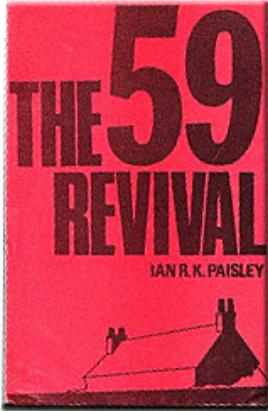




The Burning Bush—Online article archive

"The '59 Revival"



We would urge every Christian in Ulster to obtain a copy of the account of the '59 Revival which was written by Dr. Ian Paisley and first published in 1958.

His account of the great awakening and the terrible spiritual declension, which prevailed in Ulster for almost a century before the tide of mercy wrought such a transformation in our native land, is so very relevant to the state of religion amongst us today.

The narrative of the campaign of Dr. Henry Cooke, which prepared the way for the revival, against the wickedness of Arianism and the compromise shown by the General Synod of Ulster of the Presbyterian Church toward this evil in its midst is particularly instructive for those seeking God's will for today.

Dr Paisley's account quotes from Cooke's biographer, Dr Porter, the following extract which depicts the loneliness of Cooke's position at the beginning of his battle against the error in his church.

"None of his brethren as yet stood by him. They hesitated, they wavered, they questioned his prudence; some denounced him as a rash enthusiast, who would rend the church. He was harassed by the attacks of the enemies; he was wounded to the heart by the indifference of his friends. "Peace, peace," the old Syren cry, was still echoed by the great body of the Presbyterian clergy. Mr Cooke would have no peace with error; he would have no compromise with Arianism." (Page 7, 4th edition.)

This is a book which maps out the path that needs to be taken today and will stir the heart of every Christian with a real desire to see the movings of God again in our land. The book shows clearly that the cost and the course of revival are for the believer to separate from all worldliness, sin and compromising alliances with the Devil and his agents.

On the pages 202 and 203 of the 4th edition of Dr Paisley's book on the '59 Revival are found these very timely and telling words.

The revival of 1859 strengthened Ulster in her stand against Roman Catholic agitation and without doubt laid the foundation which enabled Ulster under the leadership of Lord Carson to preserve her Protestant position.

Dr Cooke's challenging call issued before the revival to the Protestants of Ulster is applicable to us today, faced with a similar but even graver political situation.

"Let the dangers with which you are threatened lead you nearer to the God of salvation, and render you more familiar at a throne of grace, looking for grace to help



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you in time of need. The great fault of Protestants, the fault for which they have suffered, and if they discover it not and mend it not, for which they will suffer again, is their trusting in princes and men's sons, and not in the living God. Experience of the past should have taught us that we could trust our destinies to no man, to no individual, to no party. The scenes that are every day occurring around us should teach us how little the bare name of Protestant is to be trusted, where our lives and destinies are thrown into the scale against the ambition of office."

These words of Dr Henry Cooke not only spoke to the Protestants of Ulster in the early 1800s, and again in the 1960s and 1970s but they surely speak to us yet again in this 21st century as we see Ulster's Protestantism threatened by the putting of 'the ambition of office' before the well-being of Ulster's gospel heritage.

Anyone having difficulties obtaining a copy of the book should [contact us](#) for assistance.

Ivan Foster.
January 15th, 2009.
subsequently updated