



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### THE PERVERTED THINKING OF THE REJECTER OF THE BIBLE



Dr. John Dunlop, former moderator of the Presbyterian Church

"Ex-Moderator reveals anguish over Presbyterian's (sic) same-sex row." So ran the headline in the Belfast Telegraph of July 2nd 2018.

Last month, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's General Assembly decided that same-sex partners could not receive communion and their children could not be baptised in the Church. Former Presbyterian Moderator Dr John Dunlop, has spoken of his personal struggle with the issues of same-sex relationships in the Church in the wake of recent controversial decisions by its ruling body.

"There are many people in the Presbyterian Church who are happy with the decisions which have been

made - but then there are other people who are LGBT, or their family and friends, who have found this very unsettling," he said.

He told of a member in one congregation who had written about the "immense loneliness, shame and hurt which I and others like me have been made to feel in our lives - negatively affecting the lives and mental wellbeing of LGBT people."

Asked if he saw a parallel with the way in which Christian Churches eventually had to revise their long-held - but ultimately false - position on the issue of slavery, the distinguished clergyman said: "I struggle with precisely that question." The former moderator, said it was a "highly sensitive" issue and cautioned against adopting any formal rules on the matter.

Doubtless, many will see this as a most compassionate stance for Dr Dunlop to take. But it is not! Indeed he could not be more wrong, more out of step with the teaching of the Bible!

It is clear that his sympathy is for the sodomites within the Irish Presbyterian Church, a gross and wicked anomaly to begin with, and he is most anxious over the 'distress' caused to them by his church's decision to impose, at least to some degree, the teaching of the Bible.

We must state firstly that the decision of the Irish Presbyterian Church, welcome as it is, is far short of the position set forth in the Holy Scriptures. The Committee which made the recommendation that was accepted stated: "In light of our understanding of scripture and the Church's understanding of a credible profession of faith, it is clear that same-sex couples are not eligible for communicant membership nor are they qualified to receive baptism for their children. We believe that their outward conduct and lifestyle is at variance with a life of obedience to Christ." The Presbyterian Church has made it clear that the new policy does not prevent people in a same-sex relationship attending church.

The poor fools who engage in this perverted lifestyle are more than ineligible to receive "communicant membership nor are they qualified to receive baptism for their children," as the General Assembly decided. This is the language one would use of those who make a profession of faith but acts to some degree in a fashion that would raise doubts about the validity of their profession!

To acknowledge openly that you are living as a sodomite yet claiming to be a Christian and requiring others to accept you as such and furthermore demanding the privileges of a true believer within the body of professing Christians is a defiance of God and His Word that reaches the very zenith of rebellion against God. It also reveals the true agenda of the sodomite lobby - the forcing of Christians to accept them and their lifestyle as 'allowable' and 'normal'!



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

It is the demand made by these perverts that the whole standards of Christianity be stood on their head and that unrighteousness becomes righteousness, that hell is accepted as heaven and that the promoter of sin, the devil, is accepted as God!

John Dunlop has put himself forward as an apostle of this campaign.

### GOD'S VIEW

The view of God on the matter of sodomy is made exceedingly clear.

He has declared: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination," Leviticus 18:22. "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them," Leviticus 20:13.

Before this Holy Law was formerly given by God to Israel through Moses, He showed His view of sodomy in His damnation of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly," Genesis 13:13. "And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know," Genesis 18:20-21.

Upon investigation, the angelic messengers of God demanded of Lot: "Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: for we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it," Genesis 19:12-13.

The word "exceedingly" in Genesis 13:13, appears first in Genesis 1:31. There it is translated as 'very' in conjunction with the 'good' that God saw in His work of creation. "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." It was utterly, perfectly and completely 'good'!

Thus when the same word is used of the sins of Sodom we can see that its wickedness was utterly and completely wicked. A wickedness that was perfectly wicked!

I repeat: the practice of the sodomite lifestyle is an embracing of that which is utterly degenerate. Its utter degeneracy is seen in that there are those who would have it recognised as being acceptable to God and must be accepted as behaviour in keeping with a Christian profession.

You might as well seek to 'Christianise' the devil and all his works!

Never have drunkards, thieves, murderers or adulterers openly acknowledged their wickedness and at the same time demanded that they be accepted as Christians and embraced as such by the community of Christians world-wide. Yet that is what those whose deeds are deemed "exceedingly wicked" are demanding.

This is one of the elements of the great apostasy which the prophets have said would come at the close of this age. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth," 2 Timothy 3:1-7.

The terms in which the Presbyterian Church in Ireland denied communicant membership to openly acknowledged sodomites fall far short of the condemnation found in the Word of God. In that, that church has failed God and the true Christians within its ranks for it is teaching them to hold an opinion of sodomy far lower than that held by God and which He would have His professing people to hold.



# The Burning Bush - Online article archive

## PAST CHANGES

There have been attempts by Dunlop and those of his ilk to say that as Christians in the past have changed their views on matters, so there is a need for a change of attitudes and perspectives regarding sodomy. The change of views on the matter of slavery and on the position of the earth in relationship to our region of the universe is put forth as examples of such changes.

No, they are not!

In both instances, the change of view was the adopting of the teaching of the Bible and the abandoning of a view born of man's own thinking. It was not the embracing of a notion which sprang from some new and more liberal analysis of things by man.

In Psalm 19:4, God surely intimates that the sun was the chief star in our heavens. "Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun." It was not the earth which chiefly featured in our universe as men long believed, but the sun. I think too that when Christ was called the "Sun of Righteousness" there was a setting forth of that star as the chief of God's creation, the giver of light to this dark earth, in our part of the universe. "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall," Malachi 4:2. The sun is called in the day of its creation the "greater light". "And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also," Genesis 1:16.

## SLAVERY

The form of slavery practised amongst the Israelites, was nothing more than a voluntary engagement to serve one who had redeemed them from their debts until such debts were paid off. It was very strictly limited until the year of release. "If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing," Exodus 21:2. In many ways it is similar to the undertakings of one who enters a contract with a mortgage company, a bank or a building society, without the leniency of the limitation instituted by God!

When the slavery of those stolen away from their families and homes and forced into the most degrading servitude was abolished, it was not man instituting a more liberal and benevolent edict or directive but rather man acknowledging that he had been engaged in a cruelty condemned of God and a forsaking of such a practice and conforming, at least to some measure, to that which the Bible taught.

No, the likes of John Dunlop do not represent a more merciful and compassionate Christianity but rather that apostasy which God has said would bring this age to a close, just as it brought an end to the earth's wicked population in the days of Noah. Of that generation it is stated by the Lord: "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. . . The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence," Genesis 6:5-7, 11.

A similar dreadful judgment fell upon Sodom and Gomorrah. "Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; and he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground," Genesis 19:24-25.

In truth, the sympathies and compassion that John Dunlop expresses toward the sodomites within his denomination, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, is akin to the feelings of Lot's wife who "looked back from behind him (Lot, her husband)". She did so because she had a regard, a respect, a love for the ways and people of Sodom. The fact that she did it 'behind her husband's back' indicates that it was a sneaking regard for the lifestyle of the cities and indicated her wish not have left them at all. She shared their love of



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

their profligacy "But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt," Genesis 19:26. That she shared in their fate indicates that God saw within her heart an affiliation with their wickedness and rebellion!

### NO SYMPATHY

God demands of His people that they show no regard for or sympathy with the wickedness seen in Sodom and which the Saviour tells us plainly will be seen again - worldwide - in the days just prior to His coming again to judge that wickedness. "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed," Luke 17:28-30. One element of the Saviour's purpose in returning to this earth is to judge this wickedness. "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him," Jude 14-15.

In the light of these truths, how it behoves the people of God to reject utterly the deceitful words of the likes of John Dunlop. His way is the way of Balaam, the way of Cain, the way of Judas and will and can only result in destruction for any people, church or nation which heeds such.

What is the Christian's attitude toward the poor sinner caught up in such wickedness to be. Let us note that we must distinguish between the sinner and his sin. We must love the one and hate the other!

Sodomites can be saved. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God," 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

Paul's description of that conversion which these sinners experienced indicates a complete and utter rejection of their old lifestyle. As adulterers forsook such wickedness, as idolaters ceased bowing before idols, as thieves ceased their thievery, as drunkards ceased their drunkenness, even so the sodomite turned away completely from his former perversion! The grace of God alone can accomplish this and it to that grace found alone in the Lord Jesus Christ and received by faith in Him that we should point these poor slaves of Satan.

I believe that as the embracing of sodomy led to the destruction of the cities of the plain, so its adoption, on a world-wide basis, will bring this age to an end, in the judgment of those who introduced it and sanctioned it within the visible church.

This is the final corruption, the final apostasy of the professing church, which, as Israel's embracing of the wickedness of idolatry and like corruptions and the rejection of the TRUTH of God brought about its judgment under God's avenging Babylonians, and again, when Jesus Christ, the Messiah long promised was rejected and crucified, brought about the destruction of Israel under the Roman Empire.

Please note the words of Jeremiah. "And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven. And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people," 2 Kings 23:5-6.

These actions were part of a very limited reformation of Judah attempted by the good king, Josiah. They indicate the state of religion in Judah just a generation before the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem and its temple and the captivity of the nation. It is a picture very akin to the state of affairs within professing



## **The Burning Bush - Online article archive**

Christendom today. It is a stark warning of the approach of God's judgment if only we have eyes to see it.

These scenes are being re-enacted before our eyes, providing those who believe the Scriptures with undeniable warnings of the approach that day of "judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries," Hebrews 10:27.

Rev. Ivan Foster (Rtd)

5th July 2018.