



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.

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Editorial

This newsletter is now into its 30th year of publication. The newsletter began in March 1996 with a few dozen subscribers and has grown to thousands in Australia and overseas who read it in hardcopy, by e-mail, on line, or by some who distribute it. Many of the early subjects we wrote about we still write about. Our original mission has not changed - to *Inform, Teach and Equip*.

The broad apostasy we wrote of in 1996 has only deepened to levels that we could not at that time imagine. In 1996 we began by exposing the infamous '*Toronto Blessing*' which in 1994-5 had swept through many churches in Australia. The motivation 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). That movement devastated and divided many churches it touched. We wrote the booklet '*Toronto Blessing - a Critique*' which addressed the work of the Holy Spirit as in scripture, in contrast to the bizarre *extra biblical teachings* at the time.

The editor became increasingly engaged in teaching and seminar events around Australia and some overseas. The experience gained was invaluable to an insight into the *state of the church* at large. I was meeting first hand countless numbers of people who had been damaged and polarised by the then Charismatic/Pentecostal waves of new teachings. Thousands lacking discernment were caught up in more false movements that followed. We wrote: '*There has been a massive further shift into that which is worldly, ecumenical, experiential, sensational, mystical, and essentially beyond the bounds of the Bible (Nu.22:18)*'.

Later we saw a need for training people in ministry, and to teach on '*rightly dividing the Word*'. The editor engaged in several years of further Bible college studies and later *Pacific Bible Institute* was founded. Night courses and correspondence courses morphed into a 4 year degree course.

Increasingly the ministry was sending out large amounts of free literature on various topics. Many pastors were thankful to have the research done on various issues of the day. Along the way there were some landmark articles which gained attention - such as '*The Other Side of Azusa St*' and '*The History and Foundations of the Pentecostal Movement*'. Much of this history is still barely known by most church leaders. Our books including '*To Catholics Whom I Love*' reached many, but later diminished in distribution as churches and bookshops became more ecumenical and most smaller bookshops closed.

As the ministry grew the author was also increasingly involved in pastoring stints which brought a fresh perspective to the ministry and more of a sense of the importance of the local church. In 2013 the author's church was suddenly evicted from its denomination, and full time pastoring began afresh with a new Bible church plant (see '*The Day Our Church Was Evicted*').

More and more the ministry was a *teaching* ministry yet still engaging in *discernment* and *apologetics*. A close colleague, Mike Claydon from his ministries of '*Apostasy Alert*' and '*Israel Report*', also continued to write some pointed articles which were received and published widely.

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In 30 years we have seen the need for *informing teaching and equipping* only grow. The ecumenical movement has enslaved many denominational churches and Bible teaching and exposition are at an all time low.

How long this ministry can continue will depend on the Lord's leading and His coming in either the 'parousia' or in death. We value the readers prayers, encouragements and support as we *'exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints'* (Jude 3).

The preacher dubbed the 'prince of preachers', Charles Spurgeon, stated '*a magazine which is not outspoken, and is destitute of principle, is a literary nuisance*'. It is our belief that we are living in days when people need to be challenged and awoken from a laxity in doctrine, to discern the times. We live in days when information is immediate at the touch of a keyboard. The smorgasbord of ideas includes truth, half truths and lies. It is often half truths which concern us, considering they are sometimes the most deceptive.

I often meet people who pull things 'out of the air' or from dubious sources, to support a doctrine or stance on any one issue. One of the tenets of this ministry is a striving to be accurate and factual. It does require research and sometimes running things past others involved in specialist areas for verification. Scholarship and integrity in writing are non negotiable, especially when it comes to handling and teaching God's Word (2Cor.4:2). The judgement for this is severe and to be feared (2Pet.3:16).

The true Gospel is at risk of being utterly drowned in a sea of ear tickling, mystical, extra biblical teachings from a spirit that is not the one and only Holy Spirit. The integrity of the Gospel and the church is in serious question. Hardly a month goes past without a prominent church preacher or leader being exposed for corruption or gross immorality. False healings are exposed as fraudulent, prophetic utterances exposed as false and the imaginations of men. Indeed, the integrity of ministers and the church is arguably at an all time low. Much if this is simply extra biblical teachings that hides or minimises the importance of the Gospel.

At the root of all these demises is that the church has lost its moorings in the all sufficiency of Scripture. The questions the church increasingly has difficulty in answering is - are the scriptures all sufficient and satisfactory for doctrine and the spiritual life of believers?

We in this ministry not only have a passion for truth and facts but a fierce allegiance to the purity of doctrine and the Gospel. We do not look for and enjoy controversy. We do not lightly expose people and doctrines. But in the defense of the faith and for the love of, and protection of God's sheep, our heart is to defend truth, to *inform, teach and equip* God's people.

We in this ministry encourage our critics to ask the question - is it truth? If not, then correct us. More than this, we challenge our readers to test what is written, and ***'prove all things; hold fast that which is good'*** (1Thess.5:21). Please pray for us and the ministry, we value the prayers of the saints.

We need integrity, the church needs integrity - because this is the character of our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Terry Arnold

Mass Slaughter in Nigeria



‘The death toll from attacks on villages in central Nigeria continues to climb...Fulani terrorists murdered 34 members of one family...Barr Franc Utoo, a native of Yelewata, Nigeria, spoke at a conference...in Washington, D.C., on July 24, 2025. Fulani terrorists murdered dozens of Utoo’s friends and family during the Yelewata Massacre of June 13 and 14, 2025 [Editor: As of printing, death toll now 200+]

The extremists who carried out the massacre ‘butchered’ his aunt, who was pregnant with twins at the time...The radicals pierced her belly, removed the twins, killing her and her unborn children The Nigerian, who comes from a family of Catholics, also said his sister was killed during the massacre. He said his sister who was a devout Catholic, an altar server, had her brain ‘peeled out’. One of Utoo’s friends, who had just graduated after studying pharmacy for 7 years, arrived at the village on the same day the killing began. The terrorists killed Utoo’s friend by burning him to death in his room during their rampage, where they torched buildings and burned people alive.

...The village...is located near several military bases. However, the attack lasted around four hours without interruption. The Yelewata native believes this is a sign of what he calls the Nigerian government’s complicity in Christian persecution...The Nigerian military provided no defense to Yelewata.

...Utoo said. ‘Time and again, when our villages are attacked, help is either non-existent or deliberately arrives too late’. ‘Worse, when our young men, driven by desperation to protect their families, organize themselves in self-defense, they are often met...with arrest and detention by the very authorities who should be protecting them, leaving our communities even more vulnerable’.

Advocates have spoken out for years on the rising trend of what they say are genocide-like attacks on predominantly Christian farming communities in Nigeria’s Middle Belt states carried out by armed and radicalized Islamic Fulani militias. Thousands have been killed in recent years, and many more have been displaced from their communities and farms.

Christian persecution watchdog organizations like Open Doors and ADF International note that more Christians are being killed in Nigeria each year than in all other countries combined...In 2020, the U.S. government added Nigeria to the Countries of Particular Concern list during the final year of President Donald Trump’s first term. During the first year of the Biden administration, the State Department removed Nigeria’s CPC label to the dismay of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. There is some hope that Nigeria could be re-added to the CPC list with Trump back in the White House.

Utoo...called on the U.S State Department to redesignate Nigeria as a CPC and called for the prosecution of terrorist sponsors through the International Criminal Court ‘for crimes against humanity’. The sponsors of Fulani extremists, according to Utoo, are well-known to the United States and Nigeria...’

(Samantha Kamman, Christian Post, July 26, 2025)

Christianity in Iran

‘On Monday, June 23, the earth shook beneath Tehran’s most feared address. Israeli missiles tore through the gates of Evin Prison...Families began running toward the smoke and rubble, to reach loved ones trapped inside the regime’s notorious ‘terror factory’. For 45 years, those gates had swallowed Iran’s finest minds, bravest souls and most faithful hearts...Since 1979, Evin Prison has held tens of thousands of Christians facing extreme torture, solitary confinement and death for the crime of following Jesus. The names of 8 pastors who were martyred within its walls are whispered in house churches across the nation...

The regime designed Evin to permanently break spirits and minds, to make examples of those who dared believe...Yet the ayatollahs’ greatest miscalculation was believing they could kill what they couldn’t understand...Despite facing perhaps the world’s most systematic Christian persecution, Iran has become home to the fastest-growing church on earth...More than one million Iranians have converted to Christianity...from a few hundred believers before 1979...While the government demands adherence to Islam through violence and law, 50,000 of Iran’s 75,000 mosques have closed their doors...Violence in the name of Islam has caused widespread disillusionment...In the underground house churches, believers risk everything gathering in small apartments, singing softly so neighbours cannot hear, studying Bibles that could cost them their freedom and even their lives...’

(Christian Post, 5/7/2025)

China Sentences Linfen Home Church Leaders, Members to Prison

‘Three leaders of the Linfen Covenant Home Church in China’s Shanxi Province have been sentenced to prison on fraud charges...Pastor Li Jie and Elder Han Xiaodong received 3 years 8 months each, Elder Wang Qiang sentenced to 1 year 11 months...The men were charged in June 2023 with forming a ‘criminal clique’ and collecting ‘illegal income’, but their trial did not begin until May 8 this year...Authorities prevented Li Jie’s wife, mother and 2 children from entering the Court...removing them by force.

...The church maintains that Linfen Covenant Home Church is an unregistered house church operating within constitutional rights, ‘...The offerings of our church are not fraud. Our church remains a house church, adhering to Christ as the sole head of the church and the principle of separation of church and state. We recognize Li Jie, Han Xiaodong and Wang Qiang are suffering for righteousness sake and are willing to take up the cross with the Lord. We receive the result of the judgment from the Lord with a heart of gratitude and obedience’.

...New restrictions issued by the Chinese Communist Party on May 1, ban foreign missionaries from preaching and operating religious institutions...’

(Christian Post, 5/7 By Anugrah Kumar)

BBC Apologizes After Claims Jews Spit on Christians

‘The BBC has issued a correction and apology for a documentary by its Arabic service that claimed Jews spit on Christians as part of a ‘holiday ritual...The original video [Oct. 2023] was published alongside an article titled ‘Sukkot: Spitting and Assault on Christians and Harassment of Muslims on the Jewish Holiday’...The clip showed foreign Christian pilgrims carrying a wooden cross through Jerusalem’s Old City during the Sukkot festival...Ultra-Orthodox Jews were seen spitting on the ground as the procession passed...The...BBC Arabic video initially stated this act was a celebratory practice...[Then] updated to read, ‘Some observant Jews consider spitting on Christians a holiday ritual’...

A formal response from the BBC took 19 months...

Another BBC Arabic article, published on Sept. 11, 2023, the 22nd anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, also drew criticism. Titled ‘The story of suicide bombers throughout history: from the fanatical Jews, through Assassins, to the Jihadists’. The article described the Sicarii, a Jewish militant group from the 1st century, as early suicide attackers linking them to modern jihadi tactics...[But] that piece described the group’s actions during the Jewish revolt in 70 A.D. and their retreat to Masada...While the Sicarii committed mass suicide, they did not engage in suicide attacks and were inaccurately grouped with jihadi movements...Yet, they were the only ones labelled ‘fanatics’ and ‘extremists’ in the entire article...After further complaints, the BBC ruled the article contained a ‘material inaccuracy’.

(Anugrah Kumar, Christian Post, June 16, 2025)

Editor’s Comment:

This is increasingly common with the BBC, and the ABC in Australia. Often these broadcasters express anti-Jewish and anti Israel views and even support for Hamas. The research by much of the main stream media is often unsourced. When later the facts come to light few apologies are made, the propaganda lies having already done their job in swaying minds.

German Christians Protect Synagogue in Munich



Hundreds of mostly Christians in Munich, Germany, formed a human chain around a synagogue to protect it from an Islamist demonstration...The rally, organized by the group Palestine Speaks, was given permission to travel past the city’s main synagogue, posing a threat to the Jewish community. The protesters shouted ‘Death to the IDF’ and

waved Palestinian flags, according to footage...According to the Jewish Forum for Democracy Against Antisemitism, ‘Hamas terror was glorified as ‘Palestinian resistance,’ and German, Israeli, and French hostages held by the Islamist terror group were denounced as ‘war criminals’.

(Israel Report 23/July, 2025)

Man With the World's Highest IQ: 'Jesus Christ is God'



The man with the world's highest IQ...YoungHoon Kim...proclaimed his Christian faith in a statement posted to X... 'As the world's highest IQ record holder, I believe that Jesus Christ is God, the way and the truth and the life'...

Kim vowed to 'use this opportunity to lead souls to God' ...'Christ is my logic...Belief in the afterlife and science are not incompatible...Science says when the brain stops, consciousness disappears...Quantum physics says information never disappears...Our world may be a simulation created by a higher dimension of being...Our death is not destruction, but change and shift'. (Ryan Foley, Christian Post, July,2025)

Editor's comment:

Believing in Christ has nothing to do with intelligence, but rather the Gospel believed. Among the apostles were both average intelligent people and Paul with a highly trained and intelligent mind (yet he never spoke of it).

We do not need science to believe. The existence of God is self-evident to all *in nature and sufficient to condemn unbelief* (Rom.1). To believe in Jesus and His deity requires the Holy Spirit and special revelation (Matt.16:15-17; 1Cor.2:14). This craving for proof of God by endorsements of great minds, sports stars, etc, becomes irrelevant to the election by God and the Gospel.

Jesus as 'one of the things'?

'Prominent Hollywood actor Chris Pratt recently included Jesus on the list of things he 'can't live without'...Oxygen took the top spot...followed by organs, his own blood and gravity. Coming in behind Jesus were food and water, the National Football League, his wife and kids, bass fishing and his 'glam [makeup] team'...

After years of struggling with his faith as a result of 'the sinful, broken nature of humans', Pratt's faith reached a turning point when his son was born prematurely in 2012. He 'made a deal with God'...'He really saved my son, and that was the moment [my faith] was cemented'...That was the moment I was like, 'moving forward, I'm going to give my platform to God'...

(Ryan Foley, Christian Post, July 03, 2025)

Editor's comment:

Another example of the culturally relevant 'jesus'. Christ does not tolerate being on any 'list' of what 'one must have' ('oxygen, organs, blood, gravity football, wife...' before Christ?) Either He is received as Lord and Master of all or He is not at all. Did not Paul count *all else* but Christ, as 'dung' (Phil.3:8)? We would hope that these Hollywood professors are saved, but many cultural christians who tack on their 'jesus', have they really forsaken all and come with the empty hand of faith (Matt.19:27-29; Lk.14:26-33)?

Finnish MP Paivi Rasanen Prosecution of Her Faith



‘After serving as Finland’s Minister of Interior, Päivi Räsänen found herself undergoing interrogations in 2019 as she faced hate speech charges... ‘Each time I was interrogated, the police asked me to consider the possibility of giving up and renouncing what I believe’, Räsänen said in front of an audience at the Berlin Congress.

Pressure from the police included giving Räsänen two weeks to delete her social media posts on the biblical understanding of sexual relationships; she refused. Praying for direction on how to respond, she received a ‘very clear vision’ that, as a public political figure in the country, ‘now it is my time to speak’ against the Lutheran church’s position, she said.

Räsänen took a photograph of Romans 1:24-27 on the Apostle Paul’s statements about the practice of homosexuality being an outcome of ‘sinful desires’. She updated her Twitter account with the photo from her Bible and used it to ask Lutheran leaders how their decision accorded with Scripture. Someone filed a criminal complaint about the social media post, and police began investigating. The issue quickly became public since Räsänen was a well-known MP, and unnamed opponents filed further criminal complaints about her writing, including a previously published pamphlet about Genesis. ‘And then there were police interrogations, and the Prosecutor General ordered the police to continue the investigations even though the police didn’t find any crime from my booklet’. ‘And I have been in court, in the Helsinki District Court and Court of Appeal, and I won there. I got acquittals’.

Though three judges from two courts found no crime in any of her writings, the Prosecutor appealed to the Supreme Court of Finland, which ruled on April 19 to allow a third trial. ‘Now I’m waiting for the decision of Supreme Court’ she said.

The legal battles have given Räsänen ample opportunities to share her faith. Initial police interrogation involved 13 hours of questioning that involved officers asking her to take them through the Bible and share her interpretations, she said...Räsänen took the opportunity to share the Gospel...

‘There have been dark moments, but what has given me a lot of joy is that this resistance has opened up such opportunities to tell about the Gospel - in courtrooms, in the police station, in live broadcasts from the courthouse and in press conferences’ Räsänen said. ‘And I have been so encouraged from many messages I have got from many, especially young people who have told me that when they were listening to me speaking on the radio and telling about this story and also telling the invitation to follow Jesus, they prayed after this, and then they became Christians’. Räsänen said Christians are living in a time when they must defend freedom of speech and freedom of faith. The largest threat is ‘self-censorship’ regarding biblical norms of marriage and gender, she said. ‘I think now it is time to teach what is a man and woman, and what the Bible teaches about this, to the confused generation that we have today’.

(Christian Daily International, June 18, 2025)

Jimmy Swaggart, Infamous Televangelist Dies At 90



‘Jimmy Swaggart, the popular Pentecostal preacher and televangelist who garnered national headlines for his extra-marital affairs, has died at age 90 following a cardiac arrest. Swaggart’s Facebook page announced Tuesday that ‘Brother Swaggart has finished his earthly race and entered into the presence of His Savior, Jesus Christ’... ‘He was not just a preacher - he was a worshiper, a warrior, and a witness to the grace and mercy of God. He was a man whose faith was steadfast and always entered whatever door the Lord opened. And the Lord honoured that faith’.

...In 1961, Swaggart was ordained in the Assemblies of God [AoG], the largest Pentecostal denomination in the United States. Swaggart...had his own successful music career, releasing multiple albums over the decades and reportedly selling over 17 million recordings. Swaggart’s ministry work also included radio programming, beginning in 1969...In 1973 Swaggart took to the medium of television...also airing live recordings of his church services and broadcasting his programming in other languages.

During the 1980’s Swaggart launched several evangelism crusades in the U.S. and abroad...In 1988 Swaggart garnered national headlines when he was found to be involved with a prostitute in New Orleans...Swaggart delivered his famous tearful ‘I have sinned’ confession before his congregation...While the Assemblies of God defrocked Swaggart...he continued to serve as an independent Pentecostal pastor. In 1991 Swaggart was again caught with a prostitute in California after being given three traffic tickets for not wearing a seat belt, driving on the wrong side of the road, and operating an unregistered vehicle...

A few years after the scandals, Swaggart launched a Radio Network in 1995, which would spread to dozens of stations in the U.S. and abroad and then launched SonLife Broadcasting Network, which began airing content in April 2010.

In November 2022, Swaggart and his son, Donnie, conducted the funeral service for his cousin Jerry Lee Lewis...Swaggart told those gathered that Lewis was ‘one of the greatest entertainers who ever lived’ and that ‘I know my cousin is with the Lord in the portals of glory’... ‘How do you know he was saved? How do you know? He always had a heart for God, always. Even in his lowest times, he had a heart for God’ added Swaggart’.

(Michael Gryboski, Christian Post, July 01, 2025)

Editor’s Comment:

At the risk of being accused of judgementalism and ‘casting stones’, it is time to call out the widespread sympathy and accolades afforded by many for this man following his death.

Before stating the facts of several *moral failures* and blatant *lying*, which many will say were repented of each time, one fact has been missed by many - this man was *unqualified* to be a pastor, elder, teacher. The *qualifications* are clear in 1Timothy 3 and Titus 1 - several were *broken and more than once*. The

'blameless...vigilant, sober, of good behaviour...a good report of them which are without'. These qualifications are apart from others listed in the same verses that could arguably also be applied - *'not greedy for money...not covetous'* (1Tim.3:1-7) and *'holy, temperate'* (Tit.1:8).

These qualifications cannot be divorced from the gross public moral failures that occurred in his life. He once claimed to be *'not a charlatan, not a fake. I'm honest'*. Yet his life was full of false doctrine, charlatanism and moral scandals. He used *his monies to hire prostitutes and repeatedly lied about it, all the while continuing to beg for more money on television*. In the late 80's and 90's he was caught with prostitutes (twice) who he had visited many times. He often *preached against sins while he was still committing them*, and then cried repentance *when caught*. He continued to pastor his church, despite being 'defrocked' by his denomination, Assembly of God (AoG) and refusing discipline.

After the 1988 prostitute scandal he delivered a televised sermon where he said through tears *'I have sinned against You, my Lord...I would ask that Your precious blood would wash and cleanse every stain'*.

Swaggart had previously accused another AoG pastor, Marvin Gorman, of having 'several affairs' and eventually Gorman was put out of AoG and his ministry ended. Gorman sued Swaggart for defamation, the two settling out of court for \$1.75 million. But later Gorman and others secretly followed Swaggart to a travel inn where Swaggart was photographed with a prostitute. Gorman threatened to expose Swaggart if Swaggart did not publicly announce he had lied about Gorman. After 12 months Gorman exposed Swaggart to AoG.

Then in 1991 Swaggart was pulled over by a traffic officer for driving an unregistered car on the wrong side of the road (in Indio, California). He had just propositioned and picked up a prostitute. Instead of confessing, Swaggart told his church *'The Lord told me it's flat none of your business'*.

While this author might not judge whether the repentance each time was real or not, many are *confusing repentance and restoration of a believer with restoring someone to the OFFICE of pastor/elder/overseer*. Swaggart refused discipline from his denomination and consequently continued with his own independent church with zero accountability. He was then caught again in more moral failures. Yet while he was indulging and lying in his own sexual sins he called the fallen Jimmy Baker *'a cancer on the body of Christ'* for his infidelity and sexual perversions. The hypocrisy and lying was staggering.

This is all apart from the *false prophecies* (Donnie prophesied his father Jimmy would live to be 100), *false healing and prosperity gospels* preached, in which the Swaggart family fitted well the writing of the apostle Peter: *'And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingers not, and their damnation slumbers not'* (2Pet.2:3). In the area of 'tithes' viewers were at times threatened with 'robbing God' if they did not pay to the Swaggart ministry.

How can it be that so many church leaders have lauded and praised such an *unqualified pastor and false teacher* who had openly deceived so many?

John MacArthur Finishes the Race

Renowned pastor and author, John MacArthur, has departed earth to be with the Lord. MacArthur had a huge impact on multitudes of people, both in their salvation and in their growth in the Bible. He pastored the one church for over 50 years (*Grace Community church* in California), preached through the Bible in about 3,500 sermons and in over 400 books wrote prolifically on many subjects. His Masters seminary trained thousands of Bible students and many founded churches in all parts of the world. His radio programmes reached millions.

He was controversial at times in defending the faith and doctrine, especially in standing for the truth of the Gospel and exposing false gospels. He was a tireless campaigner to see Pentecostal/Charismatics come out of false teaching and the false healing and prosperity gospels. His books such as *'Charismatic Chaos'* and *'Strange Fire'* were serious expositions of the false doctrines and practices of these movements. The description on one of his books stated: *'The charismatic movement has always been a breeding-ground for scandal, greed, bad doctrine, and all kinds of spiritual chicanery'*. Those that denounced the books had few if any real defences of his exposing of the many heresies.

He stood firm on male leadership and withstood the backlash from secular and church leaders. In regard to cases such as Beth Moore preaching and leading, he stated: *'There is no case that can be made biblically for a woman preacher. Period. Paragraph. End of discussion...when the leaders of evangelicalism roll over for women preachers, the feminists have really won the battle'*. Sadly, even church leaders such as Max Lucado were *'grieved'* by MacArthur's stand, ignoring the obvious commands in scripture, stating *'Are we, white, male, aged leaders of the church, listening? Are we heeding the message of our sisters in Christ? ...Listening to our astute and capable female Bible teachers? Listening to their longing to minister from a feminine perspective? Listening to their willingness to lend their intellect, energy and passion to the cause of Christ? What wealth of wisdom they bring!'*

MacArthur was orthodox and sound in his Gospel and soteriology, following closely the Reformers, the Puritans and the Charles Spurgeons before him. He was constantly calling people back to the faith once delivered.

He stood against the COVID-19 lockdowns and won the court cases against him, the government paying \$800,000 in legal fees to end the litigation. He stated: *'Never before has the government invaded the territory that belongs only to the Lord Jesus Christ and told us we can't meet, we can't worship, we can't sing'*.

Some of his last words were: *'I am all thanks and praise to God for everything He's allowed me to be a part of and everything He's accomplished by His Word in these years of ministry'*.

This author, although not always agreeing with minor points, personally gained enormous benefit, growth and encouragement from his steadfastness amid resistance, his exhaustive expositions, commentaries, his sermons and his character. Arguably he may well be one day rated with the great divines of history.

Terry Arnold

Christian Derangement Syndrome

A common phrase today is 'Trump derangement syndrome' - used to describe the hatred and emotion that arises with the name of the president of the USA, Donald Trump. But amongst Christians, there are two topics today that bring a similar intensity of thought - 'Calvinism' and 'King James Version Only'. The Internet is awash with sites exploring these issues and the emotions often run high.

A 'derangement syndrome' is a state of mental and emotional disturbance or confusion that has a common set of symptoms or descriptions. More specifically the 'derangement' is that the descriptions often have *nothing to do with the truth of the original terms*. Emotions and *strawmen* are flogged and *truths* are perverted. The result is that *counterfeit assumptions* become the norm.

Below is an example of how vicious and deranged some become. The following was once sent to the author by a south Australian Independent Baptist pastor concerning our book 'Calvinism and Arminianism - Out of the Maze'. The e-mail read: *'I found the book to be interesting but tainted by a bias of something smouldering like 'hatred' of those who would dare to have their own opinion. The same murderous tendency of early Calvinists who 'gracefully' executed Christian believers whose opinions varied from their own. I have witnessed the same 'grace' in present day 'Calvinists'!...My confidence in this self proclaimed intellectual and scholarly work was badly shaken by poor proof reading which overlooked numerous bad spellings. The worst and most frequent was the spelling of dependent as dependant. Also independent as independant. To be fair independent was once spelled correctly! The author was careful to hide behind the 'strawman' of hyper-Calvinism as opposed to 'Biblical Calvinism'. He did not afford the Arminian camp the luxury of hyper or biblical gradings. In my admittedly limited experience, I have not found many Calvinists without an arrogance and anger in their thrusting of their 'house of cards' doctrine... 'Biblical Calvinists' full of grace and truth are rare...Terry has taken it into a vendetta...We are to defend the faith but not have a spirit of murder towards Christians, who are so obviously ill informed, compared to us who have ALL the truth!...Although my criticism is somewhat experiential or 'feeling', my revulsion towards Calvinism (extreme, hyper, superior, biblical or whatever) is the nasty attitude that comes across from the 'chosen' few!...What does it matter so long as you REALLY love the LORD)...*

Although the author does not call himself a 'Calvinist' (explained in the book), it is a label quickly applied. The assumptions in the tirade above are too numerous to counter, but the accusations and language belie *an inability to honestly address any error with the subject, rather than the person*. Should anyone be objectively convinced by this above rhetoric which addresses not one point of doctrine?

'Calvinism'

The Internet is increasingly full of sites which outright assume that people who are 'Calvinists' are deceived, have a god who is a 'monster'...and more. There are few other topics misrepresented and misunderstood. With some of the sites one

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can only assume that the authors either lack any scholarship, or are plain dishonest. Here are some of the common misrepresentations...

Calvinism teaches a purposed predestination to Hell. False. This may be 'hyper-Calvinism but is not what historic 'Calvinism' teaches. The usual position is that some are elected for salvation, others are passed over or left to their *just condemnation for their sins*. A 'double predestination' is simply not held by most 'Calvinists', who *do not teach that people are predestined to Hell regardless of their sins*.

Calvinism teaches God is the author of sin. False. This is a common charge. Most teach that God allows sin and uses it to bring His plans to pass. The major Confessions of faith (Westminster/Baptist) state '*God is neither the author of sin*'.

Calvinism teaches God hates those He damns. False. Again, this common charge is more hyper-Calvinism. The Canons of Dort promises salvation to all who come to Him and believe. Historic 'Calvinism' does not teach that God hates any who are not saved, but that those who are not saved are judged *for their sins*.

Calvinism was invented by Calvin. False. The *Doctrines of Grace* as 'Calvinism' was originally called, were taught by the early church long before Calvin.

John Calvin was a murderer who had people killed. False. Amazingly, many today have swallowed this lie. The tale exploited here is the execution of Michael Servetus by the Geneva Council. In those days blasphemy of God and heresy was a crime with possible execution. Servetus, among other 'blasphemies' stated the Trinity was '*a three-headed Cerberus, a dream of Augustine, and an invention of the devil*'. On June 17th, 1552, he was sentenced by the Roman Catholic Inquisition '*to be burned alive, at a slow fire, till his body be reduced to a cinder*'. He escaped to Geneva where he was arrested and tried by the *Council of Geneva*. Calvin was at that time not on the council and opposed to it. He gave evidence at the trial only against the teachings of Servetus. He disagreed with the sentence and tried to convince the judges to change the sentence. Calvin and his friend Farel sympathised with Servetus and even prayed with him in prison.

Calvin had '5 points of Calvinism'. False. Any 5 points in the *Doctrines of Grace* were established long after Calvin *in response to 5 points from followers of Arminius*. 'Arminianism' was unanimously declared heresy by the Council of Dort.

'TULIP' (*Total Depravity, Unconditional election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, Perseverance of the saints*) was invented by Calvin. False. 'TULIP' is a 20th century invention and not adopted by many 'Calvinists' (including this author). The original terms were not '*Limited Atonement*' but '*Particular Redemption*'; and not '*Irresistible Grace*' but '*Effectual Calling*'.

Calvinism does not believe in human responsibility. False. The major historic 'calvinistic' Confessions which formed the basis of many of our denominations, teach strongly on *human responsibility*. When presenting the Gospel, the unsaved are called to respond in faith and repentance, to call upon the name of the Lord.

Calvinists do not encourage evangelism. False. The great evangelists, revivalists, Reformers, Puritans, martyrs, the KJV translators, Mission founders, Hymn writers were 'Calvinists'! Revivals were under Calvinistic preaching.

'Total Inability' means that even though some want to be saved, they cannot come to Christ. False. All unsaved are *already* freely rejecting Christ, already condemned and unable to come unless the Holy Spirit draws and saves (Jn.3:18; 1Cor.2:14; Jn.6:44).

Calvinists teach the damnation of infants. False. Many famous Calvinists believed in the salvation of infants dying in infancy.

Calvinists do not believe in the free offer of the Gospel. False. Again, this is more hyper-Calvinism. The Confessions of faith and the Canons of Dort teach the free offer of grace and that the fault lies with unsaved man rejecting the Gospel.

'Irresistible grace means that God saves people against their will and that they would be as 'robots'. False. The Confessions of faith and the Synod of Dort refute this in teaching that whosoever believes will come (1Jn.4:9; Jn.3:16). God changes the will of the unsaved to be willing to come (Eph.2; Col.2). All unsaved are resisting the Holy Spirit in not understanding spiritual things (1Cor.2:14; Rom.8:7). Irresistible grace does not mean people cannot resist. It simply means any resistance is turned to willingness by an *effectual call* (Jn.6:37-44,65).

Calvinists limit the value of the atonement. False. Calvinistic Confessions, including the Canons of Dort - state *'The death of the Son of God is the only and most perfect sacrifice and satisfaction for sin, and is of infinite worth and value, abundantly sufficient to expiate the sins of the whole world'*. In short the standard 'Calvinist' teaching is that the blood of Jesus is *sufficient* to save the whole world but *effective* for (or applied to) those He saves. Jesus said *'I lay My life down for the sheep...My sheep hear My voice, I know them and they follow Me'* (Jn.10:15,27).

The root problem with most attacks on 'Calvinism' is the *rejection of the paradoxes* of God's predestination, His sovereign election from the foundation of the world (Rom.9:11,16) - with mans responsibility to believe. Such paradoxes are then logically rejected and reduced to man having the final say as to faith - an impossibility according to scripture (2Cor.4:3,4, Eph.2:1-3). This destroys the power in the Gospel and of a God who is beyond our understanding and mighty to save to the uttermost those who cannot save themselves.

Truly, historic 'Calvinism' so called has been misrepresented and even the subject of utter lies. One wonders how many of those who have twisted the truths of the 'Doctrines of Grace' will give an account on the day of judgement?

'King James Only' (KJVO)

This position says the KJV Bible is the only accurate Bible and because of the manuscripts it was created from in comparison to the manuscripts that modern versions are derived from, the latter are said to be 'corrupt'.

This debate is one of the most complicated debates because it involves several areas of study that needs be undertaken to fully understand the issues at stake. The *textual issue* (the various manuscripts and how they came about); the *translation style* and how translation is done - both these studies would need to be considered. These areas of study are not for the undisciplined and some knowledge of original languages and translation techniques is arguably most helpful.

Continued next page >

The problem is that again there are claims and strawmen arguments that simply cloud the issues which then becomes surprisingly emotive. This author has a high view of and uses the KJV and a KJV Greek interlinear in study and writing. Yet I disagree with some of the remarkable claims made by 'KJV Only' enthusiasts and especially with the emotive attacks received by hardened KJVO warriors. Although this ministry uses KJV and favours the majority text which the KJV agrees with, amazingly some of the worst and most arrogant and personal attacks on this ministry have come from KJV Only advocates, when I have dared to question *some* of their 'Only' beliefs concerning the KJV.

Here are some of the falsities that KJV Only advocates succumb to...

The KJV is the yardstick in comparison charts with other versions to show what is supposedly 'missing' or in error. False. This practise is deceptive. Similar results can be achieved when starting with other versions as the yardstick. The fault lies in not comparing any version with the original language translated from.

The KJV is perfect in translation. False. The KJV has gone through *three* major revisions since 1611 with more than 100,000 very minor changes. The KJV is a remarkably accurate and more literal translation, but it is still *a translation*. The KJV translators themselves stated it could be improved and that it was not perfect.

'New Age Bible Versions' (1993) by Gail Riplinger embolded this KJV only stand. Yet the author had no background in Greek or Hebrew, the book being full of errors, with inaccurate footnotes, distorted facts and emotive falsehoods. No reputable scholar on either side of the debate endorsed this book.

The KJV Bible is a 'literal' translation and thus accurate. False. Translations are never fully 'literal'. They all vary between 'Formal Equivalence' (more literal word for word) and 'Dynamic Equivalence' (less literal). Any literal test shows a sliding scale. The closest to a 'literal' style might be an interlinear Bible (word for word from Hebrew or Greek). The KJV in many places uses different English words for the one Greek word (in Romans 4 '*logizomai*' is translated 'counted', 'reckoned', 'imputeth...'). Another example of where the KJV is not 'literal' is '*God forbid*' (Lk.20:16, Rom.3:4,6,31; 6:2,15; 7:7,13,14; 11:1,11; 1Cor.6:15; Gal.3:17; 3:21; 6:14). The Greek has '*me ginomai*', literally '*not*'/'*to be*' - the KJV '*God*' ('*theos*') is not in the original Greek text that the KJV was translated from. The latter is an example of where the KJV translators did not translate 'literally', but chose to find words that arguably still accurately represent the strength of the expression.

The KJV Bible is inspired. False. No translation is inspired but rather *the texts they came from*. Those were the ones written by '*holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*' (2Pet.1:21)! Many KJV Only advocates amazingly believe the KJV *corrects the original Greek copies*. But translations are human, regardless of how accurate they are. Many translators in the same room will not produce exactly the same translation even over one passage. Further, which KJV would be 'inspired' - the 1611 or the 1769?

The KJV Bible is the only Bible not copyrighted. False. The title page of the NT of the original and the second edition (1613) of the KJV reads '*Cum Privilegio*', Latin words meaning '*with privilege*' or '*right*'. The rights went to Robert Barker, the royal printer, whose father, Christopher Barker, had received from Queen

Elizabeth the sole right to print English Bibles. The heirs of Robert Barker continued printing as owners of the copyright for more than 100 years before the right passed to others. After the 19th century, the KJV was still under British copyright with the *Oxford and Cambridge University Presses* and *Royal Printers*.

The New King James Bible (NKJV) is as evil as the modern versions. False. The NKJV translation style is close to KJV and originally taken from the same manuscripts. Many ‘faults’ found in the NKJV *when compared to the original languages* they came from - such ‘faults’ are found to be either semantics or simply the claims are in error. On a sliding scale, regardless of what one thinks of the NKJV, this version is *far closer to the KJV*, in comparison to other versions.

Although this author holds a high view of the KJV and still prefers to use it in study and sermons, these extreme views above have become *cultic* for many.

Assessment

Other topics could easily be cited for the extremes seen in public articles and videos today. Most of the false charges are never corrected even when the perpetrators discover they are misrepresenting or have facts wrong. Many times this author has seen writers ignore the challenge to get it right. What does this say about honesty, integrity and character? Public errors require public fixing.

Not all those who are anti Calvinism display derangement syndromes. But the topic certainly perpetuates the extremes when Calvin becomes a ‘murderer’, an ‘apostate’ and ‘unsaved’. I have yet to find anyone who brings these charges who has actually read his ‘Institutes’. Many scholars who have read his ‘Institutes’ are in admiration of Calvin’s expositions, some say they are the finest of the era. Certainly they were used by Divines and in Councils and Confessions. Many great leaders, such as Charles Spurgeon, were admirers of Calvin’s writings.

Similarly, not all those who are anti modern Bible versions display such derangement syndromes. The KJVO position has some good arguments but the position has in later years been hijacked by exaggerated unscholarly arguments.

There should be some rules in exposing any teachings - Do the homework and research *both sides* of any debatable topic. Fairly represent the opposing argument. Do not exaggerate or go hyper to the position proclaimed. Do not create strawmen or emotive arguments that do not fairly represent the issue. Convince with *doctrine* and *fact*, knowing that only the Holy Spirit changes hearts. Do not attack one’s character, unless this is part of the teaching (re false prophets) or there is immoral behaviour that disqualifies a person from an office in ministry.

Don’t get into a ministry of apologetics unless one is prepared to *debate and respond*. You cannot make statements and not be open to a response. Be willing to learn. Be aware of a more severe judgement when teaching doctrine (James 3:1). Have the counsel and accountability of mature Christians in a local church. One thing is most important - keep the Gospel in mind and as a basis for exploration or defense of any topic. Being a ‘Calvinist’ or not, a ‘King James Only’ advocate or not, is not sufficient to gain the righteousness to enter Heaven.

Terry Arnold

Your Comments and Questions

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

Questions on 'Tongues' in 1Cor.14

Hi Terry,

1. *Just re-reading your book 'Tongues and the Baptism With the Spirit' - on P.49 when you quote 1Cor.14:26, you do not put ('unknown') in brackets before the word 'tongue'. Is this intentional or an omission? Is Paul legitimising the use of an 'unknown tongue' when they come together?*

(R.N., NSW)

Editor's reply:

Vs.26,27 'How is it then, brethren? when you come together, every one of you has a psalm, has a doctrine, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. 27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret'.

My book followed the KJV here which leaves out the word '*unknown*' in that verse...(by '*unknown*' - there are two schools of thought - unknown in the church at the time but still a *real dialect*; or unknown as in *ecstatic*). Personally I think '*unknown*' is left out here because it is lumped in with other things such as '*teaching, revelation, interpretation...*' Paul is giving them the benefit of the doubt and assuming it could be either known or unknown. That point is arguably backed by the *challenge to interpret* whichever it is. But the main point in vs.26 is **ORDER** in the assembly.

Regardless of how one interprets verse 26, Paul is definitely *not legitimising any use of an unknown tongue* since he has *spoken against it* in so many places in the chapter. He is simply saying if one is going to bring a 'tongue' (of any sort) *then someone interpret it* (vs.27)! Verses 26,27 should be read together]

2. *Then when you list the things mentioned in verse 26 on page 50, you do not mention 'tongue'. Do you have a reason for that?*

[It should have been mentioned and also linked with verse 27 - as both those verses are together in thought. I was so focused on the aspect of *order*. Although the next verse I mention it?]

3. *In vs.27,28, does Paul legitimise speaking in an unknown tongue when they come together, provided that it is interpreted?*

[Regardless of what the 'tongue' is it must be either *known* or *interpreted*. Paul speaks strongly against the unknown tongue which was being used in the Corinth assembly (vs.18,19; see also 2,4,7-11,14,16,17,23). Any 'tongue' would be 'legitimate' when it is *understood, known or interpreted*. In every place where a language ('tongue') is interpreted, it is interpreted *from one known language to another known language* (Jn.9:7; Acts 9:36; Heb.7:2).

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3. *I also notice that you put 'unknown' in brackets before the word tongue when you quote these verses*

[Yes because it is not in the Greek but translated by the KJV translators. The KJV here clears any confusion and *clarifies the difference between positive statements and negative statements* by Paul. He is positive to the real 'tongues' (plural) and negative to the 'unknown tongue' (singular) - the latter the Corinthians were misusing. This clears the difference in the two aspects of the tongues]

4. *Do you think Paul contradicts himself with regard to the usage of the unknown tongue in the Corinthian church in verses 26-28 speaking here more positively than negatively?* [No. Paul is teaching the correct use of any tongues here. I have preached in non English churches and seen vs.26-28 in action when I had to be interpreted, just as Paul was urging in the Corinth church]

Final thought: 1Cor.14 is not easily understood, especially by Charismatic/Pentecostals, who would need to be first taken back to Acts 2 to see the real meaning of 'tongues' - which is the Greek word '*dialektos*' in vs.6 and 8 - *real known understood dialects*! The Greek words for 'tongues' ('*glossais*' and '*dialektos*') were never meant to be the 1901 counterfeit - unknown ecstatic speech!

A Caution on the Gaza Dilemma

Terry, no doubt you have seen the horrifying images from Gaza. How do we reconcile this as Christians, these people suffering now from starvation and famine...just about crawling over each other to get some food...

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Editor's reply [excerpts from a lengthy reply]

Any suffering is difficult to see...But we would warn our readers...All of the recent pictures coming out of Gaza and Syria are now proven fake, not from the stated place and time, or AI generated...Palestinians holding children sick and dying are too often children dying of *other diseases*, not starvation...(note the parents look healthy). AI images of children also fool viewers... Hamas and Palestinian authorities use these photos knowing they are fake or manipulated...With the claimed 'starvation'...there were photos of thousands of tons of food being stored *under UN control* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9zphFFNfiE>)...There is a lot of deception in the media!... Hamas...has also consistently refused cease fire agreements. Many seem to have forgotten how the war started and by who?

But God has said already much about what the nations think of Israel (eg. Zech.14)...For the truth on the war see the reports by Mike Claydon - Subscribe at israelreport@mail.co

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry and team, thank you for your dedication to encouraging the saints over so many years both physically, auditory, and in written form. You are an amazing source of Gods wisdom to the saints and beyond. Thank you for always keeping the compass pointed north, especially as Satan prowls around using the world and its leftist wokeism to distract and distort the truth of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory great things He has done and is still doing.

(P.H. NSW)

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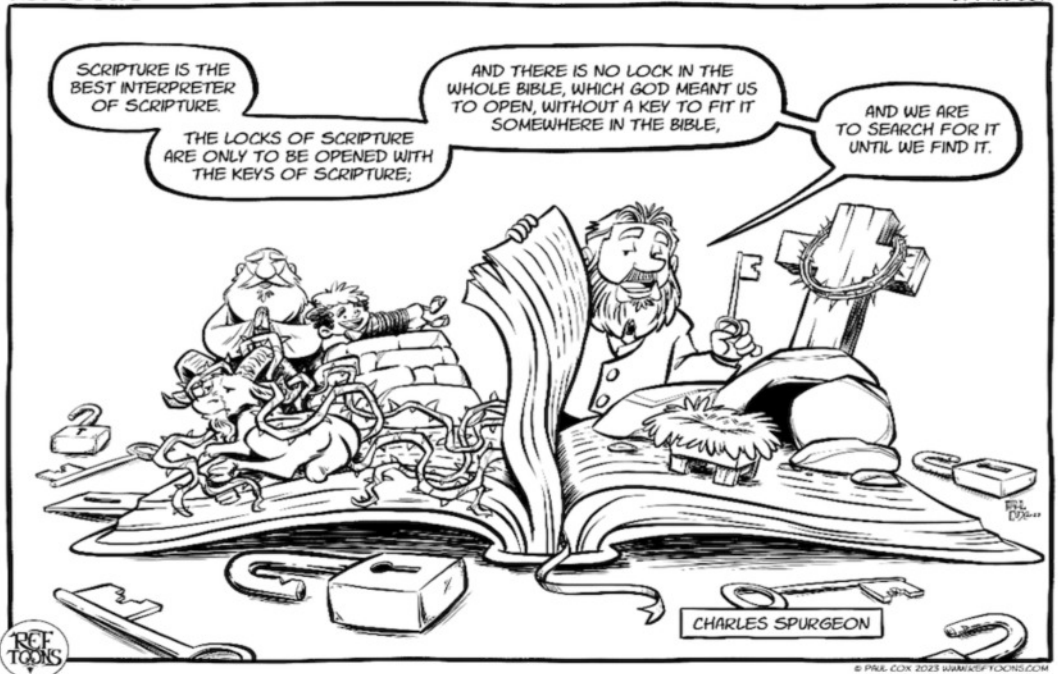
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