



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Why do Christian parents tolerate the errors taught to children in state schools??



As this publication, which has campaigned for Christian education over many years, comes to an end of its witness, one topic in particular weighs heavily upon the heart of the editor and that is the rejection of the Bible's teaching on the subject of a child's education by the majority of professing Christians in Northern Ireland. In 1979, the Presbytery of Ulster of the Free Presbyterian Church indicated its support for those who wished to establish Christian schools. Sadly, only seven congregations took up the option and entered upon the

task of providing a Bible-based environment within which their children could be taught.

The case for Christian education has been made on many occasions within the Free Presbyterian Church and by many outside of its ranks.

Many Christians, despite the evolutionary dogma their children are subjected to, the filthiness of language encountered by their children within the texts used to teach English literature, the obscenity of modern sexual morality advocated within many spheres of the school curriculum and the general ungodliness of the environment of the state school, have disregarded the warnings and tolerated their children being subjected to such wickedness.

Answer

In answer to the question in the title of this article, I suppose there are a number of reasons why this course of action has been taken.

Let me list some reasons which I believe are behind this decision.

- 1. As is so common today in virtually every matter touching the child, the decision is made by the child! Parents have, to a large degree, abdicated their responsibilities and passed them on to their children.*
- 2. The cost involved in providing a Christian education tells against it as far as some are concerned. Those that fall into this category place little value upon the souls of their offspring.*
- 3. The reproach that must be borne when identified with a Christian school. I have been involved too long with this work not to know from many, what fellow-Christians, indeed, in many cases, fellow Free Presbyterians, have said to them upon learning that they send their children to a Free Presbyterian Christian school.*
- 4. The ambitions some parents have for their children tend to militate against sending them to Christian school since it may in some way hinder their academic or future business careers. How many believers fail to remember the words of Christ to His disciples. "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36.*



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Admiration

Many of our ministers have gladly availed of the opportunity of speaking in congregations within the USA and Canada which have Christian schools, but what they saw there never resulted in any efforts being made to emulate, within their own congregations here in Ulster, those whose work they admired and congratulated overseas.

I believe that had Christian education been availed of to a greater degree, our denomination would have been well served by the labours required.

Message

Quite a few years ago, I published a message which I had preached to those involved in Christian education within the Free Presbyterian Church with a view to encourage them and hoping to evoke the interests of Christians who did not seem to recognise the Bible's instructions to parents and office-bearers within the Church of Christ on this vital matter. In this final edition of The Burning Bush, I would like to reprint edited extracts from that article.

Hopefully it will yet bear some fruit.

THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL — the battleground for the faith

I have no doubt that the educating of our children in Christian Schools is the will of God for His people. The reformers, including Calvin, Zwingli and Knox went to great efforts to include schools within the ecclesiastical framework they were constructing.

Christian Education is every bit as much a part of the divine will as was the building of the room in which the child Joash was hidden for six years a part of the divine plan for the temple.

In 1 Chronicles 28:11 the word 'parlour' is the same one translated 'bedchamber' in 2 Kings 11:2. It was in one of these parlours that the child Joash was safeguarded from the wicked attack of Athaliah.

1. THE SAFETY OF A CHILD LAY AT THE HEART OF A GREAT STRUGGLE.

A struggle was taking place in Jerusalem and upon its outcome would hang the future of the nation and of the royal house of David. Much more than that, God's plan of redemption in Christ hinged upon the events surrounding that one-year-old child. The line of royal genealogy runs right through the loins of Joash. Had he died under the sword of Athaliah then the plan of God to save His elect through the Lord Jesus Christ would have been defeated right there. Your salvation and mine depended upon the safe seclusion of that child



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

and the keeping of him out of the clutches of Queen Athaliah's assassins.

Case for christian education

A case for Christian Education in Northern Ireland could be made, even should the spiritual climate be that of revival. How much more can the case be made in our present circumstances. There is a life or death struggle going on in Ulster. The spiritual and eternal well-being of future generations will be decided upon its outcome. The political controversy involving the British Government's intrigues with the Government of the Irish Republic and their joint attempt to get Dublin involved in the affairs of Northern Ireland is part of that struggle. The subtle replacing of the Gospel of the Grace of God as set forth in the Scriptures with the sacerdotal gibberish that is Romanism is the aim of the Ecumenical Movement. That, too, is part of the struggle to which we refer. But that which concerns us particularly is the struggle which centres upon believers' children in Ulster.

The Education For Mutual Understanding scheme, which has become compulsory within the state schools, has been criticised by virtually all Bible-believing churches and Protestant organisations as an attempt on the part of Ecumenists and Romanists to propagandise Protestant children in the classroom.

It has gone on without any real challenge apart from the efforts being made by our own Christian School movement to warn parents of the dangers and, above all, to provide the Bible's alternative to the state school.

There can be no doubt that Ecumenists believe that their goal can only be achieved when the politics of Protestantism is dead in the constituencies of Ulster, when the religion of Protestantism is dead in the pulpits and pews of Ulster and when the ethos of Protestantism is dead in the schools of Ulster. For error to reign unopposed and unthreatened then there must be the demise of every advocate and avenue of TRUTH. That is what is being sought in our Province.

One of the chief means of propagating the Gospel from generation to generation to generation is by father telling son. It is the responsibility of the believing father to impart to his children the fear and knowledge of the Lord. ' . . . fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord,' Ephesians 6: 4. 'We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: and not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God,' Psalm 78: 4-8.

If the children of Christians are to be taught in a school where anything but the truth of God is made known to them, then the present generation is failing in its God-ordained duty



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

to the next generation. At best, a confused situation is created with home and pulpit contradicted by the school. At the worst, our children will side with error and turn from the Lord. When we permit God's truth to be denied daily before our children then we forfeit the protection of God upon our children and the only outcome will be our children being deceived and carried away with the lie.

II. THE SATANIC CHARACTER OF ATHALIAH'S SCHEME IS SEEN IN THAT ITS SUCCESS DEPENDED UPON THE DESTRUCTION OF CHILDREN.

There is a similarity between Athaliah's plan and the system of education currently operating in the state schools of Ulster. In order for both to succeed children must be sacrificed. The hall-mark of the devil is seen in both.

In the case of Athaliah, she was anxious to safeguard the throne for herself. The royal line of David must be replaced by herself and her Baal-worshipping progeny. So she killed all the possible heirs. What the United Kingdom government has decided to do in Ulster is to break the transmission of our Protestant heritage from the present generation to the next. By and large the Government can not obtain the cooperation of Protestant parents for this, so it must be undertaken when parents and children are separated — in other words, in the classrooms of Ulster. Because what is taking place in the schools is largely hidden from parents (the majority of parents taking little or no interest in what their children are taught), it is simple for the Government to execute a plan which, were its ramifications understood, might well arouse significant opposition. It is the counter-part of that campaign of supplanting that ecumenists and modernists executed within the so-called 'liberal' churches. This time the victims are to be children.

As Athaliah could not be sure of domination of the kingdom until all the seed royal were destroyed, so there can be no certainty of the success of the plan to Romanise Ulster unless the rising generation are deprived of the Gospel and the views and culture that flow from it. Having cut off the Gospel in the churches, the enemies of God's Truth are now concentrating upon that other area of major influence — the schools. There the children are being indoctrinated in the errors of ecumenism. While, in the past, error was taught in the classrooms of Ulster by individual teachers on an incidental basis, now it is part of the curriculum. Now it is law. It must be taught to the children.

Force fed

To be deprived of the Truth and to be force fed with error is to be condemned to eternal death! That is what is taking place in the state schools throughout Ulster. Should our enemies succeed, what will be the future of our offspring, those children that will bear our name into the 21st century? They will have no light of the Gospel to guide them. It will have been replaced by the darkness of Rome. They will live and die without Christ. Can any Christian parent contemplate such a thing without starting in horror and looking



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

around for the course of action that will counter such an evil prospect?

Against God

It is the spirit of Athaliah that is at work in our land. Beyond the scheming of this evil woman was a more evil personage — the devil. She sought to kill the royal offspring. He sought to kill off the Messiah who was to come of David's line. While she sought the throne of Judah, he sought the throne of God.

Behind the short term plans for a uniting and reconciling of the Roman Catholic and Protestant communities in our Province there lies the age-old plan of the devil to frustrate the eternal purpose of God in Christ and to bring in darkness and death where the light and life of the Gospel have been freely enjoyed for centuries. As in Athaliah's Judah there would be none directly related to David, so in ecumenical Ulster it is planned that there will be none directly related to Great David's Greater Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Athaliah came from a long line of murderers and murderesses. She was a daughter of Jezebel who murdered the prophets of God and the good man Naboth, (1 Kings 18:4, 21:8-11, 2 Kings 8:16-18). Her husband, Jehoram, as the first act of his reign, killed his brothers and many of the princes of Judah, (2 Chronicles 21:4). Verse 6 of that chapter explains his actions by saying that he had Ahab's daughter as his wife!

III. THE FRUSTRATING OF THE EVIL SCHEME OF ATHALIAH LAY IN THE RESCUING OF THE CHILD JOASH.

That rescue was undertaken by Jehoshabeath, his aunt, his father Ahaziah's sister. She was married to a godly man who was the High Priest of God, Jehoiada. She was undoubtedly a godly woman, untainted by the Baal-worship of her brother or her father. She undoubtedly understood the crisis that had arisen and saw the need to act. With all the daring that springs from the maternal instincts within a woman's heart she unhesitatingly acted. Her husband, good man that he was, perhaps pondered the consequences of such action. He was a prince in the kingdom and would therefore have considered the political consequences. But not Jehoshabeath.



Rescued from the dead

She rescued the child from among the dead, verse 11. Commentators tell us that she acted before the actual death sentence was carried out. She carried him away from amongst those that were under the death sentence and who would certainly die. Such is the task that every Christian teacher must assist in. Children are born under a double



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

death sentence, the sentence of spiritual death which has been executed and the sentence of eternal death which shall fall upon all who die without salvation. If they are not rescued and brought to Christ, then die eternally they most certainly will. To this is added the sentence of death which the Department of Education has passed upon the Protestant children of this Province. Like the prophets in Elisha's day, they are to be served a deadly pottage under the guise of nourishment, (II Kings 38-41).

Hiding the child

Her plan of rescue entailed a hiding of the child for a period of six years. She hid him from Athaliah and her death sentence. A Christian school is a hiding place from the evil scheme of Satan to destroy the offspring of the believer.

Some would criticise that very aspect of Christian education. 'It is better to expose the child to the world and its ways', they claim. Would it have been better for Joash that he be exposed to the attentions of Athaliah?

In Godly surroundings

The child was secluded and raised in the surroundings of the things of God. Matthew Henry says that it was little wonder that in later life he was 'minded to repair the house of God', 2 Chronicles 24:4. What a childhood, what an education young Joash enjoyed and received. Cared for by the godly woman Jehoshabeath and taught by the godly man Jehoiada it is little wonder that he grew up to delight in the ways of God.

Sadly, later in life, when the high priest Jehoiada died, Joash was seduced away from the things of God by the wicked princes of the land, (24: 17-18).

But while the influence of that early childhood prevailed, Joash walked with God.

It is duty of Christian parents to hide their children from the attacks of today.

God honoured Jehoshabeath by recording her deed twice, in 2 Kings 11 and 2 Chronicles 22. I have no doubt that double honour is likewise due those who give their all in the service of Christ by the teaching of children in our Christian day schools.