



Translation Dutch letter nr. 9

Kampen, 5th June 1997.

Dear brothers, sisters, pastors and elders,

In order to continue from where we left off in our last letter, we would like to begin this letter with a passage from Colossians 2: 13b-15 with the subject: "the death of Jesus Christ".

...He forgave us all our sins, 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.

We mentioned in that letter that Jesus' triumph over the powers and authorities didn't mean that He entered into a fight with the devil. On the contrary the devil had no part to play at Calvary, instead God's plan of salvation unfolded. Satan was probably present in the spiritual world around the cross to try to intimidate Jesus and cause Him fear in His suffering. Psalm 22 and especially the verses 13 and 14 point to this. John Stott, the well-known evangelical theologian, writes in his book "The Cross of Christ", the following:

All of this speaks to our imagination, but what does it mean in reality? Should we literally imagine a cosmic war in which the powers of darkness surrounded Christ on the cross and attacked Him, and where He in turn disarmed them, humbled them and defeated them? If all of this was invisible, which it surely had to be, how did Christ then make a public spectacle of them? It seems that we probably need to see His victory which is true and real, in another way. Firstly, undoubtedly Paul had a reason for combining what Christ did with the cheirographon [the written code which He cancelled and took away], with what He did to the powers and authorities [He disarmed them and triumphed over them]. The guilt of our sin He nailed to the cross; the power of sin He defeated through the cross. It doesn't seem necessary to take the last fact more literally than the first. The important thing is that they both took place at the same time. Is it not so that by paying our debt Christ won the victory over the powers of Satan? By setting us free from the guilt of sin He also set us free from its power. [*1]

Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones has written a very interesting study about the death of the Lord Jesus Christ in his book "The Cross". We'll quote a few sentences from the chapter headed "The triumph of the cross".

The devil thought he was defeating Christ, but Christ was reconciling us to God, defeating the devil and delivering us out of his clutches. Oh, what a fool the devil was! How ignorant, how blinded, how puffed up by his own conceit and pride. He thought he was finishing Christ. He was really bringing about his own defeat. Christ has conquered him. [*2]

THE BIBLE

JOHN STOTT

***MARTIN
LLOYD-JONES***

The people also, who condemned Jesus, inspired by the devil thought that through His liquidation, to be free of him. They didn't know that they were achieving exactly the opposite. 1 Cor. 2:8 says:

None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

THE BIBLE

They didn't realise that the man suffering there on the cross was gaining the greatest victory there ever has been in world history. He, the Son of God, secured there the victory over sin and death. He restored the relationship between God and man. He justified everyone who is willing to kneel at the cross. This is also the greatest mystery that the world has ever known. The prophets who have written about this have tried to unravel this mystery. Angels have also tried to get insight into this. But to no avail. It was God's mystery, which He planned before the foundations of the world. After the death on the cross and the resurrection, God confirmed the mystery and revealed it to us. We'll look closer now into this last point.

***ANGELS
PROPHETS***

Was Christ reborn at His resurrection?

In our last letter we wrote about the prosperity teachers and their false teaching, that Jesus' death on the cross didn't bring reconciliation, but His heroic fight in hell. Jesus changed on the cross into a demonic being like the devil. We saw however, that this by no means took place, but Jesus suffered as man in the same form as He had walked on the earth. As Son of God, this was the sacrifice for man, and through it justification was acquired.

***PROSPERITY
TEACHERS***

We also saw the last time that Jesus spent three days in Hades after His death on the cross. During this time He proclaimed the gospel, but He certainly didn't begin a fight with the devil. It would certainly give the devil too much honour if Jesus the Son of God had had to change into a demon on the cross and fight with him in Hades, in order to save mankind. We see this as a satan inspired line of thought, which doesn't agree with the revealed plan of salvation shown in the bible. The prosperity teachers have continued on with this line of thought regarding the resurrection. If you accept the fact that Jesus changed into a demon on the cross, then there needs to come a change again at the resurrection, otherwise He is still in that state.

***SATAN
TO MUCH
HONOUR***

Kenneth Copeland describes this change in Hades in the following way:

He [God] spoke His faith-filled words into the bowels of the earth, and suddenly-that Word of the living God went down into that pit of destruction and charged the spirit of Jesus with resurrection power! Suddenly His twisted, death-wracked spirit began to fill out and come back to life. He began to look like something the devil had never seen before. He was literally being reborn before the devil's very eyes. He began to flex His spiritual muscles..... Jesus was born again-the firstborn from the dead.[*3]

***THEOLOGICAL
FANTASY***

Kenneth Hagin, the spiritual father of Kenneth Copeland says the following:

Jesus is the first person to be born again [*4]

Paul E. Billheimer writes in his book "Destined for the throne".

Seeing that sin had totally separated Jesus from the Father, the only way to have the fellowship restored was to be born again into a new life. This is what is meant in Revelation 1:5 when it says: "Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead". As long as He was sin, He was in the power of satan and his legions, exactly like every other lost sinner.[*5]

NOT TRUE

Benny Hinn also received "revelation knowledge" about the rebirth of Christ in hell during a TV-broadcasting. He says:

My, you know, whoosh! The Holy Ghost is just showing me some stuff. I'm getting dizzy! I'm telling you the truth - it's, it's just heavy right now on me.....He's [referring to Jesus] in the underworld now. God isn't there, the Holy Ghost isn't there, and the Bible says He was begotten. Do you know what the word begotten means? It means reborn. Do you want another shocker? Have you been begotten? So was He. Don't let anyone deceive you. Jesus was reborn. You say, "What are you talking about?"....He was reborn. He had to be reborn....If He was not reborn, I could not be reborn. Jesus was born again.... If He was not reborn, I would never be reborn. How could I face Jesus and say, "Jesus, you went through everything I've gone through, except the new birth?"[*6]

**REVELATION
KNOWLEDGE**

E.W.Kenyon, who is seen by some theologians as the first preacher to bring this false teaching, says the following:

Jesus was made to be sin [He means on the cross, ed.] Then He had to be made alive, as it says in 1Pet.3:18. Also Ps.2:7 says this: "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." That happened in Hades where Jesus suffered as our substitute. When Jesus was reborn in the dark regions, as head of the church, then we too were reborn. [*7]

**WRONG
INTERPRE-
TATION**

Comment from the workgroup:

We believe that the opinion, that Jesus Christ was reborn in the underworld in Hades is a false teaching. Our belief is founded on the following reasons:

In the last twenty centuries this doctrine has not been proclaimed in the universal Christian church. The prosperity preachers know this too and so base their new doctrine on the "revelation knowledge". In a study which was made by the charismatic theologian D,R,McConnell in 1988 it was pointed out that E.W.Kenyon is the creator of this doctrine. Through him it is also known that E.W.Kenyon had close contacts with the Christian Science church and took over some of their teachings as his own theology. [*8] If therefore the prosperity teachers say that they have received their revelation straight from God through revelation knowledge, then we disagree.

Together with the universal Christian church we believe, that God does not reveal any new teachings outside of the bible. The teaching in the bible is complete as it says at the end of Revelation [ch,22:18-21] Paul writes in Eph. 2:19-20 that we are fellow-citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. The christian church cannot and must not accept any additional revelations in regards to doctrine. By doing so, one enters the realm of a sect.

**DON'T
ADD TO
THE BIBLE**

It is not mentioned in the reports of the resurrection that Jesus was spiritually reborn. Those who met Jesus during His appearances in the time between Easter and the Ascension met the same Jesus as before the crucifixion. He talked, ate and drank, taught the scriptures, restored the relationships with His disciples, especially with Peter. Not one of the witnesses reported anything about a spiritually new Jesus, or even about a physically new Jesus. His hands and His feet still had the marks of the nails from the cross. The only exception was that He now could simply appear and disappear. On the day of Ascension He disappeared into the sky behind a cloud. The book of Hebrews describes Jesus as being the High Priest who has entered into heaven. John nearly always describes Jesus in his visions in Revelation as the Lamb [slain] who stands in the throne with God the Father.

**JESUS
IS STILL
THE SAME**

If Jesus Christ was reborn at the resurrection from a demonic being to the Son of God, then He was not God's Son during His work of salvation on the cross. He was not therefore the Son of God in the flesh but rather a man, who was also a demon. Not to mention that this is a blasphemous thought, it has also very grave consequences. It opens the door for the thought that someone other than Jesus could have accomplished the work of salvation. Kenneth Copeland presumes this in the following "revelation knowledge".

**ONLY
JESUS
CHRIST**

The Spirit of God spoke to me and He said, "Son, realise this. Now follow me in this and don't let your tradition trip you up." He said, "Think this way - a twice-born man whipped satan in his own domain." And I threw my bible down....like that. I said, "What?" He said, "A born-again man defeated satan, the firstborn of many brethren defeated him." He said, "You are the very image, the very copy of that one." I said, "Goodness, gracious sakes alive!" And I began to see what had gone on in there, and I said, "Well now you don't mean, you couldn't dare mean, that I could have done the same thing?" He said, "Oh yeah, if you'd had the knowledge of the Word of God that He did you could've done the same thing, 'cause you're a reborn man too." [*9]

**REVEALED
TO
KENNETH
COPELAND**

We believe that the bible teaches us that only the sinless Son of God, who suffered at Calvary, both as man and as the Son of God could save mankind. "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men" [1Tim.2:5] Kenneth Copeland's claim that he could have been the mediator is certainly not inspired by the Holy Spirit.

NO

When Jesus died a miracle happened, an earthquake occurred whereby the curtain of the temple tore in two from top to bottom. This happened without the interference of man. It was the work of God. He showed by this, that He had accepted the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and that the way to Him was now open. The resurrection of Christ on Easter morning was also such a miracle. While the earth was shaking and trembling and in the presence of shining angels God caused Jesus to rise from the dead. In this way God, the Father confirmed again the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and also that He accepted His Son in His new capacity as the heavenly high priest. The authority of the earthly high priests of Judaism came at this point to an end. [Heb. ch.1-10] From now on this High Priest prays and mediates for us in heaven. He does this while He stands in the centre of the throne as the Lamb who was slain [Rev. 5:6]. No man could stand here even though he was born again. The letter to the Hebrews clearly describes this for us and also the position of the then high priest.

**GOD
CONFIRMS
HIS SON**

Such a high priest meets our need - One who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself. [Heb.7:26,27]

THE BIBLE

The prosperity teachers feel that they are supported in their belief in the rebirth of Jesus through certain bible verses; "the firstborn from among the dead"[Col.1:18 and Rev.1:5] By doing this they forget that the expression is used in the context that Jesus is the first in everything. In the Old Testament the firstborn in a family is seen to be very important. It gives him a number of privileges more than the other family members. A well-known example is the one of Esau, who sold his birthright to Jacob. It is a wrong biblical interpretation to use this expression as proof that He was reborn.

**A
DIFFERENT
BIBLE
INTERPRE-
TATION**

A better explanation is that the expression "firstborn from among the dead" means: He is the first of many brothers and sisters, who would follow Him to the heavenly Father through Jesus' offer at Calvary, Is.53:10 points to this when he says:

"and though the Lord makes His life a guilt offering, He will see His offspring and prolong His days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand."

THE BIBLE

With this we'll close this part of our main subject.

The next letter from the workgroup

We would like to handle in our following letter some of the deviations from the truth concerning our main subject: Christ's work of redemption on the cross. Among other things we will deal with healing through the cross and prosperity through the cross, in short, the cross "plus".

**LETTER
NO. 10**

Follow up on the cult of the fallen angels.

We have not been able to gain any more information about the ministry of Ken Thornberg and Chuck Lakin in their homeland, The States. This could mean that they aren't too well known there or our information is insufficient. What we do know is that the Derek Prince Ministries Holland have invited them to come here and the Berea churches are working in fellowship with them. The magazine "Herstel" [Restoration], which is a joint venture from the Berea churches "De Brug" [The Bridge] and Derek Prince Ministries Holland, has given several times a positive report about these, as they would say, deliverance seminaries. At the same time we have received other information from the States about this subject, however the names of Ken Thornberg and chuck Lakin are not mentioned. Here follows a few facts to make it clear.

Mixing demonology and counselling

We confirm that in the case of Ken Thornberg and Chuck Lakin that Ken is a psychologist. We know this because of his teaching methods and because it is stated as his profession on these publications. [*10] The magazine "Herstel" [Restoration] also notes the fact that Chuck Lakin is a psychologist and a social worker[*11]. Their psychological approach to the enquirer plus their demonic teaching makes for a very complicated issue. If we study their list of recommendations and instructions we become overwhelmed with a feeling of complete confusion. It is to be supposed that someone who comes for help is already mixed up quite a bit, but when you read the teaching methods of Ken Thornberg even a healthy person comes into difficulties not to talk about the effect on the enquirer. We don't believe that a counsellor should use demonology in his counselling. In so doing, one is stirring up a dark pit where all kinds of evil vapours can arise.

CONFUSING

In our last letter we quoted some statements which were mentioned in a reaction to the seminary in October 1996. We would like to note a few more which are taken from the instruction paper for participants of that seminary.

-Under the heading Preparation Prayer point 13: "Ask the angels for all the Orders of Death Traps, Contracts and other Orders, Commandments for silence, Silence-curses [the originals and the back-ups] and whatever other Orders too, also the Red thread which can be of service round the eyes, ears and mouth to be bound and removed."

**INSTRUCTIO
N
ANGELS**

-Under the heading Procedure Warfare point 2: " Ask the Holy Spirit to destroy with His fire all the ancestral demonic powers from the pit, all independent spirits [and for women: Black Boots] and that His light would reduce the demonic light and send it to the pit".

**INSTRUCTION
S
HOLY SPIRIT**

-Under the heading Deliverance point 1: "Discover if there are any remains of darkness whether through curses, charms or bondage. If you work with a R.S.M. then check if there are any electronic or demonic guided communication -inputs on programmes."

**INSTRUCTION
S
COUNSELLOR**

Sources of the demonology of Ken Thornberg and Chuck Lakin.

As we have written many times the preachers received in the first place their knowledge directly in a revelation from God. This often happened during times of prayer and in deliverance sessions. Ken also received information from the demon itself before he cast it out. This information included their identity, the structure of the demonic world, the exact effect of certain curses and other "weapons" which demons use. Ken has also learned a lot from converted satanists, who have given him information about the structure, the strategy ideas and weapons of satans kingdom. Nowhere is the bible mentioned as the source of information not to speak of "the" source of information. This is of course not possible as all their knowledge is unbiblical.

**DIRECT
REVELATION
DURING
PRAYER**

Ken Thornberg and Chuck Lakin are not the only ones who gather their information by means of contact and experiences in the occult world. A psychologist in Costa Rica, Mrs.Rita Cabezas de Krumm, holds conversations and questions the demons during her sessions with patients. On this basis, she has written down a theory about their way of working, their hierarchy, their names etc. According to her it was shown to her that the devil has divided his kingdom into territories each led by special territorial spirits. Mrs.Rita Cabezas de Krumm has passed on her information, to among others, Peter Wagner and Charles Kraft [*12].

**DEMONS
MUST
SPEAK**

Our opinion is that all the named sources of Ken Thornberg and Charles Lakin are debatable. We reject their "revelation knowledge" and radically refuse the knowledge from demonic sources. The devil is a liar and the father of lies [Joh.8:44] It is not logical to suppose that his followers, the rest of the fallen angels, the demons, would tell the truth. And especially not to their greatest enemies, the followers of God. No, a kingdom is not divided against itself so as Jesus said in Matt.12:22-30. And it's certainly not right for Christians to go to the kingdom of darkness to find out the truth. Ken Thornberg, Chuck Lakin and Rita Cabezas de Krumm would do far better going to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, for He is the way, the truth and the life [Joh.14:6].

**THE
DEVIL,
A LIAR**

What does the workgroup believe regarding demonology?

We believe what the universal Christian church has taught since the birth of the church. By this we mean, that which is completely based on the word of God. We don't mean, that which is based on the traditions of the church and what is learned via the papal revelation in Rome.

**ONLY
THE BIBLE**

We believe that people can be possessed by evil spirits but that they can be set free in the church of Jesus Christ. This happens through the ministry of pastors and elders and not through psychologists.

**CASTING
OUT OF
EVIL SPIRITS
IN THE
BIBLE**

-Evil spirits can only take possession of unbelievers or of people who are in the process of believing [in some cases it is only after being set free that they can truly believe]. The bible doesn't give any examples of people who after their conversion were possessed with evil spirits.

-When evil spirits are being cast out a "no nonsense" attitude should be used, and no attempt be made to make conversation with the kingdom of darkness.

-Before, during and after the deliverance, the person should be clearly aware of the fact that the cleansing of the blood of Jesus, that flowed at Calvary and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit keeps the person pure and free from the return of demons. During the deliverance, repentance of and cleansing from sins needs to take a prominent place.

A Meeting and day of reflection

On the 27th September we will be holding a special day where we can meet and encourage each other. It will take place in Nijkerk, in the Evangelische Gemeente De Ark [Evangelical Church The Ark], de Gasthuisstraat 15. The day begins at 10.00 until 16.00. During the whole day there will be speakers and also there will be plenty of time to ask questions. Mr. Charles Groot will be dealing with the subject, the redeeming work of Jesus Christ which has also been the main topic of this letter. We'll give you more information in the next letter. You are warmly welcome to join us. At the same time we would like to wish you all a good holiday.

TOGETHER

Information worth knowing and worth our concern.

-Billy Graham prayed at the inauguration of president Bill Clinton. During an interview on that occasion, with Larry King from C.N.N. he said before the camera that he experienced a wonderful fellowship with the Mormons in Salt Lake City and also with the Vatican in Rome. He continued to say that he corresponded a lot with the pope and had visited him twice. Billy Graham then said, "the pope and I agree on nearly everything". [*13]

OECCUMENICAL?

We as workgroup really question these ecumenical tendencies of such a great and well-known evangelical leader.

The same well-known TV announcer from C.N.N. interviewed Benny Hinn in March. There were also pictures shown of Benny Hinn in action. He threw the people down on the ground in his normal fashion without touching them. Larry King asked him in his open American style how much money he earned annually with his campaigns. After some hesitation he admitted that he received about 50 million dollars a year. According to Larry King he is, at the moment, the best known prosperity preacher on the TV [tele-evangelist]. Especially this last fact troubles us. Benny Hinn clearly has false theological beliefs, which we have mentioned in several of our letters. His healing ministry is also unbiblical. Nevertheless, millions of people are under his influence.

BIG INFLUENCE

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

References

- [*1]-Page 261 recently translated into Dutch "The Cross of Christ" John Stott.
- [*2]-Page 126,127 "The Cross" D.Martyn Lloyd-Jones.
- [*3]-Page 170 "Christianity in Crisis" + cassette Hank Hanegraaff. References to Kenneth , "The price of it All", Believers Voice of Victory 19, 9 September 1991:4-6
- [*4]-Page 171 "Christianity in Crisis" + cassette Hank Hanegraaff.
- [*5]-Page 76 "Destined for the Throne", Paul E. Billheimer.
- [*6]-Page 173 "Christianity in Crisis" + cassette Hank Hanegraaff
[TV programme 1991]
- [*7]-Page 76,77 Bible study E.W.Kenyon.
- [*8]-Page 48-52 "A different Gospel", D.R.McConnell.
- [*9]-Page 172-173 Christianity in Crisis + cassette Hank Hanegraaff.
- [*10]-President of Freedom Encounters with three branches: Spiritual Warfare,
Business Ethics and Growth and Co-dependency.
- [*11]-Magazine Herstel [Restoration] Dec.1996 page 13.
- [*12]-Areas of Satanic Influences, Rita Cabezas de Krumm [15 pages]
- [*13]-Magazine Take Heed Ministries Belfast page 6, June 1997.

List of books read

Recommended:

-Competent to Minister, The Biblical Care of Souls -Martin and Deidre Bobgan.

-The Cross - D.Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Kings Way Publications, Eastborn.

-The Cross of Christ - John Stott, Novapress, CJP/ISBN 9063180853.

Comment: We are sorry to say that this writer has a different view about hell, which we don't share. In this book however, it is not mentioned.

-New Wine or Old Deception - Roger Oakland, ISBN 0-936728-62-0.

-Knowing God + bible study - J.I.Packer, ISBN 90-6318-068-3.

**RECOMMEN
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DATIONS**

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