



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

### The sinister peace behind the handshake

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"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.



**The handshake**

There were, of course, those who admire and are loyal to Her Majesty on the streets to welcome her. Red, white and blue flags and bunting abounded and rightly so. But the whole exercise was designed to pull the wool over the eyes of the citizens of Northern Ireland, who desire the continuance of the union with Great Britain to continue, ever more tightly.

Never was there a more joyless 'jubilee' for the faithful child of God than that which we have witnessed here in Ulster!

The cynical mandarins of deceitful diplomacy, in company with ecumenism's graceless wretches who masquerade as God's servants but who are in truth the servants of the devil (2 Corinthians 11:13-15) have manipulated the visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Northern Ireland on her Jubilee tour of the United Kingdom, in a most wicked and nefarious manner. The whole exercise had, in truth, the purpose of promoting the ecumenical aims of the wicked power-sharing agreement between Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionist Party and its Stormont regime.

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### The lie

In Enniskillen Church of Ireland cathedral, the ecumenical mantra of "we are all one in Christ" was repeated in the ears of the gullible, seated in the pews and further abroad via the television broadcasts. Church of Ireland Archbishop Harper preached the lie that Romanism and Protestantism are really all one. The official teaching of the Church of Ireland was again cast into the rubbish bin as he preached that which was in utter denial of all he swore to uphold on numerous occasions during his ecclesiastical career, the last occasion being when he was ordained Archbishop of Armagh in February 2007 - a season infamous for its betrayal of promises and undertakings, as it was the time that the DUP entered upon its power-sharing agreement with the murderous Sinn Fein/IRA party!

Roman Catholicism is the same anti-God, anti-Bible organisation today that it was in the days of the Reformers and martyrs in bygone years - only more so.

The man who led the cathedral congregation in prayer was, a few short weeks ago, being told to resign by just about everybody, because of his role in the covering up of the abuse of tens of thousands of children, over decades by clerics within his church. The shameful failures and culpability of "His Eminence" Cardinal Sean Brady were totally forgotten by the ecclesiastics on that day and he and his church were portrayed as an integral part of the Church of Christ.

In truth, that was one of the chief purposes of the whole exercise. The 60-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II had little real part in the proceedings in Ulster that day.

### That handshake

On the second day of her tour of Northern Ireland, the Queen met and shook the hand of Martin McGuinness, Deputy First Minister, former IRA leader and unrepentant murderer. Indeed, by association, his hands are stained with the blood of Lord Mountbatten, the Queen's cousin and uncle of her husband, Prince Philip, who was murdered by the IRA in August 1979.

What was required by the political puppet-masters in Westminster of the Queen in Northern Ireland, in that handshake alone, amounted to cruel abuse of an 86-year great-grandmother!

The media moguls were hysterical in their attempts to outdo each other's headlines following that handshake. Basically, it was trumpeted that it had sealed the peace in Northern Ireland.



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Indeed! We have been repeatedly told that since the spring of 2007 when Dr Ian Paisley sat down with Gerry Adams at Stormont.

### The peace examined

But what is this peace that has been so often "secured and sealed"?

That is what we desire to look at.

To do that, I wish to turn to God's Word and to the texts that are at the top of this article.

"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members," Romans 7:23.

"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.

I contend that the peace that is being pursued in Northern Ireland is a peace, not of mutual respect or equal regard between Republicanism and the Protestant and Unionist people, but a peace through the demise of one party - Ulster Protestantism.

I am not speaking of a massacre of a people but the death of a religion.

The Scriptures quoted bring us to a gospel principle which provides us with an analogy, a parallel to what is taking place in Northern Ireland through the DUP/Sinn Fein power-sharing peace agreement.

The verses, especially Romans 8:13, refer to "a subduing and weakening of the vigour and power of sin in the lives and conversations of the saints, to which the grace and assistance of the Spirit are absolutely necessary; and such who are enabled to do so, "shall live" comfortably; they shall have communion with Christ here, and shall live a life of glory with him hereafter" (John Gill's commentary).

### Shorter catechism

A further explanation of this doctrine of sanctification is given us in The Shorter Catechism, questions 35 and 36.

#### Q35:What is sanctification?

A:Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

#### Q36:What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?

A:The benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

The benefit of sanctification in the life of the believer is the enjoyment of spiritual wellbeing, consisting of a sense of God's love and inward peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. But remember, that blessed experience comes at the price of the death of the old nature, the flesh. They cannot live together in harmony!

In another passage, Galatians chapter 5, Paul states the matter in a similar fashion.

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit," Galatians 5:16-25.

Please note, the flesh must die if the believer is to enjoy the fruits of the Spirit which are love, joy, peace etc.



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### The principle applied

We can apply that principle to our situation here in Northern Ireland. The harmony and peace that the ecumenical leaders are looking for requires the death of the aspirations of Popery or Protestantism. Popery cannot live in harmony with spiritual, lively, Bible-preaching Protestantism. History shows that to be so. On the other hand, spiritual, lively, Bible-preaching Protestantism will invariably hasten the demise of Roman Catholicism. I hasten to add that it will not seek this by persecution and the sword, and again history will bear this out. But the doctrines of the gospel will destroy the false teachings of Romanism. Rome recognises this and hence her record of persecution against the preaching of the gospel.

### Death required

The peace pursued under the Stormont Agreement is one that requires the death of Bible Protestantism. The evidence that this is so, is plain for those with eyes to see. The whole structure of the power-sharing agreement requires the abandonment of the gospel doctrines of justice and truth.

The Bible clearly and plainly forbids the elevating to the position of a magistrate one who is an unrepentant terrorist and who has pursued his political ambitions by trampling over God's law.

Consider the words of Romans 13:3. "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil."

John Gill says of these words:

"For rulers are not a terror to good works - that is, to them that do good works in a civil sense; who behave well in the neighbourhoods, towns, cities, and countries where they dwell. The apostle seems to anticipate an objection made against governors, as if there was something very terrible and formidable in them; and which might be taken up from the last clause of the preceding verse; and which he removes by observing, that governors neither do, nor ought to inject terror into men that behave well, obey the laws, and keep a good decorum among their fellow subjects, not doing any injury to any man's person, property, and estate.

...  
But to the evil; to wicked men, who make no conscience of doing hurt to their fellow creatures, by abusing their persons, defrauding them of their substance, and by various illicit methods doing damage to them; to such, rulers are, and ought to be terrors; such are to be menaced, and threatened with inflicting upon them the penalty of the laws they break; and which ought to be inflicted on them by way of punishment to them, and for the terror of others."

### Wicked men in power

Here in Ulster, as a result of the DUP's desire for political power and glory, we have those who are by John Gill's definition 'wicked men', occupying the position of rulers.

That step was the beginning of the death of the Protestant ethos in Northern Ireland.

But it has continued.

Peter Robinson, by attending the funeral mass of a murdered policeman, gave credence to the anti-Bible doctrine that the ordinances of Roman Catholicism are the same as the gospel ordinances of the Bible. The DUP members who supported him in his actions likewise sought the death of truth and the advancement of the lie.

In more recent times, the campaign of death against gospel truth was manifested in the rejection of the teaching of God's Word on the necessity of the Christian's separation in worship.

### The separated life

God's Word sets forth for us the separated life-style required in a believer.

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty," 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.



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"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them," Ephesians 5:11.  
"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them," Romans 16:17.

Similar scriptures could be quoted to support the doctrine of the separation of the believer from all forms of worship which are contrary to the teaching of God's Word.

But that doctrine was abandoned by those professing faith in Christ when they attended a recent ecumenical service in Ballymena to mark the Queen's jubilee (**Click here** to read the article).

It was especially reprehensible for Free Presbyterians to join in such worship but they did. They felt that as members of the DUP it was their duty to be there. Some excused themselves by saying that they did not realise that a Roman Catholic priest would be taking part. It is to be noticed that once it became evident that a priest was participating, none of the DUP members left the service!

Be that as it may, why were they in a Church of Ireland service to begin with? The Church of Ireland has been a leader of ecumenical apostasy for over half a century. No Bible-believing Christian should be found worshipping within its gates.

By offering such an excuse, the guilty merely indicate their departure from the Bible's teaching on separation. It is another indication of the dying of the doctrines of truth amongst us.

Of course there are within the DUP those who profess allegiance to the truth of separation. Men such as Rev William McCrea, who undertook at his ordination to faithfully preach these truths. To my knowledge he has not spoken out publicly against such actions as those of Peter Robinson and his mass attending or the attenders at the Ballymena ecumenical service.

I will happily apologise should I be wrong in this matter.

### Going along

Why have Free Presbyterians gone along with this slaying of the old truths?

They have a choice - the party or God's Word!

Silence on their part in the face of this betrayal of God's Word would indicate that they have chosen to stand with the DUP and its philosophy of peace at the cost of God's truth.

It really is hard to believe that this is the case but the facts, the silence, the remaining within the DUP seem to speak for themselves.

This then is the peace behind the handshake - the death of Protestantism and the truth of the gospel in our land.

### Cause for hope

While I would despair if the joint agency of the alliance between the Stormont regime and the ecumenical movement were the only power at work in our land, I believe that God's truth is not so easily destroyed.

Many have embarked on this path before.

At Calvary, the alliance of apostate religion and corrupt time-serving politicians was seen at work and we know the outcome. "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it," Acts 2:22-24.

Truth will triumph in the end, irrespective of how low God in His wisdom permits its interests to sink.

There is a remnant in Ulster who will not surrender the glories of the gospel for a mess of political pottage. When the Stormont regime has passed away, as pass away it will with all its wicked and mean betrayals of promises and professions, God's truth will flourish again in our land.

It is the duty of that remnant to remain true, to remain patient, to remain courageous, to remain prayerful and to watch for the inevitable reply of God to the cries of faithful hearts.

Rev Ivan Foster.

Friday 29th June, 2012.