



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

FOR ALL THAT CHRIST IS FOR AND AGAINST ALL THAT CHRIST IS AGAINST

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus," 2 Timothy 1:13.

"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay," Ecclesiastes 5:2, 4-5.

Some 31 years ago, on 29th February, 1988, the 350th anniversary of the signing of the National Covenant in Scotland, the Free Presbyterian Church signed a Covenant, a copy of which likely hangs in every Free Presbyterian Church.

Perhaps it should be sought out and read again, so that we might rightly recall what it is we committed ourselves to!

The Covenant begins as follows:

"As God providentially raised up Elijah, we believe He is now calling out a faithful remnant to maintain a testimony, free from compromise against every opposition of the enemy.

As a separated Church of God, sinners saved by grace and born again of the Holy Spirit, conscious of the violation of God's commandments so rampant in this evil age, and conscious also that we could have a name to live and are dead, we humble ourselves before God and solemnly covenant together, by His grace, to stand with Christ in this evil day, for all that He is for, and against all that He is against."

Sadly, it must be said that that Covenant has been breached many times and that by communicant members, elders and ministers of the Free Presbyterian Church!

We specifically highlight some notable breaches.

In 2007, Dr Ian Paisley led the Democratic Unionist Party into a power-sharing coalition with Sinn Fein/IRA terrorists after saying just nine months earlier that power-sharing with them would only come about 'over his dead body!' He is quoted as saying subsequent to the power-sharing deal with IRA murderer, Martin McGuinness, "If anybody had told me a few years ago that I would be doing this, I would have been unbelieving."

To enter such an arrangement after spending decades denouncing Sinn Fein/IRA as a terrorist organisation, guilty of the murder of hundreds of innocent people, mostly Protestants and members of the Crown forces, and for having engaged in every form of criminality and lawlessness, can only be seen as a breach of God's Word and the Covenant solemnly sworn before God in 1988!

Dr Paisley preached a sermon in Martyrs Memorial Church in the 1990s on the text, "Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall," Genesis 49:5-6. It was printed in the Free Presbyterian Church magazine, 'The Revivalist,' in 1998. In that sermon he denounced power-sharing with republicans as a sin against the Lord at a time when the power-sharing being instituted was with a 'milder' form of Irish Republicanism', namely the SDLP. He went on to enter a power-sharing agreement with Sinn Fein/IRA, led by Martin McGuinness, who was the very embodiment of murderous republican terror!

Dr Paisley was followed in that breach of God's Word and the 1988 Covenant by hundreds of Free Presbyterians who foolishly believed that what Dr Paisley was doing must be right and apparently never considering for themselves just what the Bible had to say on the matter. They supported Dr Paisley and the DUP in their



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

sinful coalition with murderers.

Ephesians 5:11 has often been quoted by Free Presbyterians to members of the ecumenical, so-called Protestant denominations, as a protest and a rebuttal of their unscriptural union with apostate modernism and Romanism. The verse states: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

That which stated God's will with regards association with Ecumenists and Romanists equally applies to murderers and robbers. All are engaged in the 'works of darkness'. "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd," John 3:19-20.

The events of 2008 in the experiences of the DUP and Martyrs Memorial Church brought home to many that Dr Paisley had been wrong in what he had done, as were those who supported and aided him. It was a sad and tragic lesson for many!

Regrettably, all too many Free Presbyterians took no heed of the works of Providence in 2008 and have continued on in their support of the DUP and its increasingly unscriptural policies and behaviour.

In the wake of its losses in the recent election, the DUP shows its deluded state by setting its sights upon renewing its power-sharing arrangement with Sinn Fein/IRA, irrespective of the fact that IRA members have been linked to the ongoing terrorist violence and that it was reported by the 'Belfast Telegraph' of November 8th, 2019, that "The IRA Army Council retains oversight of Sinn Fein, according to the PSNI."

How blind and witless can people be! The DUP are trying to regain their political status and support amongst Protestants by getting even closer to republican terrorists. Yet they had the temerity to deride Jeremy Corbyn for his links with and support for republican terrorism!

This is equivalent to pouring petrol on a fire to put it out! The DUP is going further down the road to disaster, believing that it is the path to recovery.

The old saying that has its origins in Greek literature, states: "They whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad!" An Ancient Greek, were he able to observe the political scene here in Ulster, might find proof of that saying in the actions of the DUP.

Sadly, Free Presbyterians will involve themselves in this catastrophic folly!

I will give a very recent example of a breach of the 1988 Covenant.

Latterly, the majority of office-bearers within our church refused to support a call for all office-bearers to show their allegiance to Christ before any political party, should that party embrace a policy which is contrary to Christ's honour and Word, by publicly speaking out and opposing such a policy.

It is well-known that the Democratic Unionist Party, which once publicly avowed an allegiance to the Word of God, endorsed the candidacy of one who is an openly-acknowledged sodomite in the Local Council elections of May 2019.

Therefore, to put that party's interests first by not publicly reprov'ing its leadership for such a decision is to fail to be against that which Christ is against.

Christ is against sodomy! The DUP back in 1977 ran a campaign to 'Save Ulster from Sodomy'! Such a view has been utterly abandoned by the DUP and with it, its allegiance to the Bible.

That change of direction demands that those in the DUP who would be against all that Christ is against and for all that Christ is for must at least part company with the DUP in order to keep company with Christ.



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

Just what does it mean 'to be against all that Christ is against and for all that Christ is for'?

Let us consider this matter in the light of God's truth.

I. SUCH A STAND REQUIRES THAT WE MUST BE ACQUAINTED WITH THE MIND AND WILL OF GOD.

I cannot truly be for that of which I am in ignorance!

1. How often the apostles and disciples of Christ were opposed to the will of Christ simply because they did not understand it! Peter's foolish reaction to Christ's revelation of His approaching death at Calvary illustrates this. "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee," Matthew 16:21-22.

2. Peter was most earnest and sincere in his feelings toward the Lord, but was utterly wrong because of his ignorance of God's will and purpose! This was further seen in the actions of Peter and his companions "Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: and they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken," Luke 18:31-34.

How many of us deserve to have the epithet directed at the two on the road to Emmaus? "Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself," Luke 24:25-27.

Ignorance of God's Word can set us unwittingly and foolishly against God and His will!

3. The will of God is so far above our thinking that our opposition is inevitable. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts," Isaiah 55:8-9.

This contrast is set forth in Luke 16:13-15 by the Lord Jesus. "No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."

Think of poor Nicodemus, John 3:9. "Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?"

His unbelief and confusion stemmed from his ignorance. This is why men dare to argue and dispute with God! In their ignorance they have no understanding of God's mind and will!

4. Such ignorance will fuel man's rebellion against God until the end of time. "The world by wisdom knew not God," 1 Corinthians 1:21. "Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods," Galatians 4:7. This ignorance lay behind the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus. "But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers," Acts 3:14-17.

This denial and hatred of Christ will intensify as the age draws to a close. "And when he had opened the



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled," Revelation 6:9-11. It is clear that these events take place shortly before the judgment of Christ falls upon His enemies. Right up to the end, the haters of Christ are venting their hatred upon Christ's people!

II. IT FOLLOWS ON THAT TO STAND WITH CHRIST IN ALL THINGS REQUIRES OUR REGENERATION AND THE SUBJUGATION OF OUR NATURAL WILLS.

Paul was a rebel until he was 'born again'! Acts 9:6: "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

1. The first act of God in our lives will be that of giving us a new heart. The prophet Ezekiel tells us of the recovery of Israel in the latter days and what it is that the Lord will do in them. He speaks of their regeneration and clearly defines it for us. "For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them," Ezekiel 36:24-27.

Regeneration is further explained by Paul in 2 Corinthians 4:6. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

We need Christ's mind in us if we are to be for all He is for! Hence Paul's exhortation to the Philippians. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus," Philippians 2:5.

2. Having been thus regenerated we must progress in that knowledge. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen," 2 Peter 3:18. Paul gives a lengthy and detailed exhortation on that subject in Ephesians 4:15- 5:1.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Be ye therefore followers (imitators) of God, as dear children," Ephesians 4:14-5:1.

Holiness is, in fact, the 'imitating' of God, as the word 'followers' means. We cannot imitate that of which we have no knowledge!

3. Such knowledge is gained ONLY from the Bible. It is in the 'blessed book' that God reveals Himself and we are thereby able to 'imitate' Him as we study what He has revealed of Himself in His Word. Actors who play the part of someone on stage must first study all the information they can obtain about the person they are to portray. So it must be with the Christian! "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby," 1 Peter 2:1-2.

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all," Ephesians 1:17-23.

Paul thus intimates to us that a 'knowledge' of Christ's person, power and His purpose is only obtained through the 'spirit of wisdom and revelation' opening our eyes as we study God's Word. It is in this spirit that the Psalmist prays: "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law," Psalm 119:18.

4. Becoming acquainted with the will of God we must then walk accordingly. "Like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life," Romans 6:4.

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him," Ephesians 5:15.

"That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him," Colossians 1:10-13, 2:6.

"As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, that ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus," 1 Thess 2:11-14.

Those who know the will of God openly practise what it is they know.

5. It ought to be our ultimate desire to share in the testimony of Enoch and Noah. "And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him. . . . But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD," Genesis 5:22, 24, 6:8.

It should be noted that these men walked with God in the dark and evil days before the judgment of the



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

world by the flood. Let that encourage every true believer today, in these 'pre-judgment days' to follow in their footsteps and walk with God!

III. IT LIKEWISE FOLLOWS THAT WE MUST BE READY TO SHARE IN THE REPROACH THAT IS HEAPED UPON THE LORD AND HIS REVEALED WILL.

1. Yes, reproach is the price of walking with God. "Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach," Heb 13:13. Here is one of the chief difficulties for many Christians. Like those we read of in the days of our Saviour, there is a fear of man hindering them from obeying the Lord and openly associating with Him. "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God," John 12:42-43.

What a shameful cowardice! I have always admired the womenfolk who stood by the cross while the 'men' ran away! "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene," John 19:25. It is recorded that they also 'stood afar off'. This change of position may have been forced upon them by the soldiers for it is clear that at the beginning of the crucifixion they were close to the cross. Peter, on the other hand showed no such devoted courage from the beginnings of the Saviour's afflictions by men! "But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end," Matthew 26:58. I do not believe that Peter was alone in this sad and shameful fearfulness. And let us not reproach him unduly for have we not all shown like reluctance to own the Lord amongst men when we were facing a much lesser threat of danger!

2. But happiness is the reward of walking with God. That is not what the devil would tell us will be the result of our openly owning and professing Christ! Nevertheless, happiness is the fruit of owning Christ. "Blessed (happy) is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Psalm 1:1-3.

Is not this happy one displaying all the characteristics that we have been urging upon us all in this article?

Here is a rejection of the 'counsel of the ungodly, the notions of the wicked in this world. Here is one who does not associate himself with or company with sinners. He stands off from them, keeping a line of demarcation between himself and them. Furthermore, he does not sit down with the scornful or, as the word denotes, 'the mockers and sneerers'! My old granny used to say: 'Show me your company and I will tell you who you are.' How true and biblical that saying is!

The 'happy' Christian is a 'separatist' in every element of life. But they are not merely 'negative' in their outlook, as some would allege! No! They 'delight' (take great pleasure) in the law of the Lord. That the world cannot understand! Seeing nothing 'comely' or desirable about Christ (Isaiah 53:2), they shun His company and His Word. Not so the true child of God. They join with the Psalmist in crying out: "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalm 119:103. They share in Job's high opinion of the Word of God. "Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food," Job 23:12.

But the Word of God is not only the food of the believer, it is our drink! We delight in the rivers of water that flow from the Bible. They are rivers of life-giving sustenance so that our lives are filled with evidence of communion with Christ even as the tree by the river "bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither." Indeed, the Christian who thus associates with Christ will see 'whatsoever he doeth' prospering.

Dear Christian, there is no loss in bearing reproach with Christ. All is profit and gain.

3. Such reproach carries the seeds of glory. What blessings were enjoyed by John the Apostle while he was exiled on Patmos for "the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ," Revelation 1:9?



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

I tell you Christian, reproach for Christ but brings Him near unto us with sweet revelations of mercy and love, power and glory! Remember how it was with Paul in Corinth! "Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them," Acts 18:9-11.

Later, Paul wrote of those times to the Church at Corinth. "And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling," 1 Corinthians 2:1-3.

I say with very mixed feelings of joy and sorrow, that when the Free Presbyterians were in such a spirit as was Paul, then what wonderful things were accomplished for the Saviour!

Why are we not seeing the conversions, the separating of believers from the apostasy, the formation of new congregations, and that with a bold defiance to all around?

Do any of our ministers ask themselves these questions? Do the elders in congregations born in those glory days of 1960 and 1970 ever discuss why it is that the events that surrounded the beginnings of their congregation are not taking place today?

If there are such discussions then I am sure that the only conclusions arrived at is 'we are no longer for all that Christ is for and against all that Christ is against' as once we were!

Old Pastor James Kyle Paisley replied to me very early in my first days as a student in January 1965, as I lamented my failure in the pulpit the previous Sabbath. It was in Whiteabbey Free Presbyterian pulpit that I had been preaching. 'Son, it is not how you begin your ministry that counts, but how you end it!'

The words of that dear old man of God have lived with me ever since.

Do we not all wish to share in Paul's words of victory at the end of our spiritual journey?

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day," 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

I have not completed the quotation for I would have us all consider it separately. Paul ended this wonderful statement with the words: "And not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

We may all receive this glorious 'crown of righteousness' from the blessed hands of our Saviour in the day of His glorious appearing. BUT only if we have 'fought a good fight', and have "finished the course" and "have kept the faith". We are engaged in a war from which there is no respite!

Let us be like Eleazar, of whom it is said: "And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David, when they defied the Philistines that were there gathered together to battle, and the men of Israel were gone away: he arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to spoil," 2 Samuel 23:9-10.

We are not fighting as did Eleazar while we turn our back on the terms of the Covenant we swore back in 1988, which is the very embodiment of true biblical Christianity!

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him," James 1:12. We have not resisted the spirit of this age but sadly have yielded to it. May the Lord help us to seek that ointment by which we may anoint our 'eyes with eyesalve' that we may see.



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

It is said that the city of Laodicea was famous for an ointment with healing power but which stung the eyes severely when applied.

There is an ointment which we must apply if we are to see again as once we did and return to the paths we once walked in and receive the Lord again into our midst with power BUT IT HURTS!

Getting victory over backsliding means DEATH! "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," Romans 8:13.

How little of that old blessed doctrine of self-denial and death to sin is preached amongst us today!

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin," Romans 6:6.

It was the secret of Paul's mighty ministry. "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," Galatians 2:20.

It was the secret of past times of victory and blessing amongst us and can be again. Indeed, it will be if we heed the words of James. "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up," 4:8-10.

May the Lord grant the needed grace to act so.

I pray that the Lord will bless to all hearts these poor words of an old man who desires to see the rising generation enjoy that which he enjoyed some 55 years ago, and indeed more so.

It is a long time ago that I prayed David's prayer: "Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come," Psalm 71:18.

May I see an answer soon, for the sake of Christ's glory alone.

Rev Ivan Foster. (Retired)

14th December 2019.