



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

A little more honesty from the First Minister but !!



First Minister, Mr. Peter Robinson MP,
MLA

In an interview in the *East Belfast Community Telegraph* and reproduced in *The Newsletter* of July 26th, 2008, First Minister, Mr. Peter Robinson MP, MLA, makes some commendable points in defence of the condemnation of sodomy which has seen his wife and fellow DUP MP, Mrs Iris Robinson, come under attack.

Here are some quotes from the article.

And despite his department being responsible for administering funding to gay rights groups, Mr Robinson vowed that he would never attend pro-gay events.

"I will do nothing to promote the views I do not support but I will do everything to defend (people) whether I support their views or not," Mr Robinson said in an interview with the East Belfast Community Telegraph.

The DUP leader said that if Iris Robinson had broken the law by "quoting the Bible", then "our society is doomed".

The East Belfast MP also called for Christians to be added to the list of groups specifically protected in equality legislation.

"It seems you can attack Christians in any way you please and they are provided no protection by law, but if you dare say a word about some other groups then everybody piles on to you as if you have no right to free speech.

"In fact, all Iris did was to quote the Bible and I think it is a remarkable indictment on our society that they feel someone quoting the Bible should be put in prison as seemed to be the general line of those who were reporting it to the police.

"Now that's a level of persecution that requires people to be protected from."

However commendable in essence these statement may be, Mr. Robinson does endorse that view which is incompatible with faithful allegiance to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ which is that Christians may hold a public office which requires them to act in a fashion in which they would not act but for the requirements of their office.

This particular conflict (I make no mention of the public office also involving an ungodly coalition with representatives of murder and terror) first emerged early in the life of the DUP-Sinn Fein/IRA coalition government when it became clear that part of the responsibilities of the First Minister's office was the administering of funds in support of sodomite groups.



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In this news article Mr. Robinson clearly acknowledges this responsibility. "And despite his department being responsible for administering funding to gay rights groups, Mr Robinson vowed that he would never attend pro-gay events."

Mr. Robinson, to my knowledge, has not challenged this statement of his responsibilities since the publishing of the interview.

That acknowledgement is refreshing though it is difficult to evaluate which is better: an attempt to conceal a wrongdoing because your conscience is troubled or the open acknowledgement of a wrongdoing which shows no consciousness of, or worse, an indifference to wrongdoing.

While Dr. Ian Paisley was First Minister, the funding of sodomites was never clearly accepted or acknowledged. Indeed, Dr Paisley has never yet publicly recognised that during his tenure as First Minister, his office paid out £100,000 in funds to the sodomite "gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender community" represented by the Coalition on Sexual Orientation. These payments were confirmed in a response to requests submitted to the OFMDFM under the Freedom of Information Act (See the BB article, "*The truth concerning funding of sodomites through the Office of the First Minister finally revealed*").

Now perhaps it is good that this fact is at least now being acknowledged by Mr. Robinson, but that does not alter the fact that for a professing Christian to hold an office which includes administering funds in support of sodomite groups is in breach of their allegiance to Christ.

One cannot remain faithful to Christ while carrying out duties which are in violation of His moral law. One must choose one role or the other and the choice that should be made is surely obvious.

Christians cannot serve God and mammon or attempt to do so and hope for the approval and the endorsement of other Christians.

Daniel's choice

The choice that Daniel faced, when he was required by the edict of Darius to cease from praying to the Lord for a period of thirty days, was similar to that facing the First Ministers here in Northern Ireland.

The narrative in Daniel chapter six reads:

"It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel *was* first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. Then this Daniel *was* preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit *was* in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm. Then the presi-



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dents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he *was* faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find *it* against him concerning the law of his God. Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree. Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime," Daniel 6: 1-10.

Behind the decree was a plot by Daniel's enemies to bring him into conflict with the king and so break his powerful influence for Jehovah within the kingdom.

Daniel chose faithfulness to God before political office, irrespective of whatever good, it may be argued, he could accomplish through holding that office.

In Daniel's case, the inducement to do wrong was very powerful for he was faced with either death or life and the possible influence he could exert through his political office.

That fact serves to put in perspective the self-serving decisions taken by those who have chosen to occupy the office of First Minister and embrace its status and honour, irrespective of it involving sharing power with one linked to murders and terror and administering funds for the promotion of sodomy.

Rev Ivan Foster.
26th July 2008.