>

2. '*Praying in the Spirit*' - a classic and popular sermon by Martyn Lloyd Jones. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvxITnpEAiA>

Correction

One of our subscribers has alerted us to an error we printed on page 8 of Jan/Feb '*Diakrisis*'. We had Jonathan Cahn instead of Jonathan Cain. Jonathan Cain was a rock band leader, not the Kansas City false prophet, Cahn.

Your Comments and Questions

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

[This letter is referring to an article by Mike Claydon titled '*David Wilkerson and Prophetic Warnings*' - see *Diakrisis*, 2002 Jan/Feb]

I respectfully wanted to inquire as to whether you are thinking of doing a follow up article on this topic as now so many of his prophecies are coming to fruition...As a Pentecostal I am appalled that you would step on God's message like you have. You are not the judge, God is. I think praying for better discernment would have been the godly thing to do. Pastor Wilkinson mentions the Catholic church committing apostasy and we now see they are promoting and allowing gay priests...He mentions the gay community attacking people in the streets which we witnessed them doing just this very thing in 2024...attacking Christians in America trying to visit Christian bookstores etc. He mentions how China will be reached and other communist countries and we see this on mass today...Christians will be persecuted for sharing Gods word and we see this everyday. The most recent was the realtor in the Carolinas who was found liable for hate speech for posting a Bible verse. These are just the tip of the iceberg!

I feel there was a great injustice committed against God's word by your article. As we know, God has no timeline and for you to say all those years ago that the prophecies have not been fulfilled seems to be short sighted at best. I am not sure if you are still living on this earth but if so, this would be your chance (as a man of God) to admit to this misinformation. I say this with love as there are people out there who were affected by your words that will need to hear this.

(M.H., E-mail)

Editor's reply:

Hello M...I have sent your e-mail to Mike Claydon. In short his reply is that '*Wilkerson's prophecies were not 'God's messages'. The canon of scripture is closed and now He has spoken through His Son (Heb.1; 2Pet.1:19-21). We are to judge all teachings, to be Bereans, to be discerning. You didn't need God to speak to you in the 1980's regarding coming events - they are all described in one way or another in scripture for the last days! David Wilkerson claimed that the fulfilments of his prophecies were imminent and that Biblical Babylon was New York...As for the Roman Catholic religion, it has always been apostate - what you point out is hardly a prophecy?...And China is mentioned in Biblical prophecy - so no further prophecy needed there?*

My article was in defence of God's Word - which David Wilkerson had carelessly added to. I agree that many may have been affected by my article - hopefully they were made to see what a charlatan David was? Any fool can forecast the future to a certain extent simply using the prophetic scriptures but when someone begins making predictions outside of that claiming that God told them certain things, they have left Christian orthodoxy'.

Continued next page >

The Truth

Without some depth and Biblical knowledge of the scriptures and it's prophecies, it might soon be difficult for many to retain their sanity and perspective, and avoid despair and depression, the latter which is at an all time high. People could be driven mad unless they might understand *the truth behind the madness*.

The first truth to be understood is that there is a *spiritual war* between good and evil (Rev.chs.12,13,17,19). Further, there is a God and there is the Devil. The Devil roams the earth to oppose God, to oppose His righteous standards, to oppose His saints (1Pet.5:8; Rev.12:12). *There is a spiritual war in the heavenlies*.

Morality is not one's own standards. God has spoken and His commands once formed the basis of most societies and their moral laws. That morality with its absolutes has now been almost lost, and *societies are paying the price*.

Satan would want to work against Christ returning to - where? - the Mount of Olives in Israel! Is it any wonder Israel is the centre of attention on the world stage when this is where so many of the prophecies concern Israel?...this is where the Messiah was prophesied to be born, to die, and where He *will come back to*.

Satan knows he is doomed but that does not stop him from inflicting as much damage and with as many lies as he can. After all he is '*the father of lies*' (Jn .8:44).

The evil that the media report is not coming first from mankind but *from Satan who is behind it all*. It would be worse if God did not set the bounds of what Satan can and cannot do. But God has promised an Armageddon war to end all wars, where the armies of Satan and his antichrist will be defeated. *The atrocities in that war will be far worse than the current war!* The dead and wounded will far outstrip anything in the wars of the world. Read it in Revelation 16 - where the imagery has blood 'up to the horses bridles' (Rev.14) and months to bury the dead (Ezek.39).

As we have been saying in this newsletter, *the madness we are seeing is supernatural*. It is being played out before the hand of a sovereign God who has written the historical record, *as it is in Heaven it is to be done on earth* (Matt.6:10).

The Good News!

If one concentrates on just the daily news one would possibly become overwhelmed in the despair that is rising with many. But knowing that all these things must come to pass and that *God is sovereign* over it all, should give us joy. That joy is based on *who He is* and *what He has pre-planned* is best for us. He has promised tribulations, wars and rumours of wars, and a falling away in the end. But He the Messiah is coming! There is a reign of peace and righteousness *with Him*. The *Gospel of Christ dying for our sins to satisfy a holy and righteous God* will have everlasting fruit prepared for His believers in His kingdom.

Terry Arnold

* '*Sky Didn't Tell Whole Story*' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-7CBFSLPw4>

Church of England ‘Inclusive’ Apostasy

Bishops within the Church of England have raised concerns that certain Christmas carols might be ‘problematic’ because of their explicit references to Jesus as the ‘true Messiah’. The Birmingham Diocese recently communicated to its clergy the need to reassess the language used in hymns to create an ‘inclusive’ environment during the festive season. The Birmingham Diocese instructed clergy to ‘use language that won’t add further confusion or tension or take away anything from the good news of the Nativity’, the Mail on Sunday reported, citing the e-mail. The hymns under scrutiny include ‘Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending’, a favourite of Queen Victoria, which has been criticized for declaring Jesus as the ‘true Messiah’. Further, ‘O Come, O Come, Emmanuel’ has been singled out for its phrase ‘captive Israel’ in the first verse. The diocese’s correspondence suggested that such language could lead to misunderstandings, particularly in the context of ongoing tensions related to the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The decision was influenced by the geopolitical climate, the Rt. Rev. Michael Volland, Bishop of Birmingham, told the Telegraph. ‘Members of our team working closely with diverse communities in Birmingham invited churches to think about providing some context for people new to church who might be unsure why ‘Israel’ is being discussed and whether this has any relation to the current conflict’, Volland was quoted as saying.

Critics within the church have voiced their opposition to the diocese’s approach. ‘Hymns should not be altered just because the Church conforms to every progressive cause’, says Canon Chris Sugden. He asked whether attending a Jewish or Hindu festival would warrant altering the lyrics or liturgy to accommodate potential objections.

The CofE has ‘really lost the plot’, wrote one vicar to the Mail, which did not name him. The vicar noted that even Russian President Vladimir Putin doesn’t mandate Russian Orthodox churches to ‘censor carols at Christmas’.

In 2022, a similar debate emerged in the CofE when attempts were made to rewrite the 17th century carol ‘God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen’ to be more inclusive of women and LGBT-identified individuals. That initiative also faced backlash from those who felt that altering historical hymns compromised their original intent and theological significance.

(By Anugrah Kumar, Christian Post Contributor, Mon, Dec.23, 2024)

Editor’s comments:

The world has come into the church to take the church into the world. Nowhere in scripture is the church ‘inclusive’ with the world and to vie for it’s love. Rather the church is supposed to be ‘not of’ and ‘chosen out of the world’ in which they will be ‘hated’, because the world hated the Saviour of the church (Jn.15:18,19).

The very word for ‘church’ is not inclusive - ‘ékklesia’- ‘ék’- out / ‘klesia’ - to call...‘the called out ones’. The opposite word is ‘oikumenikos’ - ‘of the inhabited world’, that is - ‘ecumenical’.

[The person’s next reply and Editor’s reply]

*Thanks Terry, again for response. Well, your responses are certainly not the mainstream thinking regarding Calvinism with Calvinist preachers today [actually they are the same]..Maybe, I humbly made some errors...The debate will continue to divide Christians and the church...it’s all too complicated for what is a simple message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ...John Calvin...adds no real benefit or value to the Gospel...but brings division in the church on a large scale...[When people like yourself misrepresent it?...Calvin never knew or taught any ‘Tulip’...Again, where exactly do you disagree with **Total Depravity** (Jer.17:9; Rom.8:6,7; 1Cor.2:14; Is.64:6,7); **Unconditional Election** (Eph.1:5,9,11; 1Thess.1:4; Rom.9:15-18); **Particular Redemption** (the blood of Jesus is sufficient for all humans to be saved, but in the end be effective for some, considering ‘few’ will ultimately be saved - Jn.10:11-15; Heb.10:14; Matt.20:28; 1Cor.15:22; Matt.1:21; Rev.5:9,10); **Effectual Calling** (Jn.6:37-44,65); and **Perseverance of the saints** (Jn.5:24;6:40; 10:28; Phil.1:6; Jude 24)?*

Understand too that Calvinists and Arminians can preach the same Gospel (eg. George Whitefield and Wesley preached together the same Gospel!)...What is your gospel? Why are you so fixed on John Calvin? He did not invent ‘Calvinism’ or any 5 points of ‘TULIP’...If I am wrong as a ‘Calvinist’ convince me not by attacking Calvin or ‘Calvinism’, but by scripture]

My answer to ‘what is my Gospel’ - 1Cor.15:3-4...My 5 points of the Gospel that I only care about is G.R.A.C.E - God’s Righteousness At Christ’s Expense...simple, not open to any debate or confusion from anyone or theology, putting no (ism) after anyone’s name...Man’s free will to choose to believe - is over 200 times, Matthew 7:8; Jeremiah 29:13; John 6:40 [None of these speak of a will that is ‘free’?]

...I asked that you remove me from your mailing letter...my wishes that you do not reply to this response...[You make claims, misquote, and then restrict a reply? But I will make this the last...]...This will be my final reply on the subject...it seems your continuing cross examination (correct or not) makes me feel that you are questioning my faith...That you need to actually ask ‘what is my Gospel’ is very poor...

[Forgive me for any offense...A simple short version of my gospel...is the person of Christ and what He did in the death, burial and resurrection for my sins, a substitutionary act on the cross to satisfy the justice of God...]

A Most Hated Doctrine!

The doctrine that teaches unsaved man by nature is a slave to sin, dead, blind, unable to come to Christ by anything of himself is hated and attacked, often in the guise of name calling and strawmen. It is the doctrine of radical total depravity - that people on their own are unable, unwilling to come to Christ. (Editor)

Jer.17:9; Jn.6:37-44,65; 8:34; Rom.8:7,8; 1Cor.2:14; 2Cor.4:4; Eph.2:2-5; 4:18

‘before the foundation of the world’...You have also confused free will before the Fall with the enslaved will after...Adam and Eve ran from God...their sins were ‘imputed’ to all unsaved men who are now ‘a slave to and dead in sins, by nature a child of wrath (Jn.8:34; Eph.2:2-5; Col.2:13), unable to obey the law of God (Rom.8:7,8; Jn.6:37-44,65), having no understanding of the things of the Spirit of God (1Cor.2:14), with eyes blinded by Satan (2Cor.4:4), a heart wicked to the core and blinded (Jer.17:9; Eph.4:18), and with a righteousness as ‘filthy rags’ (Is.64:6-8)! Where is the complete freedom of will here?]

...Then what’s the point of free choice? That’s why God let the serpent in...they believe the serpent, chose to disobey God...One day will end when every person on the planet hears about Jesus, has the same opportunity as Adam and Eve. [The Amazonian Indians, millions who never heard of Christ or His Gospel and have died - will have ‘second chance’? This is the heresy of universalism]

The insanity of Calvinism [Remember you have already misrepresented ‘Calvinism’ with hyper-Calvinism] is clearly told by R.C. Sproul... ‘That God positively decrees and determines in advance those whom he will save namely the elect and in the same method he decrees the damnation of the sinner and that just as on the one hand he creates positively saving faith in the hearts of the elect he in an equally determined fashion creates fresh EVIL in the hearts of the reprobate to make sure they don’t come to BELIEVE’ [You have misquoted Sproul!...He states at the end of this quote that this is ‘NOT’ his ‘reformed’ view or ‘Calvinism’! He uses this statement to say he does NOT believe it as a Calvinistic view. Here is what Sproul actually said: ‘...that God also predestines their damnation that He intrudes into their lives by creating evil or unbelief in their hearts. In this understanding, there is a positive action in the lives of both people - creating faith in the heart of one man and unbelief in the heart of the other. This is what we mean by the ‘symmetrical’ view. This view has been overwhelmingly rejected by Augustinians and Calvinists’.

Sproul teaches a one way positive predestination to Heaven and another ‘passing over’ of those who are ‘already condemned’ because of unbelief (Jn.3:18)...One gets mercy, the other gets justice, no one gets injustice...He teaches God cannot create evil, but allows evil and thus in a sense decrees events...Acts 4:28...several clips can be shown of Sproul on this...]

...The Bible teaches John 3:16, NOT ‘John Calvin 3:16’...Any doctrine that brings a different gospel is heresy...I have done research on both sides on the subject myself...[How can you say you have researched both sides when you misrepresent one and badly misquote Sproul?]

Calvinism in it’s purest form then or now will never sway me [your version might never sway me either] There is no room for Calvinism to be part of the finished work of Jesus’s free Grace [‘Calvinists’ do believe in the ‘finished work’ and ‘free grace’] or humanity’s free will [You have no scripture yet?]...

[Summary: ‘Calvinism’ does not teach a positive predestination to Hell (hyper-Calvinism). Most Calvinists don’t teach ‘God creates evil’. 1. Please show where the 5 points are error by scriptures. Start with Total Depravity? 2. Show where my gospel or Spurgeon’s or any of the ‘Calvinists’ is in error...]

Worldometer Deaths

Abortion was the leading cause of death worldwide in 2024, according to ...Worldometer, which shows there were 45.1 million abortions globally last year. This surpassed deaths caused by cancer (8.2 million), smoking (5 million), HIV/AIDS (1.7 million), traffic fatalities (1.35 million) and suicide (1.1 million)...Abortion accounted for just over 42% of all human deaths in 2024. In the United States, abortion accounts for roughly one-third of all annual deaths. The figure among African Americans reportedly exceeds 60% of total deaths...52% of all African American pregnancies end in abortion...

Some nations have suppressed or penalized media outlets that present abortion as a cause of death...In France, ARCOM, the French media regulator, fined CNews €100,000 (\$103,000) after presenter Aymeric Pourbaix stated last February that abortion ranks as the leading cause of death worldwide under estimates from the World Health Organization, which places the figure at 73 million procedures per year.

Martyrdoms, Arrests, Beheadings

‘Seventy Christians were discovered beheaded inside a Protestant church in the Democratic Republic of Congo’s North Kivu Province...The abducted residents were found beheaded in a brutal massacre...Hostages were held for days before...a religious genocide carried out by radical Islamic terrorists’.

‘Nearly 10,000 Nigerian Christians (9,814) died at the hands of Boko Haram and other Islamic extremist groups between Nov. 2022 and Nov. 2024, according to the 2025 Global Christian Relief Red List. In arrests, China led the way...with 1,559 arrests of Christians. Eritrea ranked second with 475 confirmed arrests, followed by Nicaragua with 226 arrests. Russia ranked fourth with 224 arrests, mostly of Evangelical Christians. Although North Korea had 208 confirmed arrests, the report states that the total is likely only a ‘fraction’ of the overall total’. (Christian Post, 14/2025; Feb.20, 2025)

More Covid Court Cases Reversed

A federal appeals court has ruled that the city of San Francisco must rehire employees who were fired from their jobs because they refused to take the COVID-19 shot, reversing a lower court decision...The defendants were the city of San Francisco, the Mayor...heads of the...Public Library...Public Health...

[San Francisco’s] finding that [some] appellants’ religious beliefs were insufficient to warrant any accommodations can only be described as a ‘dignitary affront’...President Donald Trump has also ordered the reinstatement of members of the U.S. military who were discharged for that same reason.

(Ryan Foley, Christian Post; Feb.03, 2025)

An AI Pastor?

Ron Carpenter is a Pentecostal senior pastor of Redemption World Outreach Centre in Greenville, South Carolina. According to his church bio he is 'recognized as a leader of leaders' and has 'advised, consulted, and mentored CEOs, pastors, and political leaders around the world for over two decades'.

Carpenter has recently released an app, 'The Ron Carpenter Ministries Advanced Archive' app, which is 'a unique place where people from every background, race, and walk of life come together in a place of community and purpose'. The app will let users 'transcend traditional time and access barriers by enabling 1-on-1 personalized interactions not possible before now' and where 'over 30 years of experience makes the voice of Pastor Ron Carpenter an invaluable asset to any leader...The software grows along with you, referencing past conversations, and personalizing responses'. People can have their 'own personal pastor'.

Editor's comment:

Using the example of someone asking him to pray for them, this AI-app (artificial intelligence - a robot) which costs \$49 to activate, proceeds to pray saying 'Hey there, I'm sorry to hear you're not feeling well. Let's take a moment to pray together. Heavenly Father, I thank you that you know us and hear us. Right now, I lift up my friend to you. I ask for your healing touch to be upon...'

Carpenter was pastor of a church which grew to 14,000 people plus other church plants. He began his services with Hip Hop (disco rap). He has taught strange gnosticism doctrines and laws of attraction nonsense. He sued his former church for a \$6.25M retirement package, with a parsonage appraised at \$7.2M. His wife was admitted to a psychiatric hospital in 2013 after having multiple affairs with men...This latest scam is not real prayer, but a robot.

Copeland Prophecy

Televangelist, Kenneth Copeland, revealed he was recently hospitalised for several days for a surgical procedure, but...the 88-year-old televangelist, famous for his lavish life...and private jets for his ministry, said...he made an agreement with God that he would live until 2056. '...On December 6, 2056, I'll see you all later...120 years old'...Copeland said he planned out themes...all the way to 2029' (Leo Blair, Dec. Christian Post)

Editor's comment:

Kenneth Copeland has a list of failed prophecies, yet he has many thousands of followers. He has been one of the leaders of the heretical Word of Faith movement. Copeland himself has a pacemaker and has had several episodes in hospital, most kept secret from the public.

(See 'Diakrisis' website in 'False Teachers' - 'Word of Faith').

Your Comments and Questions

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

Hi Terry...thank you for your Newsletter...Referring to your above newsletter, your closing quote from Charles Spurgeon (Nov/Dec 2024, P.15)...All indications would seem to refer Spurgeon to be a Calvinist'?...I totally see Calvinism as a heresy and false gospel...Are you agreeing with a Calvinistic point of view? (Name withheld)

Editor's Reply:

Yes, Charles Spurgeon was an historic self confessed 'Calvinist'...He taught Total Depravity/Inability; Unconditional Election; Particular Redemption; Effectual Calling; the Perseverance of the Saints. When I use the term 'Calvinism' I use with inverted commas because it is misrepresented (eg. as double predestination)...But what is the 'heresy' you speak of?

[The person's reply below and editor's comments in bold and brackets]

Not sure from your response that you are a supporter of Calvinism or not...[I prefer to be a 'biblicist', or have terms first defined correctly. The worst misrepresentations I ever see is with the modern hatred against 'Calvinism'. I stand where Spurgeon stood, the Puritans, Reformers, revivalists...]

My thoughts would only be based on the 5 Tulips [The 5 points in 'TULIP' were not invented till the 20th century. I gave you the historic 5 points which Spurgeon and most others taught. Which do you not agree with?]...

Calvinism doesn't make sense with man's free will to make a decision to follow Christ. [Predestination and unconditional election will never 'make sense' to our fallen logic. What are your scriptures for 'free will'?]...The Christian faith over the centuries has man debating everything about the Gospel except the simple Gospel message of Jesus Christ; Man muddying the waters preaching in pride, pushing their own agenda, thousands of books. I'm reminded of the thief on the cross, how simple is faith and believing! Did Spurgeon have a false gospel?

[...Where did Spurgeon have a false Gospel?...and the Reformers, Puritans, every English martyr, the KJV translators, many hymn writers, evangelists...the early denominations (Baptists, Methodist, etc) - all 'Calvinists'...also the Awakenings, revivals under 'Calvinistic preaching'...Did all of these have a 'false gospel'?...]

Calvinism teaches God chooses who goes to Hell, who to Heaven - biblically incorrect [False. Historic 'Calvinism' does not teach God predestinates or purposely elects people to Hell. That's part of 'hyper-calvinism']...

If God is God, why did He let Satan come into the Garden - Because God would be an unfair God if He gave us free choice, but then no choices...

[This is fallen human logic with no scripture. God does not always answer such questions - except with 'who is the Potter; who is the clay'?...God decreed the Fall and the remedy, before they occurred - Acts 4:28 - 'determined before to be done' is the Greek word (proorizo) for predestination. God planned all

tremble. The apostle Paul stated these things were ‘*unspeakable*’ and he dared not disclose what he saw in the eternal state. *What we know of eternity and Heaven is already written in the final all sufficient Word of God* - the written scriptures. We dare not add to that; yet we would meditate on its approach!

What About ‘Sleep’?

Sleep is a state of altered consciousness in which we become unaware of time and our surroundings. Sleep is a euphemism for death in the Bible and in some cultures. When we sleep we are like a corpse, our bodies essentially paralysed. Every 24 hours we enter such a state and then awake to life again. It is like the death and resurrection we will experience in the future, before we enter a timeless eternity.

Very little is really known about what happens unconsciously in sleep. But it does appear that in the stages of sleep including the REM (Rapid Eye Movement) dreaming stages, that the brain with its neurons of memories and thoughts is being re-sorted, similar to a computer being defragmented. We have been built to need a state of sleep to recharge and revitalise bodily systems. The repairs and activities done in the many systems of the body during sleep defy any evolutionary notion that God did not create the human body.

In ministry, which invariably mentally is non stop during the day, sleep is a gift from God to recharge, re-focus and ease anxiety. Good sleep is important to good ministry and many a time an issue of life or in ministry is sorted upon awakening with fresh thoughts. Adam was put to sleep before he awoke to find a help meet (Gen.2:21-23). Abraham was put to sleep when God made a covenant that would bring in redemption that would be fulfilled in the New Covenant.

Sleep has dreams which continue on and off much of the night, the only ones we remember are when we temporarily wake. In the dreaming state we enter a different time zone, dreams usually moving at a much slower rate in time than if we were awake. We sleep at least one third of our life span.

Charles Spurgeon said, ‘*God gave us sleep to remind us we aren’t Him*’. Sleep is an illustration of life and death. When the Saviour came to earth He slept with all faith in the midst of a storm. When we sleep it is a picture of faith - trusting in God and His protection, that we will awake to continue life in Him.

Amazingly few people think much about eternity, except perhaps briefly at a funeral or if they are near death. Many in the world live as though they will continue on the earth forever. But eternity awaits everyone. ‘*Whereas you know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away*’ (James 4:14). The Bible teaches there are two states in eternity - ‘*eternal punishment*’ or ‘*eternal life*’ (Matt.25:6). Only for those who are in Christ and prepared for eternity, Paul says ‘*I reckon the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us*’ (Rom.8:18). Time runs out, eternity beckons.

The gospel of Climate Change

This hymn, sung to the historic ‘*Immortal, Invisible...*’ hymn is soon to be sung in the Presbyterian church of the U.S. to ‘*support efforts to counter climate change*’.

*The climate is changing! Creation cries out!
Your people face flooding and fire and drought.
We see the great heat waves and storms at their worst.
We pray for the poor, Lord - for they suffer first.*

*We pray for the animals here in our midst
who cannot defend their own right to exist.
We pray for the mountains and forests and seas
that bear the harsh footprint of our human greed.*

*We thank you for people who treasure the earth,
whose faith has long taught them its beauty and worth.
We thank you as well for the children and youth
who look to the future and speak out the truth.*

*We thank you for leaders, courageous and brave,
who know that the earth is worth fighting to save,
who care about justice and what they should do,
who listen to science and work hard for you.*

*You love this good earth, and you sent us your Son!
May we love our neighbours - there’s work to be done.
May we, by your Spirit, do all in our power
to care for your earth in this critical hour.*

The Evolution of Kissing?



‘The evolution of kissing has been suggested by researchers to have evolved from sucking parasites off each other. The Journal of Evolutionary Anthropology looked at the theories for the evolution of the kiss. Is it a left-over...after grooming ...a practice that’s apparently observed in chimpanzees? Researchers...conclude that humans no longer need [kissing] for hygienic purposes...it is an evolutionary hangover.

The kiss as a sign of affection is...throughout the Bible...as very early behaviour of humans. An evolution-based view will always struggle to explain kissing or laughing because they are unique human characteristics reflecting inter-personal emotions built into us by our creator. We recommend next time you want to be affectionate that you do NOT suggest spotting a parasite on them you would like to remove...or you might cop something else in the kisser’.

(Creation Research News (John Mackay) 17th Dec. 2023)

Another 'Strawman' gospel

The following was printed in the *Christian Post* (Jan.24th,2024) by Dan Delzell, a prominent U.S. Lutheran pastor. Editor's response in **bold** and brackets
[**Note: A 'strawman' argument is one that distorts an opposing argument. It recreates the opposing argument in different terms untrue to the real argument, or is a hyper version of the truth**]

Title: '*Why God Never Forces Anyone To Love Him*' [Excerpts only]

'Imagine having an AI-generated son, daughter, or spouse. While you could program such a fine-tuned robot to behave according to your wishes, you would not receive an ounce of lasting satisfaction from such a machine. The robot would bring you no real love, joy, or fulfilment, let alone any cherished feelings of warmth, affection, kindness, and appreciation. The same dynamic is true with God. He obviously could have made human beings who were forced to 'love' and 'obey' Him. But it would have been meaningless to God because such beings would be unable to freely love their Creator. Instead, God chose to create Adam and Eve with free will. Likewise, you and I were made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27). God consists of three persons in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You and I were created as three in one: body, soul and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

[**This 'robot' idea is a common strawman and here with the words 'could have', which sets the stage for a false gospel. God did create Adam and Eve with a 'free will' before the Fall, but what has that got to do with being 'made in God's image', the Trinity, or a tripartite understanding of man?**

Adam and Eve LOST any free will when they rebelled and fell in sin against God. They were then slaves to their own depraved natures - not seeking Him and running away from God as fast as their sins would carry them! It was God who sought after them (Gen.3:8,9)! That same enslaved Adamic nature was imputed to all who followed (Rom.5:12).

One day Jesus was asked, 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind' (Matthew 22:36-37). But how is such a thing possible? Well...you must have an immortal soul, which includes your heart and mind...these necessary 'components' through which you exercise your free will.

[**There is no scripture for this conclusion! Loving the Lord with all one's heart, soul and mind is NOT possible because of any 'immortal soul' or by the 'exercise' of any 'free will'. Only a person regenerated by God from the slavery, depravity, inability and the dead unwillingness of sin, can come to God with such a love - given to him by a righteousness imputed, not exercised by any free will! (Eph.2:2-5; Rom.8:7,8; 1Cor.2:14; Rom.4)**

Unfortunately, sin separated us from God...an extremely precarious position. Thankfully, Jesus was sent to earth to repair this relationship and pay for our sins by dying on the cross. Those who repent of their sins and receive Christ as Savior

matter and time - it's another age, another universe, another existence!

However, amazingly the eternal infinite God stoops to put what He has created - all in a time zone so we can have at least some understanding of it with our finite minds. He spells this out as time in books like Revelation and Daniel, where everything leads up to a crescendo with the new heavens and earth in eternity. Is it any wonder that *He knows the future and can prophesy with 100% accuracy?*

Yet before eternity God gives a limited existence for us to glorify Him. He created a time zone for His purposes, to show His love for His people - those who believe in Him, those who He redeems to be a new creation and to glorify Him forever in His presence. The Original Baptist (and Westminster) confessions state what is really the heart of all doctrines and any understanding of 'eternity': '*God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass...in disposing all things, and power and faithfulness in accomplishing his decrees Is.46:10; Eph.1:11; Heb.6:17; Rom.9:15, 18; James 1:13; 1Jn.1:5; Acts 4:27, 28; Jn.19:11; Nu.23:19; Eph.1:3-5*'.

Our destiny was planned before space, matter and time, '*before the world began*' (2Tim.1:9; Tit.1:2), '*before the foundation of the world*' (Eph.1:4; 1Pet.1:20). Whether we die or are taken up, we leave this time zone on earth to a spiritual existence where there is no time, but eternity.

More amazing is that this God of eternity made this all possible when He stooped to enter space, matter and time to allow His creatures to kill him in a sacrifice foreordained to satisfy God for the sins of a helpless Adamic race! Who would condescend to leave the glories of Heaven to be in the form of a slave within space and time, to be made like sinful man, to humble himself completely to the death of crucifixion, even though He is the creator, holy and sinless (Phil.2: 6-11)!

Is it any wonder the apostle Paul could not fully speak of the glories of Heaven and that having had a glimpse of eternity he would desire to be in a new eternal spiritual body (2Cor.12:4; 5:1-10)? Paul summarised the wonders of, and the need for eternity, in describing the new body as '*eternal in the Heavens*' (vs.1). But before then the apostle writes we will '*groan, being burdened*' in this aging body confined to space, matter and time, but desiring that '*mortality be swallowed up of life*' (vs.4). Paul's desire was to be '*absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord*' (vs.8); but until then, '*we labour*' and '*walk by faith, not by sight*' (vs.8,9).

But let it be said that we do not desire these things of eternity for just the benefits in that state, but for the *person* who created it and prepares it for us! It's the *presence of the person* of our Saviour Jesus Christ that we look to in eternity! And so because of the '*terror of the Lord we persuade men*' to the true Gospel (vs.11). That Gospel in its wideness begins in Genesis and ends in Revelation. In its brief it's about the eternal God who proclaims a salvation of redemption from sins committed since Adam, by a perfect holy bloody sacrifice of His only Son to satisfy the offense of sin, to bring believers back into His presence.

Eternity, although it is something to meditate on, it is not something to trifle with, add to, or fantasise from our own hearts. Those who from imaginations of their own hearts tell stories and write books about after death experiences, should

The antonyms (opposites) for 'eternal' are 'próskairos' - temporal, for a season; and 'ephemeros' - for a day, transient. So 'eternal' is a timeless concept.

Thoughts To Ponder

The closest we might come to relating eternity to our understanding is that it is like an ever *present* tense of existence, it is like a constant 'now'. This concept raises some interesting thoughts and helps to understand God's uncreated being as 'was, and is, and is to come' (Rev.4:8,9). Indeed, 'before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, you are God' (Ps.90:2).

One interesting thought is that if eternity is like present tense and everything is like 'now', then when we leave this time zone and enter eternity we will enter a timeless present. Some commentators have suggested that it will be like everyone arriving *at the same time*, and we will not be waiting for others to arrive but all arrive in the 'now', because eternity is like a present now. Eternity being like the present tense is perhaps the closest we could come to understanding eternity.

Some go further and theorise that this existence in time is like a 'video game' - a philosophical concept that compares the universe to a complex *simulation* with a divine person as the designer who has established objectives to an end. The ages and events in time are like a complex video being played out to the end.

Certainly *God sees all events as being done* (Acts 15:18). Apart from the obvious in the prophetic books, this is shown in some of the tenses He uses to describe events. In Romans 8:29,30 events are completed and *done* in the eyes of God, yet in our time not completed: 'For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified'. The 'glorified' here is in the same Greek tense, mood and voice (aorist indicative active) as the 'foreknow', 'predestinate', 'called' and 'justified'. All are a snapshot of something already done at a set time and by God. God sees it as done in eternity. Yet in our time zone the 'glorified' is not yet completed!

We live in a physical body in a physical hemisphere. The earthly body is only a temporary tent for an eternal spirit that will withstand the shock of when 'he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only has immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man has seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen'.

This eternity does not exist in, nor is God confined by, space, matter or time. God who is a spirit (Jn.4:24) reigns in a spiritual realm. He *created space, matter and time!* He thus existed *before* our space, matter and time. Even by the laws of physics we know of, neither one exists without the other. Space, matter and time must all co-exist at the same time. Matter requires space and then time when it began. Genesis introduces all three when God created them and separated the heavens from the earth and its days and nights as time. Eternity is not of space,

(John 1:12) enter into an eternal relationship with their Creator. God never forces anyone to believe the good news of the Gospel (John 3:16).

[True! But the strawman is *added* again. God does not 'force', but He does 'draw' - inducing the unwilling person to be willing to come (Jn.6:37-44). Why confuse the Gospel with a strawman of what God does *not* do?]

Once in God's family through faith in Jesus, God never forces you to love Him. You were created with free will and God longs for you to freely love Him,

[The strawman repeated. The truth is that when God saves, the person will by a new nature love God with a new *agapeo* love! If we have a 'free will', what is stopping the unsaved from 'freely loving him'? Adam and Eve lost any 'free will' and a sinful nature was passed on to us all, a nature in which we are enslaved, blinded and unable to come, without God first drawing and giving grace. And there is no scripture for God 'longs for you to freely love him']

...He chose to freely love you by sending His only Son to die in your place. God made that enormous sacrifice because He wants to spend eternity with you in Heaven. [This is a candy gospel. The purpose of Christ's substitutionary sacrifice was to redeem those who will believe, from a sin nature under the judgement of God. The 'candy' is 'He wants to spend eternity with you']

...Trying to love God without being converted is like trying to love a spouse who was forced upon you in an arranged marriage. True love...involves making choices with your free will...

[The strawman again. God does not 'force', He 'draws' and saves! The false gospel here is based on what *man can DO* with his 'choice' instead of what God has *DONE* - the response to that being *repent and believe!*]

...People who truly love and obey God are those who want to...No one is forcing them to...God actually fills His children with the desire to love Him.

[The strawman of 'forcing' again. Where does the 'want' and 'desire' come from but a new nature given, a new creation when God opens the heart and yes - 'fills his children with a desire'!]

...If you currently have no interest or desire to love God, then you will need to address that problem with your Creator.

[Why would, or how does anyone who 'has no interest or desire' - 'address' God?]

If you desire living water, you must go to the well (John 7:37-39). If you want food for your soul, you must come to 'the Bread of Life' (John 6:35-38). If you want more than robotic religious rituals and a mechanical relationship with your Creator, then go directly to the Lord in prayer and express to Him what you desire.

Sin hardens man's heart toward God, causing us to see our Creator as a harsh taskmaster rather than a loving and tender Father and friend.

...The only way to have your perspective changed and brought into line with the truth is to repent of your sins and accept Jesus as your Savior from sin.

It is not natural for man to love God, but rather, supernatural. 'We love because He first loved us' (1John 4:19). God enables us to love Him, whereas sin causes people to harbour bitter feelings toward their Creator.

[This now flatly contradict's the strawman of free will presented beforehand! If it is 'supernatural' to love God then where does this come from in the first place - from God or from our 'free will'?]

...God will never force you to love Him, **[This is a tired strawman]** but He does invite you to receive the forgiveness of your sins as you repent and turn to your Creator in faith. Would you like to receive a new heart that freely and joyfully loves the Lord, or would you prefer to remain in spiritual darkness and be separated from God forever?

[The Gospel is not an 'invitation' to what 'you prefer' but a proclamation! Believe, 'repent and turn' are not invites but commands. So much of this gospel is about the response of man and less about the work of Christ that brings the 'forgiveness of sins'. I speak as an unsaved man here: 'Unless the Holy Spirit effectually opens my heart (Acts 16:14), giving me understanding, drawing me out of slavery, deadness of sin (Jn.6:44; 2Cor.4:4; Eph.2:2-5; 4:18; Col.2:13) with no understanding of Spiritual things (1Cor.2:14)...then no thank you - I remain as I am not understanding spiritual things']

'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved' (Romans 10:13).
'Choose for yourself this day whom you will serve' (Joshua 24:15).

[Joshua 24:15 has NOTHING to do with salvation - in context it is about the Israelite believers in Jehovah to come back to Jehovah or stay in idolatry!]

If you refuse to come to Christ today, the only one forcing you to say 'No' to God is the person you see when you look in the mirror.

[What utter strawman nonsense! The unsaved person is not 'forcing' himself to not believe. He is freely choosing to not believe! That is the slavery of the sinful nature of the unsaved. Unless that will is changed by God's free and drawing grace, this person will not truly seek God (Rom.3:9-11).

I have no polite way of exposing this false gospel! The strawman argumentation here added to some Gospel elements changes the Gospel to what God cannot do without man's ability, than what He actually has done on the cross. Man's free will should never be brought into the gospel, for it is NOT the Gospel. The gospel is about the person of Christ and Him crucified; the response is only to believe, repent, receive, call upon the Lord....It is not about what God does not do or what man can do with his ability! A decision made with this gospel may well be a false one as seen in the enormous fall away rate in modern evangelism of this very type! Also, sin is hardly described here in this gospel - the very reason for 'Christ crucified'! What would anyone want to be saved from with this gospel? Why complicate the simplicity of who Christ is and what He has done for the sinner who needs to repent and believe?]

Thoughts on Eternity and Sleep

In recent years I have begun to meditate more on what 'eternity' means and what it will be like. What is timelessness in 'eternity'? Arguably there is only one book that gives us any indication of what eternity is - the Bible.

The science of sleep and dreams has also fascinated me. There seems a certain parallel between eternity and sleep.

Eternity is something we should be thinking about, ready for, and delight in the mystery of. 'For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, work's for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal' (2Cor.4:17).

What is 'Eternity'?

When we think of 'eternity' we might think of a timelessness or an everlasting non ending time. In this life we view 'time' as past, present and future events. One event comes after the other in a time zone. We are somewhat bound by time and our watches and clocks tell us what event we are up to within the earth's time zone.

However, what is 'eternity'? Is it a time zone at all where there are past and present events? On the contrary, it is a zone outside of earth's time. Eternity is surely the same from beginning to end. In at least some aspects eternity is impossible to be understood by the human mind, apart from what God describes of it. Yet the Bible mentions this word at least 48 times in scripture.

Although the Greek word 'aionios' (eternity) comes from the word 'age', in the various contexts its meaning is one which is not affected by time.

God is said to be the *eternal God* (Dt.33:27), *eternal King* (1Tim.1:17) with His *power eternal* (Rom.1:20) His *glory eternal* (2Cor.4:17; 2Tim.2:10; 1Pet.5:10), His *purposes eternal* (Eph.3:11) and His *judgements are eternal* (Heb.6:2; 6:2). But the most common reference to 'eternal' is 'eternal life' (Matt.19:6; 25:46; Mk.10:17,30; Lk.10:25; 18:18; Jn.3:15; 4:36; 5:39; 6:54,68; 10:28; 12:25; 17:2,3; Acts 13:48; Rom.2:7; 5:21; 6:23; 1Tim.6:12,19; Tit.1:2; 3:7; 1Jn.1:2; 2:25; 3:15; 5:11,13,20; Jude 1:21). Most important with 'eternal life' is that His *salvation and redemption are eternal* (Heb.5:9; 9:12); His *Spirit with His inheritance* is eternal (Heb.9:14,15), as is His *damnation and fire* (Mk.3:29; Jude 1:7).

A similar word study will be found for the synonym 'everlasting' which takes the same Greek word 'aionios' and denotes the idea of no beginning and no end. However, the word 'everlasting' is arguably not the same as 'eternity'. 'Everlasting' is getting more and more past and older, yet not ending. 'Eternity' is remaining the same in any sense of beginning or end.

Most see God as timeless and eternal. But some theorise that God was once eternal but now is in a time zone like ours. Others say He is both timeless and temporal. But is God really tied to a clock, since that is how we measure time? Rather, He is 'immortal' and 'immutable' - He is not in space, matter and time and does not change with time.