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Email exchange with Edwin Poots, DUP agriculture minister

On the Sabbath evening, May 31st 2020, I received an email from Mr Edwin Poots who is the Agriculture Minister in the power-sharing regime in Stormont.

His late parents had a long standing friendship with Dr Paisley from the days of revival blessing in the late 1960's. In those days I also counted them amongst my friends and fellow separatists and contenders for the truth of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the face of the ecumenical apostasy which then was fast taking over the main churches

The family was well acquainted with the early stand of the Free Presbyterian Church and the great mercy visited upon it in those days of its faithfulness, being foundation members of Hillsborough Free Presbyterian Church.

His email was a response to an email sent by one, DFT, with whom I have often exchanged emails. He had sent a challenge to Mr Poots entitled: "It Takes a Long Straw to Sup with the Devil".

Dear Mr. Poots,

There might be a tendency to feel powerless in the face of HMG's treacherous and cowardly plans to put a border between us and the mainland. But I don't think that making light of it and trying to persuade ourselves that it may bring advantages will help the situation. It takes a long straw to sup with the devil. Any advantage drawn from free access to the EU will without any doubt be at the cost of much greater advantage deriving from our union with Great Britain. Make no mistake about it.

I would tend more to be thinking along the lines of collapsing Stormont once and for all the moment the first checks start. Or better still, to warn in advance that this will be the case. Surely the latest coronavirus crisis has proven beyond any doubt that the whole purpose of the devolved assemblies is to split up the UK.

Yours sincerely

DFT

To to all those with whom DFT shared a copy of his email, Mr Poots sent this reply.

"Could you explain the logic of collapsing Stormont in protest at a deal that was done by Westminster and is being imposed upon us by Westminster? How does giving all the power to those that imposed this help?"

I received this email at 10.06 pm on the Sabbath evening and I sent Mr Poots and all those to whom his email was copied a reply at 23.41 pm the same evening since I considered that a reply was a very suitable activity for the Sabbath, bearing witness as it did to God's truth!

Here is my reply.

Mr Poots,

You may remember it being said by Dr Paisley, in years gone by, when he quoted the late Dr Bob Jones Sr: "Its never right to do wrong in order to do right!"

Power-sharing with murderers is wrong and can never be justified in any circumstances. It becomes increasingly reprehensible when the regime born of such an unholy alliance begins to endorse and advance abortion, sodomy and other forms of moral perversion.

There are times when those who profess faith in God must refuse the wrong and leave the outcome in



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That may not be the self-seeking politician's way but it is the way of the child of God who believes the Bible!

Another statement by Dr Jones, often quoted as a proper definition of moral rectitude by Dr Paisley, is : "Do right though the stars fall!"

Again there is the embodiment of the view that we are required to do what is right irrespective of what, humanly speaking, may seem to be the likely outcome of such action!

What both these quotes say is the very essence of the Saviour's word in Matthew 6:33. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Putting God first before all our human wisdom and knowledge and trusting Him with the outcome, is what it is to be a Christian.

Time and again the Bible illustrates for us this truth. We have the widow of Zarephath's response to Elijah's demand to guide and encourage us to what is right! (1 Kings 17:10-16).

It was a conniving with the greatest deceivers that Westminster ever produced that brought us into this mess. Power-sharing in Stormont was born in the dark, twisted mind of Tony Blair and, buttered generously with financial and personal glory, the scheme was thus sold to the DUP!

To turn back the clock and reject the deceit of Westminster would be where we should start. Trusting the Lord to provide for our people is the right and the best way to go. He is not obligated to show us what He will do by way of delivering a people out of trouble but it is the Christian's obligation to believe that doing that which is the impossible in our eyes, has ever been within the realm of possibility with God.

"And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible," Mark 10:27.

What the wise man David said long ago is still wise! "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:5.

Respectfully,

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd)

Please note: Two small grammatical errors in the original email have been corrected before publication here.

To our readers I might add that though the sovereignty of God in the affairs of men is generally rejected by politicians, BUT GOD DOES RULE AND REIGN in the affairs of men as the prayer of Isaiah shows. "Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only," Isaiah 37:20.

The prophet sets an example for all professing believers, including Mr Poots.

There is a day coming when the defiance of God will be brought to an end and the Lord Jesus shall intervene most directly in the affairs of the kingdoms of the earth, that day when He shall return in power and great glory, taking to Himself personal rule and dominion over the earth.

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever," Revelation 11:15.



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It will then be seen that He has ever been in control, though permitting men to act according to their own folly, and accomplishing thereby His eternal purpose, even as Acts 2:22-24 shows.

"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.

Men will learn as did the brothers of Joseph, that God overrules all matters to His own glory.

"And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? 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 50:19-20.

Rev Ivan Foster (Rtd).

2nd June 2020.