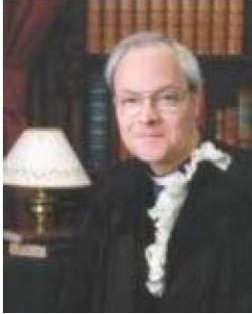


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The apostasy of the Church of Scotland



Prof. Iain Torrance

There are few things that more accurately demonstrate the spiritual state of a denomination than the character of the man elected by its members to be its leader and whose leadership they acquiesce to. When we use that yardstick to gauge the state of the Church of Scotland, we come up with a very sad picture. The Church of Scotland has long been a member of the World Council of Churches, the ecumenical club which promotes every form of false doctrine and anti-Bible sentiment. Consequently, it ought not to surprise us to find this denomination in a most degenerate spiritual state. Nevertheless, it is sad to see such a historic establishment now firmly in the camp of the devil.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is Rev Professor Iain Torrance. Recently he preached a “Christmas” sermon in St Machar’s Cathedral, Aberdeen. In the sermon the poor man showed an abysmal ignorance of the simplest of the Bible’s records, one of which even the most unread individual has at least some knowledge. Yet this “Professor” showed a gross ignorance of the Bible’s account of the birth of Christ. He said: “The sudden appearance of a bright new star was something which could not be hidden. Travellers and pilgrims warned King Herod. It was a royal event. As we all know, the wise men found a child in anything but kingly circumstances. There was a presentation of impractical, symbolic, out of context gifts. Gold, frankincense and myrrh were tribute and hardly appropriate for a child in a manger.”

For a start, the wise men did not meet with Christ while He was in the outhouse of the inn in Bethlehem. By the time of the visit of the wise men, Christ was possibly two-years-old. This may be seen in Herod’s killing of all the male children under that age as recorded by Matthew. “Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men,” Matthew 2:16. Christ is repeatedly called “a young child”, a term denoting a child more advanced than an infant, in verses 8, 9, 11, 13, 14.

Furthermore, what a slur these comments of Professor Torrance are upon the providence of God! Hear what the godly 18th century commentator, Matthew Henry, said of these gifts. “The gifts they presented were gold, frankincense, and myrrh, money, and money’s-worth. Providence sent this for a seasonable relief to Joseph and Mary in their present poor condition.”

Professor Torrance went on: “In 2004 the Scottish Executive will introduce an Anti-Social Behaviour Bill. The consultation process has now been launched. Anti-social behaviour will include harassment and intimidation, noise, drunken and abusive behaviour, vandalism, graffiti, nuisance from vehicles, including abandonment, dumping rubbish and litter. The causes of such behaviour are known and cited: problems in the family, at school, problems with employment, lack of skills, lack of motivation, social and medical problems.”



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Such a diagnosis of such behaviour is erroneous. He makes no mention of the sinfulness of man for that is the true cause of such anti-social activities. Any attempt to assess the problems of mankind that does not take into account human depravity will always arrive at a flawed conclusion. Such is the consequence of abandoning the Bible and resting upon human reason. The sermon continues downward as the professor gives his audience more of the benefits of his learned nonsense! "This sermon is about assuaging fear and despair. That occurs in other contexts as well. The Executive has already published a draft Sexual Health Strategy. Scotland – as many know – has amongst the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in Europe. What fewer know is that between 2001 and 2002 there was a 200 per cent increase in syphilis among men who have sex with men. What that indicates is that those who are most in need are those who are most afraid to seek help. That fear in turn testifies to a persistent homophobia in society at large. It is almost 2004, but gay young people in Scotland are four times more likely than others to report a serious suicide attempt. These are spiritual matters because hatred may only be cured by a change of heart. Actually, we all require a change of heart, because the Church not least has contributed to the prevailing homophobic mindset."

Romans chapter 1 gives us the path down which men will go when they abandon the truth of God. "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves . . . For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet," Romans 1:21-24, 26-27.

Professor Torrance has a wrong view of sodomy and a wrong view of sodomites. He most certainly has not got God's view of this sin. When he blames the "Church" for homophobia, he is, in truth, blaming God, since the traditional Christian view of sodomy is one received from the Word of God. There sodomy is termed an abomination and those who engage in it are especially under the wrath of God.

Professor Torrance is on record as condoning sodomy amongst "ministers". He said last June that "the Kirk would be prepared to appoint an openly gay minister." He would be "utterly untroubled" by the appointment of a homosexual as long as he was "disciplined and effective" in his job!! He went on: "The General Assembly accepted in 1994 that congregations should not discriminate against any person on grounds of marital status or sexual orientation, and it seems to me that is a very positive step. We are utterly untroubled by a person of homosexual orientation who is a minister." "In other words, the Church of Scotland is not going to discriminate against a person who is of homosexual orientation as a minister."

This is consummate folly and wickedness and will lead to the heavy hand of judgment upon all who will follow this blind fool.



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Let it be said that the gospel does have a message even for those who are defiled with such depravity as sodomy. The church at Corinth had those amongst its foundational members who had been saved out of such sin, 1 Cor 6:9-11. The gospel is still able to bring deliverance to those ensnared in depravity.

The problem today with the modern “church” is that the likes of Professor Torrance would have us classify sodomy as a harmless lifestyle and classify those who preach against it as wicked!