



Translation Dutch letter nr. 8

Kampen, 28 February 1997.

Dear brothers, sisters, pastors and elders,

In our last letter we promised, this year, to write about the violence which is being done to the truth of Christ's redeeming work on the cross of Calvary. This term has a very deep and personal meaning for the majority of charismatic Christians, as it refers to our salvation. However, other charismatics don't take this topic so seriously and some even ignore it. Less and less attention is being paid to the importance of Christ's death on the cross. We speak more often about the riches of our spiritual life with Christ than about the necessity of His sacrifice on the old rugged cross.

When we invite unbelievers to come to Christ, do we bring them to the cross? Does the unbeliever understand that this is the vital issue? Is it possible that the unbeliever is converted to the good times of worship, the relaxed atmosphere in the service, the children's activities or all the care and attention given by the church members?

At the moment there are many different preachers and organisations claiming large numbers of converts. During a television broadcast of a church service in December, mentioned by the pastor the figure of 250,000 converts a day over the whole world. This amounts to 90,000,000 a year [*1]. One organisation estimates the number of Pentecostal believers for 1996 at 220,000,000. This is according to them the biggest denomination next to the Roman Catholic Church, which is estimated to have 900,000,000 members [*2]. Another speaker tells us in his circular that in 1996 hundreds of thousands of souls entered the kingdom of God [*3].

In this letter we don't want to question the accuracy of these figures. The publishers are themselves responsible for what they claim. We are however, concerned with the genuineness of the new conversions. Do they all know the redeeming work of Christ on the cross in their personal lives? Or, to put it in a more old fashioned way, have they knelt at the cross of Christ and laid down their burden of sin? Is the cross the place they come to for daily cleansing? Could it be that these new charismatic believers have been converted to spectators of the supernatural, to ecstatic experiences like lying on the floor in a trance quietly or jerkily, sometimes roaring with laughter, sometimes struck dumb? Could it be that some spiritual leaders have deviated from the cross and are bringing another gospel? Are they offering people an escape route through this modern way of winning souls? We'll look further into this in this letter and in the following ones.

A short summary of the assaults upon the cross

The cross of Christ has been mocked at from the beginning of Christianity by unbelievers, inspired by Satan. Jesus' crucifixion was for the Jews a stumbling block and for the Greeks philosophy and foolishness. However, for God it is the power of God for the salvation of His creatures [Rom. 1:16]. It almost seems as if the assaults on the cross, in this century, have been intensified. Here follows a short summary in random order:

- Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Moon Followers, [South Korean pseudo messiah].
- Modernism and/or liberalism in protestant churches; Paul invented the doctrine of the blood. Cees den Heyer, a Presbyterian professor has published a book which would

LARGE

NUMBER
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TRUE

CONVERSION
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MORE

ASSAULT
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shock the majority of traditional church members. Den Heyer, a New Testament professor at the theological university in Kampen denies in his book the doctrine of the church regarding reconciliation. He writes in "Reconciliation" [published by Kok in Kampen] that Jesus did not die as God's Son for the sin of man [*4].

-New-Age Movement; Jesus is one of the wise Masters, who regularly reveals himself to man; the Christian view of His death on the cross is objectionable.

-A number of faith-healers or prosperity teachers in the States; They spread their faith in a playful way by means of the Television and huge meetings. Their influence has been felt already for a number of years in the Netherlands.

The doctrine of the cross according to E.W.Kenyon,Kenneth Hagin,Kenneth Copeland, Frederick Price and Benny Hinn

It's not possible to refer to one particular book or essay where their teachings are summarised. D.R. McConnell has however, shown in his book "A different Gospel" that the theological statements used by the prosperity teachers are more than often taken from the bible studies and books of E.W.Kenyon. Usually these statements are proclaimed on the platform or before the Television cameras. Sometimes these statements are later revoked and others just don't speak about them anymore. Certain things however, are always being mentioned and this has a deceptive influence on the hearers. Here follows some statements regarding the cross:

-Jesus changed on the cross, into the being of the serpent, Satan.

This is founded on the text: "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" [2 Cor.5:21].The story of Moses in the wilderness is also used in this connection. He placed the bronze snake on a pole so that those Israelites who had been bitten could be healed. [Num.21:4-9,Joh.3:14].

That's why Moses didn't put a bronze lamb on the pole but according to God's orders, a bronze snake. The prosperity teachers are literally saying here that, on the cross God changed Jesus into a demon[*5].

Comment from the workgroup.

The universal Christian church has never up until now read into the bible this teaching or proclaimed it. The prosperity teachers admit this, but appeal to the so-called Revelation Knowledge of God. They say that this teaching has been hidden in the traditional church but, it has now been revealed to them. Some speakers even claim that God whispers in their ear when they are speaking on the platform. This emphasises not only how dangerous revelations outside the bible are, but also how blasphemous they are too.

When our Saviour was hanging on the cross His nature was the same as at His birth and during His life on earth. There is nothing that points to an essential change on the cross. 2 Cor.5:21 is used wrongly by the prosperity teachers. The passage "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us...." means that Christ took the punishment of our sins upon Himself. The O.T. picture of the day of atonement is maybe the clearest way to show us this. During this day the high priest laid both hands on the head of the goat. In this way he put all his own sins and those of the people of Israel on the goat. That's why the animal is called the scapegoat and died in the desert [Lev.16:20-22]. The animal didn't change in nature because of the actions of the high priest. Jesus didn't change either. He stayed the same on the cross but, took our sins and guilt upon Himself [*6].

Joh.3:14 is also used wrongly by the prosperity teachers. It says "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life." The fact that Jesus refers to this occurrence in the desert is not because of the bronze snake. It is meant to be an example to teach us to look in faith for a Godly solution. The people who had sinned against God and were bitten by snakes, were healed, by looking to Moses' bronze snake. When we look to Jesus, the Crucified One, we receive salvation from the punishment of sin. The

JESUS

*TEMPORARILY
A DEMON?*

*CONTRADICTS
O.T. TYPES*

*JESUS,
THE
LAMB
OF GOD*

prophet Isaiah says the following: "But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed"[Is.53:5].

-Jesus redeemed man not on the cross but in hell.

The thought behind the prosperity teaching is that since the fall in Paradise, God shut Himself off from this world. This happened because, the in sin fallen Adam, had to give to Satan his authority over the earth. Satan took this authority over the earth from Adam and by doing so God had no more entrance via Adam and his descendants. In order for God to procure entrance again to this earth, His creation, He changed on the cross, into a being like Satan. This altered Jesus could now descend into hell and fight the heroic battle against Satan and his demons. The theological conclusion of the prosperity teachers is therefore, that it wasn't the physical death of Christ on the cross that brought redemption but His victory in hell. Jesus paid the price to Satan through His spiritual torment in hell and so by this means obtained access to His creation [*7].

*SALVATIO
N
IN HELL?*

Comment from the study group

It is almost unbelievable that people who call themselves evangelical christians express and teach such strange things about the Lord Jesus' redemptive work. Once again the statements are founded upon the Revelation Knowledge. God appears to have said this to them directly and personally. We as workgroup, believe that only the physical death of Jesus on the cross, where He shed His blood, brought reconciliation between God and man. The O.T. clearly shows us this truth through the symbols we see in the tabernacle. The book of Hebrews, in the New Testament is a complete confirmation of this. No-where do we find mention of the fact that Satan had a role to play in God's plan of salvation. God's plan of salvation is about the restoration of the relationship between God and man. There is absolutely no thought of a deal between God and Satan. It is blasphemous to "contaminate" the suffering of Christ with the so-called interests and rights of Satan. He is just a fallen angel who sets himself up as the accuser of our brothers [Rev.12:10]. God hasn't got a plan of salvation for him. His punishment has already been decided, which is, eternal damnation in the lake of fire burning with sulphur [Rev.20:10]. There is absolutely no pardon possible, that we can see, for this blasphemous angel. In Colossians we read: "having cancelled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross"[Col.2:14-15].

*NO ROLE
FOR
SATAN*

When Jesus died on the cross, the authorities and powers and fallen angels had no longer the possibility to accuse the believers before God. With this their role was finished. Through Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary the righteousness of God was satisfied. The fallen angels who were always pointing the accusing finger had to back off at that moment. God therefore, in quietness and dignity gave man again a chance, through His suffering. God draws to Himself everyone who believes in Him and depends upon the finished work of Christ. In this way God triumphed over Satan and his followers. It happened in pain and quietness without a fight with Satan.

*SATAN
CAN'T
ACCUSE*

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-Jesus Christ descended into hell, rising the third day from the dead

This will be a well known statement for most people. It is part of the confession of faith of some Protestant Churches and in the R.C. Church it is read out loud as part of the liturgy. The line of thought, of the prosperity teachers, about Christ's stay in hell, fits in perfectly with this. This statement, however, is not a bible text or a quotation of a passage in the bible. It is known from church history that the sentence "Jesus Christ descended into hell" only appeared in the confession of faith in the fourth century.

*CONFESSIO
N
OF FAITH*

This was not included in the original confession. It is also known that the then church fathers and arrangers didn't believe that Jesus suffered under Satan in hell. The prosperity teachers can't find here any support for their train of thought. The writers of

the confession of faith added this sentence with the intention to simply say that Jesus was in Hades, the realm of the dead, during His three days of physical death. Jesus explained what the realm of the dead was when He told the parable of Lazarus and the rich man [Luk.16:19-30]. In this parable all the dead were present. With the righteous everything was well, but with the ungodly it was bad. There was also an unbridgeable gap between the two groups. Jesus didn't mention that Satan was present. The bible does tell us that when Jesus Christ descended into Hades He preached the good news of the gospel [1Pet.3:18,19 and 1Pet.4:6].In this letter we won't elaborate any further on this subject. What is certain is that Jesus Christ, our Crucified Saviour, spent three days in an earthly tomb and there in the realm of the dead did only good. He was not tormented by the devil and certainly didn't enter into an enormous fight.

**JESUS
IN
HADES**

The Cult of the fallen angels

There took place on earth, after the rebellion of some of the angels in heaven, under the command of Satan, and the fall of Adam and Eve a separation between good and evil. Those who allow God to direct them do good and those who are deceived by Satan do evil. Satan has tried, throughout the ages to get into people's good books. He has succeeded with many people. In this century people have even founded a church for him. Anton La Vey founded on the 30th of April 1966 the Satan's Church with the vision to replace the cross with the emblem of Satan.

**WORSHIPPIN
G
SATAN**

In the New-Age Movement there is room for Satan and Jesus. In this movement Satan is honoured just as much as Jesus and certainly no evil is attributed to him. He is just like Jesus; one of the wise Masters, who regularly appears to man or speaks to him through a medium. Satan plays a big role by many other occult movements, as you will know.

Conference Ken Thornberg and Chuck Lakin

Do you know that there are a number of charismatic Christians mixed up in, or dangerously near to being mixed up in the demon world? Recently we received the following information. In October 1996 and in January 1997, Ken Thornberg and Chuck Lakin, two American preachers, held conferences in the Netherlands. These took place in co-operation with the Berea churches. the conference in October was remarkable in that, during the time of prayer for people, demons were spoken to, questioned and negotiated with. Ken Thornberg entered into full-time ministry in 1991 [*8]. He was before this the director of the Better Business Bureau of South West Idaho in the USA He is now the president of Freedom Encounters. He has three specialities in this capacity: Spiritual Warfare, Business Ethics and Growth and Co-dependency. The way in which both of these speakers prayed with people at the end of the meeting raised questions by some people. Because of these signals and others we decided to take a closer look at the teaching of Ken Thornberg using the available material at our disposal. We compared this with the report and reaction of two people who have listened to the cassette recordings of the conference. The results are so alarming that we need to warn against this teaching now already even though we don't have enough background information to give a complete judgement. To give you an example we'll mention a few statements and assertions that were used in the conference in October 1996 [*9].

-Many demons call themselves Jesus Christ and because of this the name doesn't carry authority or fear for them.

-"Thankfully my chief demon was very co-operative" said one of the people who was prayed for.

-Our struggle against rulers and authorities in Eph.6 is described as the chopping off of limbs and horns of demons. Placing crosses on the heads of demons and gluing them fast with the blood of Jesus, just to tease them.

**DEMONS
GET A
LOT OF**

**ATTENTIO
N**

-Demons and angels can place upon people and also remove from them pearls of memories which can be white, grey and black.

-Sometimes Ken Thornberg gives orders "in the Spirit". For example, he throws limbs of a demon in a corpse bag over a precipice. He asks the Holy Spirit to roast the demons.

-Ken Thornberg uses pictures like: a canopy filled with the blood of Jesus being pulled up, or the placing of a moat of blood round the church building where the demons will drown.

-Ken Thornberg enlists good angels to help him during prayers for others to clear things up and drive demons away.

-Ken Thornberg tells that during times of prayer for people for deliverance Satan is forced by Jesus to pass on "words". During the conference Satan, [Ken calls him Lucifer] passed on a message from Jesus. Ken told this as an encouragement for the audience.

In the introduction of the report from the two people they write; "We believe that this brother's doctrine and ministry have the mark of real deception. The last sentence of their report says: "Lord teach us; take pity upon us". We really understand this reaction and wonder how men like Rob Allart and Jan Sjoerd Pasterkamp can support this doctrine. By doing this they are helping to spread what we have called "the Cult of the fallen angels". That is exactly what they are; demons are fallen angels under the leadership of the fallen angel. It is a dishonourable thought to think, that our mighty God would work together with these beings in order to deliver people. Some of Ken Thornbergs pronouncements are almost too shameful to mention.

The next letter from the workgroup

We would like to close this letter with a bible passage [Heb.10:19-23]: "Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unservingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.

In our next letter we hope to continue to deal with the false doctrine about the cross. We have now completed the false doctrine about Jesus' dealings in Hades. We will then, go on with the false teaching about the resurrection of Christ.

***MORE
FALSE***

***DOCTRINE
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References

[*1] Statement Rob Allart during TV service on Sunday morning 29-12-1996.

[*2] Parakleet nr.18, 1996 page 16.

[*3] Frontline News January 1997 page 1 Morris Cerullo.

[*4] Nieuw Kamper Dagblad [newspaper] 15 February 1997.

[*5] Christianity in Crisis ch.13 and statements in the accompanying cassettes, Hank Hanegraaff.
Bible study E.W. Kenyon ch.10 [publisher, Gazon-Den Haag].
A Different Gospel ch 7, D.R.McConnell.

[*6] Verzoend door Christus [Reconciled through Christ] ch.8.
R.van Kooten.

[*7] Christianity in Crisis ch. 14 and statements in the accompanying cassettes, Hank Hanegraaff.
Bible study E.W.Kenyon ch.10 [publisher, Gazon-Den Haag].
A Different Gospel ch. 7 D.R.McConnell.

[*8] Lecture map from Ken Thornberg 1994 consisting of 21 pages.

[*9] Report January 20th 1997, with permission from Pieter and Helene Bos,
Amsterdam.

In the name of the workgroup,
Pastor Rien v.d.Kraats

Up-date on the "Toronto Blessing"

Steve Hill, a pastor in Toronto, spoke in the Netherlands on the 16th and 17th of December 1996. We have come to the conclusion, from watching the video film, that the way of spreading the "Toronto Blessing" is exactly the same as what we have already seen in Toronto itself. Mary Audrey Raycroft from Toronto spoke in February of this year in a number of churches in our land. John and Carol Arnott will also be visiting the Netherlands. They will be having a conference here in April which they call "The Father's Blessing". We, as group will keep to the name "The Toronto Blessing", as we don't see this as a blessing from the Father. [see our 1995 letters] The American couple, Gerald and Susan Nikirk who have also performed with Ashly McGuicken have, since the autumn of 1996 a special ministry. They give lessons in their conferences on roaring as lions. They teach the participants to roar continuously for three minutes, to intimidate the adversary, the devil. The reason that Gerald and Susan do this is because the devil goes around like a roaring lion and so we need to frighten him off in the same way. It wasn't easy for the women who were present at the

NO CHANGE

*LEARNIN
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TO ROAR*

List of books read

Recommended:

- Verzoend door Christus,[Reconciled through Christ], R.van Kooten. Sometimes the writer gets out of balance but you can best judge this for yourself. It is otherwise a very good book.
- The knowledge of the Holy, A.W.Tozer.
- A different gospel, D.R.McConnell.
- Christianity in Crisis, Hank Hanegraaff.

Not recommended:

- Bible study [as book], E.W.Kenyon [Publisher Gazon-Den Haag].
- Ecumenical Jihad, Peter Kreeft.

Announcements

- On the 27th of September 1997 we hope to hold another meeting in Nijkerk, where we can meet each other and reflect on these things. Make a note now of the date in your diary if you usually have a busy programme.

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