



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

In an section headed: *Notes and Comments in the magazine of The Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, August 2017 edition, there appeared the following article.*

I have reprinted it because it illustrates the universal creeping departure from the Word of God that may be seen in a denominations which once stood for God and where God's power rested upon the preaching of His Word.

Let the Free Presbyterian Church beware!

Memorial Service for Gordon Wilson

The memorial service for the former SNP leader Gordon Wilson raises some very serious questions. It was held at St Peter's Free Church in Dundee, (the Church where Robert Murray McCheyne ministered - IF), at which Mr Wilson was a communicant member. Mr Wilson's body had been cremated beforehand and the main ceremony or service was attended by important Scottish political figures and followed exactly the instructions that Mr Wilson had given before his death. It was led by the minister of the congregation, Rev David Robertson, who prayed twice and pronounced a blessing, with a third prayer from the Roman Catholic Bishop, Vincent Logan (all the prayers, incidentally, being read - IF).

One question that the event raises is: Where is Mr Wilson's soul presently? This might seem an inappropriate question to ask at such a time, but Mr Robertson and Bishop Logan openly disagreed on the matter, so the question is in the public domain. Mr Robertson has no doubt that Mr Wilson is in heaven, whereas Bishop Logan thinks that he is in purgatory. The present writer does not pretend to know the answer; but the fact that Mr Wilson wanted Bishop Logan to pray at his funeral shows that Mr Wilson did not have clear views on the way of salvation, through faith alone in Christ alone. Bishop Logan has made it his life's work to promote a different and false way of salvation. Mr Wilson has left at best an indistinct testimony regarding his faith in Christ.

A second question, often raised in this Magazine, concerns Mr Robertson's religious beliefs. While disagreeing with Bishop Logan over purgatory, he describes him as "a man who has served Christ for many years". But according to the ministerial vows Mr Robertson has several times taken, Bishop Logan's religious views are false, and he has not served Christ, but opposed Him. Mr Robertson is once again the editor of the Free Church magazine, *The Record*, following the fearful fall and suicide of Rev I D Campbell, but how can Mr Robertson instruct others when there is such a discrepancy between his vows and his conduct? Is keeping one's vows part of the Christian religion or not?

A third question arising from the memorial service is, Was it a Christian service? "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them" (Mt 18:20), says Christ; but to what extent can one modify and dilute Christian worship with music, photographs, eulogies, anecdotes and jokes before Christ is no longer present? Again, we do not know the answer, but when Mr Robertson states in his blog that "the gospel [was preached] in front of the First Minister, the former First Minister and the government ministers responsible for Health and Education", he is claiming more for the occasion than the truth warrants. A few aspects of the Christian religion were presented to the politicians, but with little solemnity, and they were not the aspects that they most needed to hear. There was nothing concerning sin, hell, repentance, or the cross of Christ. Had the tone of the service been more biblical, the politicians might have been less ready to stay and "chat" afterwards.

Mr Robertson was obviously well pleased with the occasion, but it was a sad day for Scottish Christianity. It is sad that a communicant member of a church professing to be Reformed should enter eternity, and his circle of acquaintances should have so little idea of how to respond appropriately and how to lay to heart the lessons that God was teaching them by that providence.

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