



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

My sermon on Dr Beeke's errors removed from SermonAudio

I have been informed by Mr Steven Lee of SermonAudio that the sermon I preached on Lord's Day evening 9th October in Kilskeery Free Presbyterian Church has been removed from his site.

The sermon was entitled:

"WHAT NOW FOR THE FRIENDS OF JOEL BEEKE?"

Which path will the Free Presbyterian Church choose? Disowning Dr. Joel Beeke's compromises or Displeasing the Lord of Glory?

"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them," Ephesians 5:11.

Some time ago, a recording by Pastor Ralph Ovadal in which he exposed the errors and compromises of Dr Joel Beeke was also removed.

The reasons given for the removal of my sermon were as follows:

"I'm sorry but this is simply to let you know that I had to take offline the sermon referencing Dr. Beeke for two reasons:

1. We have a policy on the site that does not permit one broadcaster to explicitly attack another broadcaster. This is true for anyone.
2. The content related to the N. American presbytery was incorrect. Or if it is correct, it needs more careful clarification.

Regarding the first reason, it is interesting to notice that SermonAudio policy comes before faithfulness to God's Word. The policy comes first, even when it is the truth of God which suffers!

No such rule can be found governing the contents of the Word of God. Rather, the Holy Spirit regularly directed His servants to condemn, contradict and correct others whose words are recorded in the Bible. Thus Paul rebuked Peter, Jehu rebuked Jehoshaphat and Nathan rebuked David, to name but a few instances.

Regarding the second reason, it is to be noticed that it is conceded that what I stated may be correct, but it must be removed until SermonAudio has checked it out.

For some years now, the errors and wrongs of Dr Beeke have been highlighted. But none of Dr Beeke's friends, including Mr Steven Lee seems to have taken a blind bit of notice of the evidence set forth. There was never any clarification sought regarding Dr Beeke's wrong-doing or, at least, not one of Dr Beeke's friends or indeed, Dr Beeke himself ever issued a statement challenging and rebutting the evidence set forth and highlighted and circulated far and wide amongst Dr Beeke's friends.

It is true that there were those that charged us with telling lies and slandering Dr Beeke, but no one ever responded in detail to the many articles mounted on the internet.

There was never any question of him being removed from SermonAudio.

I wonder why? I could perhaps make a few suggestions as to why that is so but I would only be speculating.

It is a sad day for me. I have known Mr Lee since before he set up his SermonAudio site, indeed I sought in my own small way to encourage him in this labour. He took away from Kilskeery some 20 years ago, a box of cassette recordings from the Kilskeery sermon library and they were among the first he mounted on the site.



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It is therefore a sad day that the stand I took in the sermons first mounted on SermonAudio and which I still seek to take today, is now repudiated by Mr. Lee.

In the sermon which has been removed I said: "Tonight I come to the climax of another issue, my position on which has gained me no friends! I have been involved in an ongoing attempt to warn Christians against the activities of Dr Joel Beeke. In many ways it is a case of deja vu! I can well remember the campaign, led by Dr Paisley, Dr Job Jones Jr and Dr J R Rice against the compromises and errors of Dr Billy Graham. The Free Presbyterian Church was united to a man on the issue and it was evangelicals within the ecumenical churches who bitterly opposed the stand against Billy Graham and who hurled all sorts of unkind and untrue accusations against Dr Paisley, Dr Jones and Dr J R Rice.

I find myself in exactly the same arena in which those men battled some 50 years ago."

Little did I know just how true that was.

However, we have faith in the victorious truth of God and no matter how things may appear now, we can say with Joseph in the words he addressed to his brethren: "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 50:20.

Ivan Foster.

11th October 2016.