



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The downgrade of the Free Church of Scotland



The present trouble in the Free Church of Scotland has its roots in the refusal of the majority group within the church to allow a proper examination of allegations of immorality against the leading figure in its hierarchy. Because of this, men who love the Lord and His Word and who seek to be true to their ordination vows formed "The Free Church Defence Association," largely to answer the ecumenical and unscriptural utterances of Professor Donald Macleod, who is the darling of the liberal wing of the Free Church.

The majority group has already managed to have Rev. Maurice Roberts, of Inverness, suspended on what an outsider can only deem to be trumped-up charges. Rev. Roberts is highly esteemed throughout the United Kingdom and much further afield and the action against him has outraged believers.

In an attempt to silence the voice of the FCDA once and for all, the Commission of Assembly has written to 32 ministers linked to the FCDA. The letter states that if they do not disband the organisation they will be summoned to the Assembly's next meeting on 19 January where they will be suspended if they refuse to back down. However, a spokesman for the group said they were prepared to fight their case to the end and would set up a rival 'true' Free Church if they were ousted. The Rev William MacLeod, the leading dissident, who is facing a charge of obstinate disobedience, said: "Our position is steadfast and I think it is clear that the 32 ministers will be suspended because we have disobeyed an assembly finding."

Strange to relate, while the Donald Macleodites are seeking to drive men of God from their pulpits and their manses, Rev. Donald Macleod was showing just where the Free Church is heading.

He was the guest speaker at the "United Churches Millennium Celebrations on Lord's Day 2nd January in Whytescausway Baptist Church in Kirkcaldy. Amongst the churches who organised the "celebration" were the local Coptic church and the Roman Catholic church. There will of course be no objections to this gross violation of his ordination vows by Rev. Donald Macleod, when he participated in a church service organised by those who propagate the dark errors of popery.

The Free Church seems about to take a significant and perhaps irreversible step toward apostasy by permitting and promoting fellowship with Rome while seeking to expel the gospel from its midst.

It is "make up your mind time" for a lot of Free Church men not listed amongst the 32 names but who would profess allegiance to Christ and His Word. May the only King and Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ, lead and guide His servants and grant them grace and courage to do the right. We would urge all our readers to pray for Scotland and its troubled Kirk.