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A repeated falsehood

It has been said that if you repeat a falsehood often enough it will be believed, at least by some. In the realm of politics, I think that oftentimes the repetition of a falsehood denotes more the state of delusion of the author of the falsehood as much as a desire to have others join them in that delusion!

2007 Deal

In the aftermath of the striking of the power-sharing deal between the DUP and Sinn Fein/IRA back in 2007, some of the defenders of the DUP betrayal, who professed faith in Christ, sought to justify the actions of their party from the Scriptures. They cited the case of Joseph and Daniel and foolishly, indeed, most improperly, sought to parallel their deal with the murderers of the Sinn Fein/IRA with these two men of God.

Article

In an article I wrote and published at the time entitled, "A word to the distressed amongst God's flock today", I commented on this folly. I am reproducing my comments from that article because I have heard reports in the last few days of the resurrection of these "excuses" by those who feel, for one reason or another, that they need to seek to justify the actions of their political masters once again.

Providence

You would think that the events since 2007 that have surrounded the DUP and those responsible for the decision to enter that infamous arrangement with Irish Republicanism, would silence forever any excuse-making or attempt at justification. Providence has not smiled upon the leaders of Democratic Unionism since 2007. I need not reiterate the history of the last four years, but it cannot come as a surprise that Heaven has not smiled upon those whose DUP leadership in that period resulted in a power-sharing regime being initiated in Stormont, which has seen the exalting of self-acknowledged terrorists and murderers (who have repeatedly and unashamedly gloried in their infamy since their elevation) to authority and power over those whom they terrorised.

Furthermore, it has seen the revelation that the financing and promoting of sodomy through government coffers under the auspices of the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister, actually is taking place despite the many attempts to deceive the public over this issue.

These two actions on their own must surely cost those responsible the approval and blessing of the Lord. And I believe that it has and those with eyes to see can surely observe the withering of that which was once fruitful and prosperous as a consequence of this shameful folly. The loss of God's blessing cannot be hid no matter how many foolish excuses are made.

Grief

What is most grieving about the matter is the fact that four years after the decision to enter power-sharing with Sinn Fein/IRA, there are Christians prepared to fly in the face of Providence and deny the folly of 2007 and ignore the actions of God since then.

How wrong it is to promote sin as a virtue, to speak bombastically of our folly as a worthy enterprise, especially after Providence has declared its wickedness!

We tremble at this continued folly for it can only store up further grief and shame for those who act so. Let us all remember God's Word on this issue. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy," Proverbs 28:13.

Sadly, that is not the path chosen by those who persist in seeking to justify the sinful actions of 2007. The very fact that they have nothing else to say in defence of the actions of their party and its leaders in 2007 other than to repeat a baseless excuse is a further indictment of their cause.

Here is what we wrote in 2007 in answer to the excuse-makers seeking to justify the folly of their leaders.

"Sermons and articles opposing the decision of Dr Paisley were preached and published. The fact that they



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were never seriously confronted and countered should serve to ease the doubts and fears and vexation of the concerned Christian in Ulster.

Those sermons and articles brought encouraging responses from Christians across the world. They also drew insults and derision from far and near as well, though happily to a lesser degree. We were labelled as "Free Presbyterian pastors who despise Dr. Paisley and slander him at every opportunity" by those who ought to know better and who believe that they serve God and His truth by misrepresenting us so. What the articles and sermons did not provoke was any serious attempt to answer what was set forth within them.

It is true that some tried to parallel the political strategy of power-sharing with Sinn Fein/IRA to that path followed by Joseph and Daniel. This was discussed and circulated amongst the supporters of power-sharing but was never really put forth in any public fashion as a defence of the initiative. The main reason being that in the company of those who knew little of God's Word such a parallel may have sounded impressive but a more public proffering of it would bring strong arguments from the Word of God showing such a view to be utterly without foundation.

There is a world of difference between entering upon a voluntary coalition with unrepentant murderers in order to obtain political power and the actions of Joseph and Daniel!

In both instances, these Old Testament saints had providentially thrust upon them the political status they attained. They never once sought after or desired the offices they entered upon.

Nor did either man shackle himself to those rulers under whom they served as the First Minister is shackled to the Deputy First Minister, a noted IRA terrorist leader and gunman, in the present Stormont power-sharing arrangement.

Nor did they enter office after publicly declaring for years that to do so was the essence of treachery and betrayal.

Never at anytime did the holding of high office rob either Daniel or Joseph of independence of thought or action. The power-sharing coalition, on the other hand, entails entering a political pathway that required actions which doubtless would otherwise be spurned.

The joint office of First and Deputy First Minister is the prime example of this. Neither Dr Paisley nor Martin McGuinness may act independently of the other within the parameters of their office. It has been conceded in communications from that office that neither can as much as sign a letter without the approval of the other.

Such "political slavery" was not part of the conditions under which Joseph and Daniel served.

Neither of these men went back on any moral undertaking or political pledge in order to gain office. That cannot be said of the DUP.

The independence of Daniel and the sovereign power exercised by Joseph was as far removed from the Stormont regime as it is possible to be.

History does not record that their elevation to high office was seen by their enemies and critics to be "a political conversion" and the adoption of a path long eschewed and despised by them both!

How different has been the reaction to the setting up of the Stormont Executive!

Praise has been heaped upon Dr. Paisley by his former bitterest critics for this amazing reversal of position, policy and direction. It has been termed a "Damascus Road" experience, so great has been the contrast to



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his views and position before May 2007 and that which followed after that date.

To so many long associated with a deriding of Dr. Paisley he suddenly became a favourite and was gleefully renamed "Dr. Yes" after bearing the epithet "Dr. No" for many years.

Joseph was able to say of his elevation within the government of Egypt that it was the outworking of God's sovereign purpose for His people Israel. "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive," Genesis 50:20.

Dr Paisley was unable to state clearly that he thought that his entering upon power-sharing with unrepentant terrorists was even God's will!

As for Daniel, despite the attempts by his enemies to bring him into disfavour with the various rulers of the Babylonian and Medo-Persian empires in which he lived and served, God maintained him in positions of favour and influence for many, many years, some 70 years in all. Thus it is stated in Daniel 1:21 and 10:1. "And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus." "In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision."

Such longevity and preservation betokens God's favour upon the man and his actions. This can hardly be said of Dr. Paisley's tenure as First Minister!

In the past, the Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church condemned power-sharing with Sinn Fein/IRA. The declaration of the Presbytery was the work of Dr. Paisley. No public answer to the Presbytery's position of 1998 was ever mounted by the Free Presbyterian proponents of the new deal. It was as if the Presbytery had never spoken in 1998! They simply chose to ignore it.

This silence concedes the rightness of the position of those opposed to power-sharing in 1998 and in 2007.

That surely is grounds for taking comfort in the midst of the distress of recent times."

[The above is the fourth Point in the article, "**A word to the distressed amongst God's flock today**".]