



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

A reply to Rev Trevor Kirkland's unjustified attack upon Christians and evangelical denominations who complied with the Government's 'social distancing' requirements and suspended church services, published in a letter to the "Belfast Newsletter."

It is an excellent response indeed. It will be interesting to see if Mr Kirkland will defy the requirement to stop assembling and endure the consequences!!

"I have no desire to be drawn into a long debate with Rev Kirkland but he has levelled serious charges against thousands of Evangelicals in Northern Ireland without giving any consideration to the fact that brothers and sisters in Christ may have come to a different conclusion to him on the matter of church closures.

Rev Kirkland claims that those who called off services in churches and instead worshiped in their homes, listening to sermons on the internet or on CD, don't measure up to the Covenanters and Puritans.

There were differences of opinion on such issues historically but permit me to cite one example. The Puritan Richard Baxter was fined heavily and imprisoned for defying the law. He showed lots of backbone. Yet writing in 1673 Richard Baxter noted:

"If the Magistrate for a greater good, (as the common safety) forbid Church Assemblies in a time of pestilence, assault of enemies, or fire, or the like necessity, it is a duty to obey him. Because positive duties give place to those great natural duties which are their end: so Christ justified himself and his disciples violation of the external rest of the Sabbath. For the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."

Would Rev Kirkland dismiss the Richard Baxter as a marshmallow?

I would respectfully suggest that all Christians at this time should be using what means they have to call attention to the issues of the day.

We have ignored God's commandment to observe a day of rest and now the entire world is quiet.

We have abused human interaction in how we have behaved even to the point of official government attempts to redefine marriage and now we must all observe "social distancing".

Society came to regard the family unit as old fashioned and dispensable. Now governments enforce lockdowns preventing interaction with anyone other than those within households.

Burials are taking place without funerals in countries which sent millions of the unborn into eternity without so much as a coffin much less a funeral.

None of us deserve the least of God's mercies. In fact, none of us can claim we deserve anything other than judgement.

But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared. Forgiveness because of the sacrifice of one who never did anything deserving of judgement. And in a world which is convulsed by fear we can know peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Samuel Morrison,

Dromore, Co Down.