



Australia  
**Diakrisis**

**A Ministry of Teaching**

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age...to discern (diakrisis) both good and evil (Heb. 5:14)  
Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine?... (Is.28:9)*

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TA Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational faith ministry, teaching, informing and equipping the church.

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The members of the advisory panel may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed in this newsletter.

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

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**Comment - Mike Claydon**

Just the other day an acquaintance of mine was relating to me an accusation made regarding something I had supposedly written. I was unknown to the person making the assertion.

The more my friend heard, the more he became convinced that I could not have penned such things! Exactly how could he be so certain? Simple. He knows me extremely well - what I believe, how I behave and the fact that I write against those things being attributed to me as if in agreement.

This scenario is strikingly akin to what is occurring in the Church today and why so many supposedly Christian people are believing anything 'attributed' to God by 'leaders' today. They simply don't 'know Him'.

He has revealed Himself in the most detailed and intimate fashion in His Word and it is there for all to read. Anyone who has read the Bible in its entirety is not easily fooled by 'manifestations' or words of 'prophecy' supposedly from the Lord Himself.

From Genesis to Revelation His 'modus operandi' is intricately portrayed without a hint of contradiction or change...but to thousands today God is apparently revealing Himself in new and strange ways to the world at large. And they insist on clinging to this belief, even though all the evidence points to the contrary.

This deception could only be possible to someone who has not taken the time and effort to glean from the written Word, the nature of God's personality and how He 'behaves'. His dealings with mankind are a matter of history and totally verifiable. We are without excuse.

When a Biblically 'literate' person observes others being thrown to the ground, laughing uncontrollably, uttering animal noises, speaking unintelligible languages and developing gold teeth fillings et al, it is all rightfully rejected as having any divine origins as claimed. This is one of the most important functions of Scripture - to safeguard us from lying deceptions!

In addition to these horrors, multitudes of Christians today have joined the frenzied rush to accept Roman Catholicism and even Islam in some cases, and when challenged, argue that the adherents of these 'religions' worship our God! It could only be a sheer ignorance of Scripture that leads to this.

If only each and every Christian read the Bible through at least once, (current surveys reveal only around 10% have achieved this), the charlatans, false teachers and self proclaimed 'Apostles' that are today making a mockery of the flock, would have greatly diminished followings.

Our King has made all things clear to us - and it is imperative that we make ourselves completely 'familiar' with Him.

**Mike Claydon**

**Sydney Trip**

We have prepared a Sydney itinerary for August, (see P.12). Any queries ring Garry (02)96702648 or Terry on 0411489472

**Victorian Itinerary**

We are currently preparing a Victorian itinerary for November. For details contact this ministry.

## Why I Am a Christian and Not a Seventh Day Adventist

**# I am not a Seventh Day Adventist because** I believe in the Bible alone as the inspired Word of God and that it *alone* is to be used and tested for doctrine, (2Tim.3:16; Pr.30:5,6). The SDA church teaches Ellen G. White was a prophetess, ('*The spirit of Prophecy*'), and that her writings were inspired by God. They write: '*Seventh day Adventists hold that Ellen G. White performed the work of a true prophet during the seventy years of her public ministry. As Samuel was a prophet, as Jeremiah was a prophet, as John the Baptist, so we believe that Mrs. White was a prophet to the church of Christ today*'. (1) Indeed, Mrs. White herself claimed her writings to be inspired of God as if God was writing them Himself. She said: '*It is God, and not an erring mortal that has spoken in representing God almighty*'. (2) This is contrary to Scripture, (2Pet.1:20; Rev.22:18). Added to this is the irrefutable documentation exposing her as a false prophet who predicted events and times which did not come to pass. (3) She also plagiarised (literary theft) *large* quantities of her work from other authors without permission, yet stated (and believed by the SDA church), that these writings were from God. (4) The evidence of this deception was brought before the SDA church late in the Twentieth Century and many pastors resigned. The book '*The White Lie*' by ex-SDA pastor Walter Rea has hundreds of pages of irrefutable documentation of this deception.

**# I am not a Seventh Day Adventist because** I believe Jesus was both completely God and completely man, as has been the teaching for 2,000 years. The SDA church believes that Jesus was the archangel Michael, (5) and that he inherited a '*sinful nature*'. However, Jesus is not an angel (Heb.1:4,6) and is never called an angel, but instead unlike angels, He was *worshipped*, (Matt.14:33; 28:9; 1Pet.3:18).

**# I am not a Seventh Day Adventist because** I believe Jesus completed the atonement for my sins *once* on the cross, (Jn.19:30; Heb.9:12; 10:12). The SDA church teaches that Christ is now '*cleansing the sanctuary*' in an '*investigative judgement*', (introduced in 1844 from a failed prophecy), and that although my sins are forgiven they are not completely blotted out. However, the Bible teaches Jesus cleansed my sin *entirely* on the cross, (1Jn.1:7; 1Pet.1:19; 2:24). The SDA church also teaches that Satan finally bears responsibility for our sins and is the '*scapegoat*'. (6) Yet, the Bible says it was Jesus who took responsibility for and bore our sins, not the Devil, (1Pet.2:24; 2Cor.5:21; Is.53:6,12).

**# I am not a Seventh Day Adventist because** I do not believe that Sunday is Satan's counterfeit day of worship and that if I keep Sunday it will eventually be the '*mark of the beast*'. The '*mark of the beast*' mentioned in the book of Revelation clearly has nothing to do with keeping any Sabbath.

The Sabbath was given as a sign '*to the children of Israel*', (Ex.31:13,16,17; Ezek.20:12). After Christ ascended, the early apostles and Christians assembled on the '*1st day*' of the week (Sunday), breaking bread and fellowshiping together, (Jn.20:19, 26, Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:1,2). The SDA church says the Sunday keeping was instituted after 300 AD by the Roman Catholic religion. This is historically false as there are *numerous* clear accounts of the early church Fathers, (from Justin Martyr (100-165AD), Ignatius (110AD) to Cyprian (200-258AD), who spoke of keeping Sunday and that this was the first day of the week. (7) All the great leaders, (Jerome, Huss, Wycliffe, Luther, Calvin, etc) all kept Sunday. The New Testament *nowhere* mentions any command to keep the seventh day or Sunday as the Sabbath. Christ is now our rest, (Heb.4). (Adventists confuse *rest* ['Sabbath'] with *worship*). The Bible, however, says to judge no man on the Sabbaths (Col.2:16), and that it is up to the individual as to which day he chooses, (Rom.14:5,6). Christians should likewise not judge SDA's for keeping Saturday.

**# I am not a Seventh Day Adventist because** I do not believe Adventists will be God's chosen '*remnant*'. This is one of the hallmarks of a cult.

**# I am not a Seventh Day Adventist because** I believe in the *eternal* punishment of Hell, (Matt.25:46; Rev.19:20cp.20:10, Lk.16:22,23, etc.). The SDA church does not believe in the same everlasting Hell that has been taught since the apostles, but rather that we are '*exterminated*' (annihilation). In Matthew 25:46 the Word of God says: '*these shall go away into everlasting punishment but the righteous into life eternal*', (some translations have '*everlasting life*'). The English translation should be enough to convince any that this punishment is truly '*everlasting*' or '*eternal*'. However, the Greek here has the words '*everlasting*' and '*eternal*' translated as the same Greek word, '*aionion*' - for both the punishment and the future eternal life spoken of. The root word '*aionios*' means *unending; eternal; forever*. The same Greek word '*aionion*' that describes the '*life*' is also applied to the '*punishment*'. If *eternal life* is forever, eternal, unending ('*aionion*'), then the *punishment* is also eternal, everlasting, ('*aionion*'). Whether we like it or not, the '*everlasting punishment*' here is *eternal or everlasting* ('*aionion*').

**# I am not a Seventh Day Adventist because** I believe the Bible says that no one knows the time of the second coming, (Mk.13:32,33). The SDA's have a sorry history of date setting and failures! The religion was partly founded on false prophecies of the coming of Christ in 1883 and 1884 by William Miller. Miller later renounced his error and most of the theories and new doctrines that followed it. However, Ellen G. White continued the new teachings and the name of Seventh Day Adventist then became prominent.

**# I am not a Seventh Day Adventist because** I believe that so much has been added to the truth by the SDA church that its message is '*another gospel*' and '*another Jesus*' that Paul spoke of, which brings Christians back under the law instead of under grace, (Rom.6:14). *The Sabbath is not the real issue, but rather the deception is found in the confusion or mixing of law and grace*. Scriptures to do with the law that Adventists ignore are: 1Tim.1:9,10; Rom.5:8; 6:14; 7:6; 10:4; Gal.2:16; 3:13; 5:18; 5:14; Eph.2:15. The Bible warns Christians to be aware of '*false brethren*' who would '*bring us into bondage*' (Gal.2:4; 5:1) and '*trouble*' us with '*words subverting your souls saying ye must be circumcised and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment*', (Acts 15:24). '*Avoid foolish questions...and contentions, and strivings about the law...*', (Tit.3:9).

**Terry Arnold**

**(We recommend the video '*Seventh Day Adventism - the spirit behind the church*' and books by John R. Rice and ex-Adventist, Mark Duckworth - ask for our booklist)**

(1) *Review & Herald* 4/10/28, P.11) (2) *Testimonies* Vol.3 P.257 (3) See '*A Close Encounter With Seventh Day Adventism*' by Mark Duckworth. (4) See '*The White Lie*' by Walter Rea - for irrefutable evidence of plagiarism (literary theft) in Ellen White's writings. (5) '*Spiritual Gifts*', Vol.4, P.58; '*Desire of Ages*', P.99; '*Story of redemption*', P.173. (6) '*The Great Controversy*', P.485. (7) Documentation found in '*Answers*' by Keith Piper or '*Kingdom of the Cults*' by Walter Martin.

## **Sabbath Facts & 'Good Friday'?**

Did you know that the Jewish Sabbaths fell on *different days*? It fell on the first day (Lev.23:39), sometimes on the 7th day (Ex.20:8) and sometimes on the 8th. day, (Lev.23:39). This is why we find two Sabbaths in the one week, (Luke 6:1 - '**On the second Sabbath after the first...**'). The feast of the Passover was on the 14th of Nisan, (corresponding to our March/April). The feast of unleavened bread of 7 days always started on the day after this - 15th of Nisan, regardless of what day of the week it was, (Lev.23:6-8). The *first and last days* of this feast were *special Sabbaths* regardless of what days they fell on. The normal weekly Sabbaths thus often fell in between these special Sabbath days. An additional Sabbath was kept on the day of Pentecost ('*The Feast of Weeks*') which was 50 days after 15th Nisan. This Sabbath day could also fall on *different days*.

If the *special Sabbath* days with these feasts fell on say a Thursday (6pm - 6pm Friday) then it would be followed by another Sabbath the following day (6pm Friday-6pm Saturday). Thus there would often be *two Sabbaths in the same week*.

Sabbaths were also of *different lengths*. Some were one day long, (Ex.16:23-39), some two days long (Lev.23:6-8,15-22), some one year long (Lev.25:4), some 70 years long (2Chr. 36:21), and some eternity long, (Heb.4:9).

Sabbaths were '**a sign...to the children of Israel**', (Ex.31:13-17; 16:29; Ezek.20:12). To Israel the Sabbaths were an eternal memorial of deliverance from Egypt, (Dt.5:15). It is interesting to note that all the 10 commandments are repeated in the New Testament except the fourth concerning the Sabbath!

Jesus rose from the dead on the *first day* of the week - Sunday. The Roman Catholic Church was *not* the first to change the day of rest or worship from Saturday to Sunday, as wrongly taught by Seventh Day Adventists and other groups. The *Scriptures* state clearly that the apostles '**met together to break bread**' on '**the first day of the week**', (Acts 20:7). The earliest *historical* accounts of the church fathers also show clearly that Christians met on Sunday, long before Constantine (4th. Century) or any religion decreed Sunday as the day of worship or rest. Although the early Christians kept the first day of the week - Sunday, (Jn.20:1, 19, 26-29 Acts 20:6-12, 1Cor.16:1-2), Christians are *not commanded* to observe Saturday or Sunday, (Rom.14:5-6; Gal.4:9-11). Although the principle of the 'Sabbath', (the word '*sabbaton*' means '*rest*' not worship), is eternal, we are free to choose our own day of rest, (Rom.14:5-6). *We are commanded not to judge anyone as to how they keep the Sabbaths* (Col.2:14-17), and any *legalism of the Sabbaths is rebuked by Paul*, (Gal.4:9-11).

**Sabbaths & 'Good Friday'**: What about a '*Good Friday*' crucifixion? Roman Catholic tradition from the third and fourth centuries has Jesus crucified on Friday and *Scriptures* tell us that He rose on Sunday morning early, prior to dawn, (Matt.28:1). As a young Christian I believed in a Friday crucifixion without hesitation, until one day I was challenged to count the *three days and nights* from Friday to Sunday. The Roman guards were ordered to guard the tomb '*until* [the end of] **the third day**' (Matt.27:64), and we know Jesus rose very '**early in the morning on the first day** [Sunday] **of the week...**', (Mk.16:2). It is clear that a *three day period* had to elapse sometime early Sunday morning, (Lk.24:21).

Some might point to John 19:31: '**The Jews, therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath**

**day was an high day,)...'** or Luke 23:54: '**And that day was the preparation, and the Sabbath drew on**'. So, was not Jesus killed just before the Sabbath began - from Friday sunset?

However, it is impossible to get *three days and three nights* from Friday to Sunday morning. The sign of the prophet Jonah, (Jonah 1:17), required Christ to be in the grave '**three days and three nights**', (Matt.12:39,40;), not just three days: '**As Jonah was three days and three nights in the whales belly, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth**', (Matt.12:39,40 Lk.16:22). A Friday crucifixion leaves us short by at least one day and a night!

The difficulty is solved by the fact that there were *two Sabbaths* in the week that Jesus died. Only the Gospel of John gives us the clearest detail of the '**high day**' which was a *special Sabbath*, not the ordinary weekly Sabbath. The *ordinary* Jewish weekly Sabbath was from Friday sunset to Saturday sunset, (the Jewish day begins at sunset). However, this '**high day**' or *special Sabbath* was the first day of the feast of unleavened bread, (15th of Nisan).\* As stated earlier the first and last days of this feast were *special Sabbaths* of which no work was to be done. The Gospel of John alone explains that the Sabbath which began at sunset the day Christ was crucified '*was a high day*'. In other words it was not an ordinary Sabbath which began Friday at sunset, but rather a special Sabbath. The women could not get to the tomb to anoint the body until Sunday. Why? Because the *two Sabbath days* prevented them from working.

Most scholars believe Jesus was crucified on Wednesday or Thursday depending on how the three days and three night periods are viewed, (ie. whether full 24 hr. periods or not)...But Friday is out of the question.

It is this confusion over the two Sabbaths that led Roman Catholics and others to wrongly attribute Friday as the day of the crucifixion. The Astronomer Royal at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England, has determined that in AD32 Nisan 14 was from Wednesday sunset to Thursday sunset. Jesus had to die on the 14th. of Nisan because this was the day that the Passover lambs were slain every year at about 3pm in the afternoon. (The last supper took place the night '**before the feast of the Passover**', Jn.13:1)

If we count Thursday as day one\*\*, then Friday and Saturday are days two and three. After these three days and nights in the grave Jesus rose before dawn on Sunday morning *after* the Sabbath, (later than 6pm. Sat: Mk.16:1: '**..when the Sabbath was past**'). Since this resurrection the early church began to meet on Sunday, the first day of the week, (Acts 20:7). It is worthy of note that six post resurrection appearances were on Sunday as was the day of Pentecost.

However, a word of balance here. There are things we are not to judge a man on - food, drink: Col.2:16; 1Tim.4; Rom.14; and special days and Sabbaths: '**let no man...judge you...in respect of an holy day...or of the Sabbath days**', (Col.2:16). How one keeps, celebrates, or thinks of the resurrection day, the Sabbaths, etc, is to be judged or discerned by the individual, and thus should not be a major contentious issue.

**Terry Arnold**

\* Nisan is the first month of the Jewish calendar corresponding to our March-April.

\*\* Depending on whether one see three days and three nights as full 24 hr. periods, some believe this to be Wednesday sunset which is the beginning of Thursday to the Jews.

## Phil Pringle Correction

In the March/April 2001 issue of *Diakrisis* on page 3 we printed an article from the *Herald of Hope* in which they stated that Phil Pringle had claimed in a televised sermon to be invited to be the fourth member of the Trinity. On reviewing the video of that particular sermon we believe there is considerable doubt as to that claim as quoted in our article. We apologise if any of our readers were misled. However, the sermon is woeful and Phil does claim to have been visited visually and audibly by the Holy Spirit in the privacy of his bedroom - enough for the discerning to be wary of this man and his ministry.

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### Baptist Union/Transformations/Ecumenism

*(Old Baptist Union Newspaper, May/2001)*

*'Hervey Bay churches of different denominations have been meeting together regularly for almost a year here. Keith Stevenson, pastor of the Hervey Bay Baptist church, tells us about unity that has grown amongst the Christians of Hervey Bay: 'Following the viewing of the video 'Transformations' by the Fraternal last year, it was agreed we trial the coming together of churches, as a way of breaking down the barriers between the congregations, and praying for the city.*

*We commenced in June 2000, when 130 people came to the Anglican church on a Wednesday evening. It was obvious by the tone of the night that God was doing something special.*

*Subsequent times in the Baptist, Catholic and Uniting churches...have seen the movement grow, until an evening in March when 500 gathered in the Great Hall of the Hervey Bay High School. The night was led by a dynamic combined praise and worship team from the churches...Father John Khoai, who joined the ministry team at the Catholic church this year, shared a moving testimony. His home country is Vietnam. He has served the Lord for many years, including three in hard labour for his faith. During that time he learned to love his enemies, even while in solitary confinement. He went on to say that when he had entered prison, he wore thick glasses because of his short-sightedness. He was not allowed these in prison, but since his release he has perfect eyesight with no need for glasses at all. Finally, he told of the many churches in Vietnam that are full every day of the week, despite communist rule.*

*The mayor of Hervey Bay is now a regular attender of these meetings and was joined in March by the newly elected state member for Hervey Bay.*

*The next gathering is planned on Pentecost Sunday and there is already a great expectation of what God will do when his people come together from across the denominational barriers.'*

**Editors comments: The above all sounds emotively loving and exciting but the transformations video is full of false claims of revivals! The video is a brilliant but subtle PR exercise for the ecumenical and Charismatic/Pentecostal movements. It features Word-faith churches that teach rank heresy and features leaders who are false teachers and false prophets, (see P.11 & *Diakrisis* March/April).**

**The Baptist pastor mentioned here is sympathetic to the modern church growth methods and Charismatic errors and has had the Roman Catholic priest speak from his pulpit. The town's 'Ministers Fraternal' includes the Roman Catholic priest and counts him and his religion as Christian. (What is not reported in the BU report is that there are at least three churches that are separate from, and opposed to, the ecumenical meetings and the false Gospel of Roman Catholicism).**

**Ministers/elders are supposed to be shepherds to their flocks. It is their duty to research such videos and teachings and to warn their people. Meanwhile they encourage their people in error, lies, deception and the building of Satan's end-time ecumenical apostate church.**

### Shameful Ecumenism

*'An inaugural prayer luncheon sponsored by the Washington times Foundation was one of the largest and most diverse religious gatherings of clergy and lawmakers in memory. Martin Luther King, evangelist Billy Graham and the Rev Sun Myung Moon were honoured by an Evangelical group of clergy men. The Rev Sun Myung Moon received an award for his work in support of traditional family values...*

*...Doug Weed introduced 'seven of the ten top television evangelists in America today.' They included Paul Crouch and Kenneth Copeland, both of whom made brief remarks. The Rev. Jerry Falwell...brought greetings from Rev. Jesse Jackson...The Rev. Robert Schuller pastor of the Crystal Cathedral marvelled at the 'myriad' of different religious groups praying in the same room...'The only way I can explain it in my own theology is the Holy Spirit [and that] Jesus Christ has really diversified His investment portfolio.' Singer Pat Boone...noted the 'wonderful feeling' at the prayer event, encompassing Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus...Boone also sang....*

*...Iman Hassan Qazwini, director of the Islamic centre of America, said that 'all praise is due to Allah' and urged prayers for 'children in Palestine' or the West Bank and Iraq. Rabbi David Ben-Ami, chairman of the American Forum for Jewish Christian Cooperation, spoke of the common Jewish and Christian heritage...' (Washington Times, 20/01/01)*

**Editors Comment: Here we have so called 'Evangelicals' honouring cult and false religious leaders! Sun Moon heads a cult group and was once jailed. He claims to be the Messiah, a re-birth of Jesus Christ. Paul Crouch and Copeland are false prophets, not to mention their cultic teachings. Schuller does not teach the orthodox view of sin and has several other heretical teachings...The ecumenical movement is moving along at a staggering rate!**

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### Vision in Toilet?

*'Hundreds of pilgrims congregated at a Nigerian Airforce Base...after a warrant officers wife acclaimed that the Virgin Mary had appeared to her while she was in the lavatory...'I went to the toilet at about 5am and was shocked and overwhelmed by fear with the appearance of the Virgin Mary' Mrs Ejembi said.*

*...Hundreds of worshippers gathered outside Marts Ejembi's apartment to sing praises to the Mother of God. Mrs Ejembi said that the Virgin Mary had reappeared every day at about 7pm and had delivered messages on topics including entreaties to housewives to have faith in God and advice on crowd control...Most have been disappointed however. On Sunday night the apparition requested that only three people be allowed in the lavatory at a time...'*

*(The Times, UK 17/4/2001)*

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### Quotable

*The Bible is the only book whose author is always present when one reads it. Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself but because it contradicts them!*

## Christians, Sin & 'Sinless Perfection' Justification/Sanctification/Glorification

Can Christians ever wilfully sin? How could we sin if we are 'saved from our sins'? What does salvation really mean if we still sin? How do we reconcile the fact that professing Christians could commit adultery and drunkenness?...Are they really 'saved'? Is it possible to reach a state of 'sinless perfection' in this life? What has been the orthodox historical teaching on these questions?

The above questions have caused confusion in the minds of many Christians and deceived not a few. The best way the above questions can be answered and understood is to first have a clear foundation and understanding of the *distinctions* between *Justification*, *Sanctification* and *Glorification*.

*Much heresy and false teaching has its roots in a lack of understanding of, and false separations of, these three facets of salvation!*

In 2 Corinthians 1:10 we read: '**Who delivered us** [past] **from so great a death, and doth deliver:** [present continuous] **in whom we trust that He will yet deliver us** [future].' Christ delivers us from the sentence of spiritual death *past, present and future*.

The three facets of salvation are summed up in the table - (reader refer to the table below this page).

An understanding of the *distinctions* between Justification, Sanctification and Glorification will show clearly that salvation is *past, present and future - spirit, soul and body*.

### Justification:

This refers to the act which declares a person righteous in the sight of God. In Justification we are saved from the *penalty* of sin. This work is entirely of God (passive) and *outside* of us through the *imputed* (legally credited) righteousness of Christ. It is *past, finished*, and as the Greek tenses often show - done once and non repeatable. This is done by grace through the vehicle of faith alone...'**Therefore being justified by faith...**', (Rom.5:1). It affects our very spirits, making them legally perfect...'**the spirits** [not souls or bodies] **of just men made perfect**', (Heb.12:23).

The Old Testament Hebrew equivalent of 'justify' is 'tsadheq' which is used essentially in a legal and forensic sense, (Job.9:15; 13:18; Dt.,25:1; Is.45:25).

This justification comes through *imputation*. In Romans 4 the word 'logizomai' is mentioned 11 times in a classic Pauline and Reformation passage on Justification. 'Logizomai' is translated as: *imputed, credited, reckoned, accounted*. '**For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted [logizomai] unto him for righteousness**', (Rom.4:3). This Scripture is a direct quote from Genesis 15:6 where the

Hebrew equivalent 'chashav' is used. The idea is that God registered Abrahams faith as righteousness. Again this word is used in a legal sense and is essentially an accounting term, (Lev.25:27; 50,52; 27:18,23). Hence the reformers called this a *legal* and forensic righteousness.

The Reformers also called it an '*alien*' righteousness because it was and always will be a righteousness *outside* of us. This righteousness is in fact *a person* as Jeremiah 23:5,6 says: '**...The Lord our righteousness...**', ('Yehowah our tsadheq'; see also Phil.3:9). '**Our righteousness**' now sits on the right hand of God! Thus this righteousness is not of us but is *substitutionary*: '**He shall justify many for He shall bear their iniquities**', (Is. 53:11- literally: 'make many to be accounted ['tsadeq'] righteous.')

### Sanctification:

This refers to a *separation from* sin and the world; and a *separation to* God. In Sanctification we are saved and being saved from the *power* of sin. Sanctification is past ('*positional*' at salvation) and present continuous ('*progressive*') by the indwelling Holy Spirit from *within*: '**And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom...**', (2Tim.4:18).The word here '*preserve*' is the Greek word 'sozo' - the same word for '*save*'.

This work *continues* until Glorification: '**Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ**', (Phil.1:6); '**And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure**, (1Jn.3:3); '**And have put on the new man, which is renewed** [continuous] **in knowledge after the image of Him that created him**', (Col.3:10); '**...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure**', (Phil.2:12,13). The latter Scripture has nothing to do with working *for* salvation but rather co-operating with the Holy Spirit in the past salvation that was *already* received in Justification. The Greek tense and voice of '*work out*' is *present imperative* showing this is *continuous* as well as a *command* for all Christians.

*Sanctification* is synonymous with the word 'holiness' and is *by the Holy spirit*. It is '**...salvation through sanctification of the Spirit...**', (2Thess.2:13; 1Pet.1:2).

Sanctification is also inextricably linked to the Word: '**Sanctify them through thy Word...**', (Jn.17:17).

There are no short-cut methods to this holiness! Various 'baptisms' or other methods used to gain a pseudo power or holiness are man made *new* methods introduced in the last

<u>Justification</u>	<u>Sanctification</u>	<u>Glorification</u>
<b>Salvation from penalty of sin</b> (1Thess.1:10; Eph.1:7; Col.2:13,14; 2Cor.1:9,10; Matt.1:21)	<b>Salvation from power of sin</b> (2Tim.4:18; Phil.1:6; Rom.6:18; 2Cor.7:1)	<b>Salvation from presence of sin</b> (Rom.8:21-23; 2Cor.5:1,2)
<b>Past (once)</b> (Rom.5:1; Heb.12:23; Rom.4:1-13;8:32-34; Phil.3:9)	<b>Past (positional)/continuous (progressive)</b> (Phil.1:6; 2:12,13; 3:21; Rom.6:1-14,18;8:1-16 2Tim.4:18; Col.3:10; 1Tim.5:22)	<b>Future</b> (Rom.8:21-23; 2Cor.5:1,2)
<b>Imputed (legally credited) from outside</b> (Rom.4:6-8,11,22-24)	<b>Imparted from within</b> (Phil.2:13; 2Thess.2:13; 1Pet.1:2)	<b>Created in Heaven by God</b> (2Cor.5:1,2; Rom.8:21-23)
<b>Gods work for us</b> (Rom.5:8; 1Pet.2:24)	<b>Gods work in us</b> (Scriptures as above)	<b>God's work to us</b> (Scriptures as above)

hundred and fifty years! **'Be filled with the Spirit'** (Eph.5:18) is rather a *command* to be *continuously controlled* by the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for 'filled' ('pleroo') shows moment by moment action and the imperative mood is used to show a command which concerns particularly the recipient of the command.

Other systems of Sanctification teach we have to be 'emptied' and renounce effort of our own. However, we are not Born Again to be empty vessels, but rather the written Word of God **'transforms'** us by **'renewing'**, not emptying our minds, (Rom.12:2). *These false systems arguably avoid or cause one to relax in the struggle against sin by the help of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.* They lessen the need for our active *resistance* to the flesh - the **'law in my members'**, and thus leave us open to the flesh asserting itself in one way or another. This has perhaps become evident in increasing numbers of ministers who today fall into open sin. Sadly the modern apostate church is preaching less and less against sin.

It is not a matter of *'let go and let God'*. Although Sanctification involves surrender and yielding to the Holy Spirit, the 'feet' to that surrender is *action*. We are to **'present'** our bodies, (Rom.12:1); **'...keep thyself pure'**, (1Tim.5:22); *take up our cross daily*, (Lk.9:23; 14:27); **'exercise thyself unto godliness'**, (1Tim.4:7); and **'work out your own salvation'**, (Phil.2:12).

We are progressively sanctified by being in the written *Word* and *separating* ourselves from sin and the polluted thinking of the world. The holiness experience throughout life is a *battle*, (Rom.7:23-25). We are told to resist and not to yield to unrighteousness, (Rom.6:12,13); to **'strive'**, (Rom.15:30); **'fight'**, (1Tim.6:12; 2Tim.4:7; 1Cor.9:26; Heb.10:32); **'wrestle'**, (Eph.6:12); **'mortify the deeds of the body'**, (Rom.8:13; Col.3:5); *deny* our sinful ways, (Tit.2:11,12); **'subject the body'**, (1Cor.9:27); **'cast off the works of darkness'**, (Rom.13:12); **'take the whole armour of God'**, (Eph.6:11,13); and to **'cleanse ourselves'** and be **'perfecting holiness'**, (2Cor.7:1)...The Scriptural words linked with Sanctification are fighting terms! - **'mortify'**, **'strive'**, **'fight'**, **'wrestle'**...

We must be careful here not to make Sanctification *our* work *separate* to the Holy Spirit's work. *The work of Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit.* However, Scripture clearly attests to us having a part to play in *His* work. *We co-operate and are 'partakers of His holiness'*, (Heb.12:10; 6:4).

Another dangerous system of Sanctification was taught by Charles Finney who taught several heresies (see *Diakrisis*, March/97) - one was *'Entire Sanctification'*. He wrote: *'Now as entire sanctification exists in perfect obedience to the law of God, and as the law requires nothing more than the right use of whatever strength we have, a state of entire sanctification is attainable in this life on the ground of natural ability.'* This teaching went against the teaching of progressive Sanctification as taught down through the centuries and confuses Glorification with Sanctification, (1Jn.3:2).

Such teachers who teach 'entire Sanctification' and deny progressive Sanctification do so against the Scriptures we have noted earlier, (1Jn.3:3; Phil.2:12,13; Phil.1:6; Col.3:10; 2Tim.4:18), as well as the historic orthodox teaching down the running centuries. Even Wesley at times came dangerously close to teaching sinless perfection when he wrote a book *'A Plain Account of Christian Perfection'*. Yet on his death bed he admitted he had not achieved such.

False teaching on Sanctification often shows a faulty understanding of Justification or a lack of distinguishing

between the two. It is arguable that teaching Sanctification without teaching the foundation of Justification may well lead to an unbalanced view of holiness or a false emphasis on morals and works. Such an emphasis on holiness has borne the fruit of extremes and excesses in the modern church. This is arguably traced to the later history of the Holiness Movement. Many new methods to gain holiness and 'entire sanctification' led to much false teaching in the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries. *Such new teaching effectively supplanted the old orthodox and Puritan doctrines.*

Many who deny progressive Sanctification also confuse Justification texts with Sanctification texts. Galatians 2:20 is sometimes quoted by holiness, 'higher life' or 'entire Sanctification' teachers: **'I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me'**. This passage is used to teach we must die to ourselves and gain a new entire Sanctification so that *God takes over* from us in the battle against sin. However, the whole passage does not speak of Sanctification but rather of *Justification*, as the verses before and after clearly show: **'...a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ...justified by the faith of Christ...by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified'**, (vs.16) **'...justified by Christ'**, (vs.17) **'...if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain'**, (vs.21).

Sometimes Scripture incorporates the concepts of Justification and Sanctification in the one passage. **'And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life [Sanctification] because of righteousness [Justification]**, (Rom.8:10). Here is a connection between the sanctifying work of the Spirit in the *present* because of initial Justification in the *past*. *Both are connected but must be distinguished.*

Justification is the ground for Sanctification (holiness), (Rom.5:21-6:2). Sanctification (holiness) is Justification in action, (Phil.1:6).

Some writers confuse sanctification with the 'old man' needing to be 'crucified'. However, Sanctification has nothing to do with the 'old man' which *was* crucified at salvation when we were justified, (Rom.6:6; Gal.2:20).

We must be careful too not to confuse the 'old man' which *was* crucified, with the 'flesh' which *is* a present reality and which wars against the spirit. We do not improve the 'old man' - for he *was* crucified; but we do strive against the 'flesh' as we surrender to the work of the Spirit.

Although Justification and Sanctification both come by the Grace of God, they are distinctly different in operation, time and person. Justification is the *outside* and *past* work of *Christ* by *imputation*, Sanctification is the *past and present* work of the *Holy Spirit* from *within*. In Justification we *do not* grow, yet in Sanctification we *do* grow, mature and develop. In Justification we do not work - righteousness comes by grace through faith alone, (Gal.2:16; 3:2,5,10; Rom.4:5; 3:27; 9:32). But this cannot be said entirely for progressive Sanctification. In the latter we do co-operate, strive, and **'work out our own salvation'** with the Holy Spirit who is doing the work within us, (Phil.2:12,13).

John Bunyan wrote: *'If you do not put a difference between justification wrought by the man Christ without and sanctification wrought by the Spirit of Christ within...you are not able to divide the Word aright, but contrariwise, you corrupt the Word of God, and cast stumbling blocks before the people.'*

Many confessions of faith including the Westminster and Baptist speak of both positional and progressive Sanctification. The Baptist Confession of Faith 1689 which was taken in turn from the Westminster Confession of Faith stated: *'They who are united to Christ...having a new heart and a new spirit created in them...are also farther sanctified...by His Word and the Spirit dwelling in them; the dominion of the whole body of sin is destroyed...and several lusts thereof are more and more weakened and mortified, and they [believers] more and more quickened and strengthened in all saving graces, to the practice of all true holiness. This sanctification is throughout the whole man, yet imperfect in this life; there abideth still some remnants of corruption in every part, whence ariseth a continual and irreconcilable war; the flesh lusting against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh...from the sanctifying Spirit of Christ, the regenerate part doth overcome; and so the saints grow in grace, perfecting holiness...pressing after the heavenly life.'*

The above confession does not say the whole body of sin is destroyed, but rather the '*dominion*' of sin is destroyed. Paul never says in this life we will not sin (he says quite the opposite); rather he says: **'sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace'**, (Rom.6:14). The word dominion is '*kurieuo*' meaning '*lordship, authority, rule*'.

G. Williamson stated: *'...the dominion of sin is broken though the presence of sin is not entirely eliminated. Just as penicillin may break a fever just destroying the dominion of a disease, and yet some time elapses before every trace of the disease is eliminated, so it is with sin.'* ('Westminster Confession Study Manual').

Hence there is a difference between *reigning* sin and *surviving* sin.

The Greek tenses in many Sanctification passages show clearly the positional and progressive aspects of this work of the Holy Spirit. The Greek voices also sometimes show an activity by us. **'Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God'**, (2Cor.7:1) Here '*perfecting*' is the Greek present active showing the progressive action by the Christian.

Positional or 'entire' Sanctification without progressive Sanctification will lead to two opposite errors or degrees of such - '*Sinless Perfection*' and '*Antinomianism*'.

Antinomianism is Latin for '*against the law*'. In common terms it is when a person has a low view of sin and might think: 'I'm saved, sealed and delivered and so it does not matter if I sin'. Both sinless perfection and antinomianism are opposite extremes. Both deny sin yet in different ways. On both sides there will ultimately be a denial of effort, responsibility, separation and mortification to do with *sin*. Sinless perfection will often be accompanied by strong legalistic or moral campaigning.

One final danger resulting from a confusion between Justification and Sanctification is in the *presentation of the Gospel*. The core of the Gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ on our behalf as sinners, (1Cor.15:3,4). The Gospel is God's work *for* us, not *in* us. We must not distort the Gospel by turning people to what God might do *in* them. We must teach them to look away from themselves.

*The Gospel is about Justification not Sanctification!* The Gospel is objective and outside of us - it is the work of Christ 2,000 years ago.

Terminologies such as '*accept Jesus into your heart*'; '*Give*

*your heart to Jesus*'; '*open the door of your heart to the Lord*'; '*make your decision for Christ*' have replaced '*believe*' and '*repent*' and distort the Gospel to what people must *do* rather than what God has already *done* on their behalf in Christ. It is not what the Spirit of Jesus can do *in* us (in Sanctification) but what *he* has done *for* us, (in Justification). When presenting the Gospel we must bring people to a point where they realise they can do *nothing*! Even at this point we must not falsely tell them what to do! This turns the persons concern inward to their own experience or '*decision*' instead of outward to trust in only Christ's death, burial, resurrection on their behalf as sinners.

The Gospel must not emphasise what man can do in conversion but rather Gods perfect and finished work in Christ for us helpless and hopeless sinners. The only '*do*' part is to **'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved'**, (Acts 16:31). Concurrent with this is the fact that **'no man can come to me except the Father which has sent me draw him'**, (Jn.6:44).

When presenting the Gospel some would say '*you must become disciples*'; '*you must follow*'; '*you must obey*'. However, these are not to do with the Gospel but rather are the *fruit* of the Gospel - they rather all come as a package - by the Holy Spirit in *Sanctification* - because of Justification! (Rom.8:10)

#### **Glorification:**

This refers to that final change and redemption of the body. In Glorification we are saved from the *presence* of sin in us and in the world. **'Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption...we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the [future] adoption...the redemption of our body'**, (Rom.8:21-23). This Scripture alone should dispel any false teachings on bodily healing in the atonement or sinless perfection of any kind! **'For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven'**, (2Cor 5:1,2). Why do we '*groan*'? - because we live in sinful flesh and await the redemption of such!

The experience and the dissatisfaction with sin in Romans 7 and the victories over it in Romans 8 are *concurrent*. To separate the two is to deny one or the other. It is also arguable that we cannot know the experiences in Romans 7 if we are not experiencing the victories in Romans 8. In other words we will become increasingly dissatisfied with sin in ourselves the more we know the power and the working of the Holy Spirit. Thus we will want to strive more and more against sin and the flesh. This has been the consistent testimony of the great saints down through the centuries.

So what about our questions concerning Christians sinning and sinless perfection, etc?

What is sin? Several different words are found in the Greek but the general word is '*harmartia*' which means *missing the mark of the absolute holiness and righteousness of God*.

Who would dare say they never miss this mark?

In the flesh and in the world the presence of sin still reigns! It is because of a lack of understanding of the state of the body, the flesh and the '*law in my members*', that the dangerous heresy of '*sinless perfection*' deceives some Christians!

Romans chapters 6,7 and 8 teach the gamut of the doctrine of sin. Although the '*old man is crucified...*' (6:6), we still live in sinful flesh. The possibility of allowing the flesh to encroach is evident by many Scriptures:

6:12: **'Let not sin reign in our bodies'**, (note it does not

mention spirits but '*bodies*')...6:13: '*Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin*', ('*members*' refers to the seat of lusts and passions)...7:15-18: - describes the war between the flesh & the spirit. In the flesh sin may reign, (vs.17)...7:20: If I sin it is in the flesh...8:12: We are not '*to live after the flesh*'...13:12-13: '*...cast off the works of darkness...put on the armour of light...walk honestly...not in rioting and drunkenness ..make no provision for the flesh...*'

However, if we *continue* to live in the flesh and in habitual sinning then there is a solemn warning: '*...They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God*', (9:8)...'*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace...For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live*', (8:5,6,13).

In contrast, in the new man/creation we are '*freed from sin*', (6:7). Thus we are to '*reckon* [ourselves] *dead to sin*', (6:11) and '*...sin shall not have dominion...*', (6:14).

In summary, there are two '*laws*' - one in my members ('*the law of sin*') and one in my mind, ('*law of my mind*'). '*...With the mind I serve the law of God but with the flesh the law of sin*', (7:25). Because our sinful flesh wars against our righteous soul, (1Pet.2:11; Gal 5:16), we struggle to walk the walk at times. However, it is a war with one side stronger and with one side having *dominion* over the other!

Sometimes it may be almost impossible to tell a true believer who has fallen into grievous open sin from a false 'believer' who is deluding himself that he is saved. However, the '*new man*' is '*created in righteousness and true holiness*', (Eph.4:24). He should sin less than the '*old man*'. The spirit of this new Born Again creature is '*sinless*' now, (1John 3:9; 5:18) but lives in a sinful body that will one day be glorified and made sinless also. '*And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life [Sanctification] because of righteousness [Justification]. But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies [Glorification] by His Spirit that dwelleth in you*', (Rom. 8:10,11).

To say that we Christians do not wilfully sin ('miss the mark' of the absolute perfection of God), is arrogant and proud. To do so would be to put ourselves equal with God Himself! Such people who claim 'Christians cannot wilfully sin' do place themselves in a most dangerous position of pride and deception. The tendency of such people is to legalism, sectarianism and a judgmentalism which is offensive to other Christians. It is usually not difficult to see pride and sin in their own lives. '*They bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on mens shoulders...*', (Matt.23:4). Such a mindset places unnecessary bondage, legalism and moral demands on self, family and friends to the point where many are prime targets for cult groups or suffer mental or emotional breakdowns.

The keeping of moral codes or a way of life is not *the* primary essence of Christianity. If that were the case then many cults and false religions today would suffice for our salvation! Christianity is uniquely a divine appointment to eternal life through faith and the substitutionary death and resurrection of Christ.

It is perhaps arguable that hardly a day passes without most Christians on earth having sinned, (1Jn.1:7-10; 1Cor., etc). The Corinthian Christians wilfully sinned. Paul found

drunkenness and fornication yet called them '*brethren*'! However, by urging them to repent and seek forgiveness he was not condoning or excusing their behaviour. But it has to be acknowledged that such sinning did and does take place! God forbid that any Christians should wilfully sin - but it would be foolish to say they cannot. Plain Scripture and evidence is readily available to anchor this point.

Lest the reader think this writer is 'loose' on the wickedness of sin - let it be said clearly: God forbid that we should set our heart on any wilful sin! But does the blood of Christ propitiate for the believer's sins of so called 'commission' and 'omission' equally? Yes! The blood of Christ propitiates for *all* believers sins, (1Jn.1:7-9; 2:1).

*As Christians, we have been set free from the penalty and power of sin but not from the presence of sin.*

Sinless perfection advocates attempt to anchor their heresy on 1Jn.3:6-9: '*Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him...He that committeth sin is of the Devil...Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God*'. The expressions, '*sinneth not*'; '*commit sin*' and '*he cannot sin*,' are in Greek tenses that mean contemporaneous action - ie. *habitual* sinning. Verse 8 is literally translated '*The one who practices sin.*' 1John 3:6-9 shows our spirits are born again by God and are beyond the realm of sin and death. However, our '*bodies of death*' (Rom.7:24) are still subject to the '*law of sin and death*', (Rom.8:2). A reading of Romans chapters 7&8 confirms this. Paul pleaded for deliverance from this '*body of death*', (Rom.7:24; Col.1:22).

The sinless perfection advocates curiously avoid other Scriptures. John says: '*...if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*', (1Jn.2:1). He gives a severe warning for all 'entire Sanctification' advocates: '*But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us*', (1Jn.1:7-10).

According to Scripture and historic orthodox Christianity 'Sinless perfection' has always been a heresy!

We have in the *past* been set free through the *work of Christ without* and delivered *once* and for all from the *penalty* of sin in **Justification**.

We have been and are being delivered from the *power* of sin in *positional* and *progressive* **Sanctification** by the *Spirit within*.

We will in the *future* be set free from the *presence* of sin in **Glorification**.

If we have trusted in the true Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the substitute for our sins, and His righteousness alone - in his death burial, resurrection...then Justification, Sanctification and Glorification are a foregone conclusion, (Rom.8:28-30; Eph.1:3-14)!

May we be students of the doctrines of, and the distinctions between, these three facets of salvation. May we repent of and hate sin. But may we forever give praise to the God of our salvation whose plan and system of Justification, Sanctification and Glorification is masterful and perfect to deliver us from sin!

**Terry Arnold**

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## Gold Coast Prophets

The 'Gold Coast Prophets' issued a pamphlet titled 'What to do with your personal prophecy'. In this pamphlet these self-professed 'prophets' tell the reader to: '*...Take your prophecy to your spiritual covering (pastor/prophet)...realise that first interpretation is not necessarily a true application. Several interpretations may be possible...witness to your prophecy with your spirit - or your mind...realise too, that God can use a prophet to speak new revelation...do warfare with your prophecy (1Tim.1:18)...You need to receive the prophetic word with faith and acceptance, (Heb.11:6)...'*

Prophecy in the New Testament is generally *forthtelling* not *foretelling* as in the Old Testament. '**God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son...**' (Heb.1:1,2). Further to any prophesying, we now have a '**more sure word of Prophecy**' - the Word of God! (2Pet.1:19) The canon of Scripture is now closed. To add prophetic words as if from God is to add to Scripture and bring a curse, (Rev.22:18; Dt.4:2; 12:32).

Perhaps a '*spiritual covering*' is necessary for these self-proclaimed prophets so that their victims would not come back to them for help to understand the many false messages they might receive.

'Several interpretations may be possible'? - this is understandable when it is not based on the sure written Word of God but rather outside of Scripture! And why do we need '*new revelation*'? - is not Scripture enough?

Let the reader look up 1 Timothy 1:18 and they will see the passage has nothing to do with '*doing warfare with your Prophecy*' but rather the faith once delivered to the saints as is revealed in the next verse. Hebrews 11:6 is also not speaking of accepting any personal 'prophecy' but by faith accepting the Word of God!

Beware of the *Gold Coast Prophets*, personal prophecies, and those who would 'prophecy' to you and add to the Word of God. Our 'prophesying' comes directly from the Word of God which is the faith once delivered to the saints as laid down by the Apostles and ratified by the early Church Fathers. Any who add to this do so at their own peril. **Terry Arnold**

## Still Surfing for Internet and Cinema 'Saints'

(Vatican City, 16/3/2001) '*The search for a patron saint for the Internet is continuing, and the candidates now include two martyrs of the Nazi death camps. St. Maximilian Kolbe, a communicator in the press, radio and audiovisual materials, and Blessed Titus Brandsma, a Carmelite and Dutch journalist, were among the candidates discussed this week ...Other names included St. Paul and St. Isidore of Seville (died 636), who was renowned for his encyclopedic knowledge.*

*The Church is also looking for a patron saint for the cinema. Bishop Pierfranco Pastore, secretary of the communications council, told Vatican Radio about the proposals made to date. 'Together with the already existing patrons of radio [St. Gabriel], television [St. Clare], and the press [St. Francis of Sales],' he said, 'we have received grassroots requests, so to speak, for a patron for Internet, the cinema and the media in general.'*

*Bishop Pastore said that the petitions come 'from the dioceses and local Churches, to which we give due attention...'*

## Fred Nile

'What a horrifying sight it was to see the Reverend Fred Nile...seated and smiling in St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral this week to honour the induction of Archbishop Pell in Sydney'. (Mike Claydon, *Apostasy Alert*, 5/2001)

## Jack Hyles Dead At 74

Dr. Jack Hyles was an Independent Baptist author, and pastor of one of the largest churches in America which at one time had the largest Sunday School in history with numbers in the tens of thousands. Hyles spawned a number of ministries, and hundreds of Independent Baptist churches nationwide still proudly hold Hyles and his teachings in high regard. The large Hyles-Anderson Bible College has churned out many pastors with a distinctive evangelistic style that has produced many false converts due to the easy believism methods and lack of teaching of repentance.

Over the years, Hyles' church and schools were scandalized with immorality and paedophilic activity - numerous FBCH men have been charged with and/or convicted of child molestation. Many churches have been scandalized in the same manner. For example, seven Hyles-affiliated churches from 1984-1993 were rocked by child molestation scandals.

Moreover, David Hyles, Jack Hyles' son, had affairs with more than 15 married women at Miller Road Baptist Church during the time he pastored there. He was dismissed when a janitor found photos of Hyles having sex with a deacon's daughter. To his death, Jack Hyles defended son David, claiming that David had never done anything wrong.

Some of Hyles teaching over the years was labelled as unadulterated false doctrine. Anyone questioning Hyles or the practices of FBCH were candidates for ridicule.

## More Ecumenical Shame

*'Buddhist Abbot Ajahn Brahm will make religious history in the pulpit of St George's Anglican Cathedral (Perth, WA) on June 17th.*

*At the invitation of St George's Dean John Shepherd, he will become the first Buddhist to preach at a Eucharist, the Cathedral's central service of worship...His theme will be the sacredness of the world...all Perth's main religions have been invited to take part.*

[Dr Shepherd said]...'*for people to appreciate how much the various faiths had in common Christianity had to move away from the idea that it was the only way to God.*' (A Perth Newspaper)

## Pope Calls Mary 'Star' of Third Millennium

*'The Blessed Virgin Mary is the 'star of the third millennium,' John Paul II said during a midweek general audience in which he went on to quote the father of the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther.*

*The Pope recalled passages of the commentary on the Magnificat written by Luther in 1521, in which he referred to the 'Mother of God' as the example who 'teaches us how we must love and praise God.' 'She wishes to be the greatest example of God's grace, so as to encourage all to confidence and praise of divine grace,' the rebel theologian said.*

*...the Holy Father referred to Mary as 'the sign of hope for the mass of poor...' 'She faithfully copies the choice of Christ, her Son, who repeats to all the afflicted throughout history: 'Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,' the Holy Father said.*

*'The humble Virgin of Nazareth,' the Pope said, 'guides all those who take recourse to her toward the meeting with the Triune God... (Vatican City, 21/3/2001)*

## Obedience

*'There is no point in praying for God's help in the face of temptation if we have not made a commitment to obedience without exception.'* Jerry Bridges

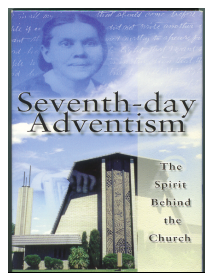
## Books/Videos & Specials

### 'Seventh-Day Adventism - The spirit Behind the Church'

A gripping video. This eye-opening documentary explores the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its origins. It is a fascinating exploration and examination of the claims of the religions founder and prophetess.

This videos is highly recommended. It is based on the best scholarship and from adherence to the truths of God's Word.

'Sunday or Sabbath' by John R. Rice: (22 pages) \$1.95 This is one of the clearest and most informative and balanced of booklets that answers the 7th Day Adventist. Highly recommended to give to Adventist friends.

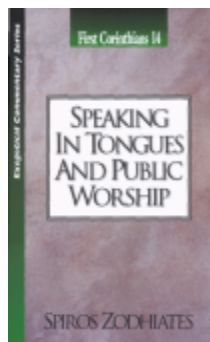


### Sell out Special

#### 'Speaking in Tongues & Public Worship'

by Spiros Zodhiates: (188 pages)  
Was \$13.95 **Now** \$6.95 (limited stocks)

In an exegetical commentary of 1Corinthians 14, Zodhiates unfolds the original Greek texts and their meanings. Zodhiates native country and tongue is Greek and he is considered by many to be a leading authority on the original languages as well as the subject of tongues. A valuable reference tool.



#### 'Tongues & The Baptism With The Spirit'

by Terry Arnold

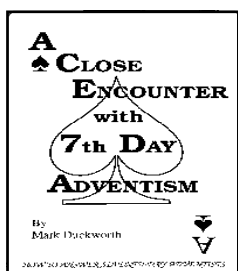
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## Your Comments and Questions

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

### 'Transformations' Video

'Dear Terry...I enjoyed the March/April 'Diakrisis'...I read with interest the article on 'Transformations'...I was loaned a copy of the Transformations video...I have mixed feelings about this. On one hand I have a concern about 'Spiritual mapping' and the 'Territorial Spirits' philosophy promoted by C. Peter Wagner and others...I am sure many missionaries have gone into tribes and successfully planted churches without even thinking about 'Territorial spirits'.

On the other hand, I didn't see too much in the video that appeared unscriptural and I do believe that God can change the spiritual climate of a city in response to the prayers of His people...I believe this transformations concept needs to be treated with care and compared to the Scriptures. I for one cannot conclude that the work of God claimed to have occurred in the 4 cities on the video was fake or a case of false revival. God is working in the world and He can use people whose theology is not 100% right. Church history bears witness to this as does Scripture...we should not conclude that this movement as a whole is not of God. If Christians are sincerely praying for God to do a work in their city, God can answer these prayers even if the Christians have a slightly wrong concept of spiritual warfare. (Teaching elder in Sydney church; name withheld at editors discretion)

**Editors reply** (with extra comments here):...your comments on 'Transformations' video...Much appreciated.

- 'Spiritual mapping', 'Territorial spirits', etc, don't just 'make spiritual warfare more complicated'...but rather introduce a whole new form of unscriptural methods.

- The 'Transformations' claims and statistics for the 'revivals' are simply *not true* or exaggerations! (see *Diakrisis* March/April 2001). Yet the video states these 'revivals' are 'breaking out across the world'. This is no different to the lies of the recent Pensacola 'revival'. We do not doubt the sincere motivation of the 'Transformation' leaders but their doctrinal base primes them for deception. George Otis Jr. (a colleague of C. Peter Wagner) teaches a heretical view of the Atonement. He wrote: 'Christ has not redeemed us by giving His life as a ransom for our sins in order that He might release us. God never kept man captive in sin...The truth is Christ paid no man's debt'.\*

- Some may not see much in the video that is unscriptural. Perhaps this only makes it *more deceptive*. The ecumenical movement is a master at showing a mixture of error and truth to be as orthodox as possible. The 'Transformations' subtle teaching is that man's methods can bring about something that in reality only God brings *when and where He wants*. Yes, prayer has brought revivals but it still came at the sovereign hand of God alone. The whole 'Transformations' approach is against the *sovereignty of God*. No doubt God orchestrated and uses prayer but the true historic revivals came *suddenly and sovereignly*. They never had any such ecumenical programmes or modern spiritual warfare methods to bring revival!

- The true 'awakenings' of old came to *Evangelical* churches and not to Charismatic/Pentecostal churches (as almost exclusively shown in the video). Most if not all were in fact very strongly *Sola Fide* and *Sola Scriptura*. Some of the Revivals were in fact sparked by sermons on the above doctrines, (eg. Jonathan Edwards), not by modern 'spiritual

warfare' type 'intercession' and 'mapping', etc. The leaders of the great 'awakening' would have had no truck with the 'Transformations' teachings or its leaders!

- The video never mentioned the word 'sin' but continually blamed demonic forces for the wickedness of the communities that were supposedly transformed. It was not the Gospel that transformed these areas but 'intercessory prayer', spiritual 'mapping', warfare, ecumenical gatherings, etc. The video attributes prayers to have mystical powers that sound more occult than Christian. In one town when the witchdoctor was supposedly driven out of town by 'intercessory prayer' 'the presence of God hovered around the town'. The church mentioned here is in fact a Word-Faith church and teaching rank heresy!

The phrases used in the video should alone alert viewers to false doctrine: 'we claimed the community'; 'we had touched something in the realm of the spirit'; 'credit goes to the intercessors'; 'the Holy Spirit took control of the steering wheel and guided the car to a prayer meeting'...

A women pastor is interviewed whose husband was killed as 'a martyr for the Gospel of Jesus Christ'. However, the real cause was a *property dispute*! The video shows Christians praying over the dead body to be raised and claims 'the kingdom of God descended upon' the city and the church claimed 'absolute transformation' and drastic reduction in crime. The fact not reported is later they erected a new high wall around the church for protection!

Repeatedly the video speaks of a worldwide revival and that 'God is doing something new across the face of the earth'. This is a 100 year old *lie*! The Scriptures are explicit about a 'falling away' rather than a worldwide revival in the end, (see *Diakrisis* Feb/98, P.2).

- Yes, God is working in the world and He will use people whose 'theology is not 100% right'. However, lets define this a little further - God *never* used Charismatic/Pentecostal theology to bring about the true historic 'awakenings'! Study all the true recognised awakenings in history and we find they were *Evangelical* and held to the *doctrines of Grace* strongly - (eg. *Sola Fide*, *Sola Scriptura*, etc). Some Pentecostals claim the Welsh revival. Pentecostal ministries may have been spawned out of it towards the end when things (as they always do in revivals) began to be more of man than God. However, at its inception the doctrine was *Evangelical*.

- It is not a matter of having a 'slightly wrong concept of spiritual warfare'. Most if not all the men involved in 'Transformations' are Pentecostal/Charismatic/ecumenical and many deny the doctrine of *Sola Fide* and imputed righteousness as it was taught in the Reformation. Most are steeped in the Word of Faith movement and the laughter manifestations or sympathetic to them. Very few, if any, have original Evangelical doctrine! Many are also false teachers and are closely linked to *false prophets*! (*Diakrisis* March/April 20001).

Despite all this evidence, the single major reason I would not touch this 'Transformations' concept is because it is part of the false end-time *ecumenical* movement and the people involved in it are *ecumenical*! That should be enough for us to separate...Bless you for your interest...

\*George Otis Lectures notes on Moral Government Theology presented to YWAM students at Tacoma (US) in 1981.

## Your Comments and Questions

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

### Music; Plants; Body

Some readers who read the article 'Contemporary Christian Music' (May/June, P.5,6) have requested evidence of the effect music has on plants and the body. A subscriber has suggested an internet search site: <http://www.google.com> and to type in words such as 'music'; 'plants'; 'body', etc.

*Dear Terry,...I have read issues of Diakrisis with much interest. I am an old believer...rejoicing in 'so great a salvation' which you have so often describe as 'by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.'*

*We live in an era where false prophets and teachers extensively pedal 'another gospel' and 'another jesus' deceiving multitudes. Out of long experience, it is my strong conviction that once a believer is firmly grounded in that 'like precious faith' - the 'faith once delivered to the saints', he or she will not be deceived. It is not only the Benny Hinns, the Phil Pringles and even the Billy Grahams of this religious world who might distort the truth and preach a false gospel, but it is also many 'run of the mill' ministers of mainstream churches who preach a man centred message instead of a Christ centred message. CH Spurgeon and Bishop Ryle...lamented the tragedy of unconverted ministers, the blind leading the blind...no wonder many...are attracted to the cults and false teachers. They have no true foundation.*

*I am so thankful to the Lord for the amazing grace...that has kept me from being deceived. I can truly say that apart from that sovereign grace, therein I go also. As a very young married man, my wife and I were briefly associated with a Pentecostal group...That association prompted me to search the Scriptures as the Bereans did. As kind and gracious as many were, I found these folks were seriously wanting as to the truth. My dear wife and I have been married for 53 happy years. We travel a round trip of 48 Km to attend and serve in a church which greatly enjoys a very faithful ministry and witness; a people where Christ the Word and the Word of Christ permeates the whole congregation...our present circumstances and experiences can be summed up in the words of this beautiful old hymn: 'My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name; On Christ the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.'*

*I am encouraged by what you publish in 'Diakrisis'. May our sovereign Lord continue to give you a fruitful ministry. Yours in Gospel bonds, through Christ, (A.R., Sydney)*

### Praise Points

- Praise God for encouraging mail from many who have been recently rescued from deception.

### Prayer Points

- Please pray for the Sydney itinerary and for Holy Spirit direction and guidance in all meetings. Pray for health and strength for the workers in this ministry.

*Dear Terry, It was Calvin who so eloquently expressed: 'A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's Truth is attacked and yet remained silent without giving the sound'. God bless you as we continue to bark at the wolves. Yours in Christ, (H.S., Cairns, Qld.)*

*Dear Terry & Associates, Thanks for keeping me up to date with the current state of the church, locally and globally, and your teaching notes also, which I have to say cuts across what have been my own views, plus under pastors teaching, out of the Charismatic/Pentecostal movement*

*From the Jan/Feb.2001 editorial, I probably fall into the category of 'lone rangers', but with contact weekly with imperfect Christians...Keep up the work you are doing and may your reward be not so much expected in this life, but in the next.' (J.R., Biggenden, Qld)*

### Terry's Itinerary

**July 12,19,26, Aug.2nd Thursdays 7pm** MEC Bible College Hervey Bay, Qld - **Theology** series Ph. (07)41282622

### Sydney Itinerary

(Any queries Ph. Garry (02)96702648 or Terry 0411489472)

**Aug.10th** 6.30pm (Frid) Capitol Hill Bible Church, Canberra Ph.(02)62547473

**Aug.12th** 10.30am & 6.30pm (Sun) Capitol Hill Bible Church, Canberra Ph.(02)62547473.

**Aug.13th** 7.30pm (Mon) Cootamundra Assembly (02)42963936

**Aug.15th** 7.30pm(Wed) Little Flock, Wentworthville Ph.98965129

**Aug.16th** 7pm (Thurs) Minchinbury Assembly Ph.98321725

**Aug.17th** 7pm (Frid) Guildford Christian Assembly Ph.98351513

**Aug.18th** 11am (Sat) Lethbridge Park Group 11am Ph.98351513

**Aug.18th** 7.30pm (Sat) Church for Everybody, Marrickville Ph.95534818

**Aug.19th** 10am & 6.30pm (Sun) Emmanuel Baptist Church, Glenwood Ph.96743007

**Aug.21st** 8pm (Tues) Kingsgrove Gospel Chapel Youth 0403113764

**Aug.22nd** 7pm (Wed) Minchinbury Assembly Ph.98321725

**Aug.24** 8pm (Fri) Kingsgrove Gospel Chapel Youth combined Ph.0403113764

**Aug.25th** 7.30pm (Sat) Church for Everybody, Marrickville Ph.95534818

**Aug.26th** 9.30am (Sun) Little Flock, Bonnyrigg Ph.98965129

**Aug.26th** 12pm (Sun) Combined Meeting Wentworthville Ph.96799442 Guildford Assemblies Ph.98351513

**Aug.26th** 6.30pm (Sun) Soul Salvation Assembly, Rooty Hill Ph.96266502

**Aug.28th** 8pm (Tues) Kingsgrove Gospel Chapel Youth 0403113764

**Aug.31st** 8pm (Fri) Combined Burwood/Kingsgrove/Cambelltown Youth Assemblies, Cambelltown Ph.0403113764

**Sept.1st** 7.30pm (Sat) Church for Everybody, Marrickville 95534818

**Sept.2nd** 10am (Sun) Nepean Baptist Church, Ph.47363556 or 47218958

**Sept.2nd** 7pm (Sun) Grace Bible Church, Kingswood, Ph.47363619

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