



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Alpha Course Protest

**An opportunity
to explore
the meaning of life.**



The Alpha Course

Starting soon at a church near you

Across the country, promoters of the charismatic "Alpha Course" have been arranging meetings for the study of the course, which is supposedly an introduction to Biblical Christianity.

Advertisements have been placed in newspapers by churches inviting interested individuals to attend the meet-

ings. A challenge to the ministers organising the Alpha Course meetings in the Enniskillen area has been submitted to the local Co. Fermanagh newspaper, *The Impartial Reporter*. It comes from three Free Presbyterian ministers: David Priestley, Larry Power and Ivan Foster. Their letter of challenge reads as follows: -

Dear Editor,

In view of the large advertisement which has appeared in *The Impartial Reporter*, announcing the commencement of the "Alpha Course" in a number of local churches, we write to warn any who may be inclined to view this course as an introduction to Biblical Christianity that it is no such thing.

Perhaps the ministers of those churches who are sponsoring these meetings are unaware of the very serious doctrinal errors propagated by the "Alpha Course". If they are we would urge them, even now, to consider what we have to say and cancel these meetings in order to safeguard their people from what the Bible terms "damnable heresies."

If they are aware of the fact that the "Alpha Course" is the worst form of evil -- that of a mixture of good and evil--and are nevertheless intent upon introducing their people to it, then they become guilty of promoting that which is : contrary to the teaching of the Bible on vital matters such as repentance, regeneration and conversion; contrary to the doctrinal standards of the Presbyterian and Church of Ireland denominations and thereby violating their ordination vows; contrary to the teaching of the Protestant Reformers of the 16th century on the character of the Roman Catholic institution.

A special rally will be held in Bethel Free Presbyterian Church, Enniskillen, on October 16th at 8.00 pm to deal with the issues we refer to in this letter. Literature indicating that our view of the "Alpha Course" is shared by a broad spectrum of evangelical leaders today will be available at that rally.

We would urge Christians to beware of this latest attempt to beguile the people



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of God and would remind them of the words of Jude, the servant of God: Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ, Jude 3-4.

Yours faithfully,

Rev. David Priestley, (Minister of Clogher Valley Free Presbyterian Church),

Rev. Larry Power, (Minister of Kesh Free Presbyterian Church),

Rev. Ivan Foster (Minister of Kilskeery Free Presbyterian Church).