



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Have Irish Republicans really repented or is this another deceit?



**The DUP demanded "sackcloth and ashes" but all they got was a T-shirt commemorating the "glorious deeds" of murderers!**

**The leadership of the DUP have been privately propagating the view that the members of Sinn Fein/IRA have repented of their murderous deeds in the past and it is therefore the Christian's duty to forgive them!**

The Scripture portion used to support this is Luke 17:3-4. "Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."

No portion of Scripture could have less to do with forgiving Sinn Fein/IRA for their murderous campaign than this portion.

This is a command for believers in their relationship to other believers whenever a trespass against them is committed. It has to do with the actions of "a brother" not one who has lived and come to political prominence by the gun and the bomb.

John Gill said of the parallel passage in Matthew 18:15: "This is spoken not to the apostles as such, but as believers in Christ; and concerns everyone that stands in the relation of a brother, or church member to each other, and only such; for they that are without, do not fall under their notice, nor are they obliged to take, nor can they take altogether, the same methods with them. This rule respects sins committed by one brother against another, either in word or deed; or such as are of a private nature, and which one only, or at least but few, are acquainted with . . ."

For such a Scripture to be used to support power-sharing with Sinn Fein/IRA beggars belief.

Regarding the repentance of Sinn Fein/IRA, just when did this repentance take place, we may ask? The answer given is one that is equally as baseless as is the use of Luke 17:3-4 as a foundation for forgiving the murderers. We are told that this repentance took place when Sinn Fein/IRA signed up to the St Andrews' Agreement and accepted the legitimacy of the police.

No mention has been made of repentance for past deeds by any member of Sinn Fein/IRA. If repentance is marked by anything it is marked by words of public acknowledgement of wrongdoing. "Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive *us* graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips," Hosea 14:2. Words of repentance spoken to God will be repeated to those against whom the repentant one has sinned. "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth," 2 Timothy 2:25. True repentance is accompanied by an acknowledgement of the truth of God. Just where is there evidence of such repentance and acknowledging of sin on the part of the members of



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### Sinn Féin/IRA?

Were such a section of the population to suddenly show signs of repentance, we would have revival! Sadly, Ulster is experiencing no such thing.

No mention was made of this repentance and of the duty of the Ulster Protestant to forgive the IRA during the election campaign. The votes given to the DUP would have been much easier to count had they done so!

It has to be said that this is being claimed privately and that for the simple reason that were it to be publicly claimed by the DUP that Sinn Féin/IRA have repented of their terrorist past, they would utterly repudiate such a claim.

### **Has Sinn Féin/IRA repudiated its past deeds of terror?**

We will let them answer themselves.

We have included in this article an image taken from Sinn Féin/IRA's official website. It shows their view of the past deeds of eight of their most notorious killers, shot by the security forces when they launched a terror attack upon Loughgall police station on 8th May in 1987.

They will mark that anniversary on the very day that Stormont Buildings will house the formal commencement of the power-sharing government, in which they and the DUP are the main partners.

The Sinn Féin/IRA website lauds the bravery and the heroism of those killers who met their just deserts that day. The website states the objective of the commemoration.

"This web site has been created to commemorate the fearlessness, bravery and audacity of these men, who brought the fight for freedom to the British in a series of raids against a number of barracks throughout Tyrone and Armagh in the period running up to the 8th May 1987, to say nothing of their combined years of IRA guerrilla activity dating back to the earliest days of the current troubles."

Now if Sinn Féin/IRA have repented and turned their back on terrorism, they would be saying that the actions of these men were wicked and sinful and ought not to be honoured. They would acknowledge that they had received the due reward of their deeds, (see Luke 23:41).

Instead of doing that which the dying thief did when he manifested his genuine repentance, they glory still in the wickedness of the IRA's band of killers. The Sinn Féin/IRA website provides a link to another site where these killers are called "martyrs"! That means they believe that they were murdered by the security forces.

Just how can such an organisation be deemed to be repentant and worthy of forgiveness from their victims? Just how can such an organisation be deemed suitable to govern North-



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ern Ireland and fulfil the role of government as outlined by God in Romans 13: 1-5. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."

In truth it is blasphemy to say Sinn Fein/IRA fulfils the criteria of government as set down by God.

Of course, there are those who support the DUP position who point to history and say that terrorists have often come to power in such countries as Israel and many of the African states.

Quite true, but since when did the actions of unbelieving and cruel men become the Christian's rule of faith and practice?

Furthermore, in none of these countries do we find that those professing to be Christians and who campaigned against such terrorists, entered into a power-sharing arrangement with the terrorists and so enabled the terrorists to claim the positions of government. By and large the terrorists came to power by driving out the former rulers and taking over from them.

Sinn Fein/IRA would not be in power if they had been required to defeat the security forces to claim the prize of government. They are in power by virtue of the power-sharing arrangement with the DUP. If Sinn Fein/IRA have the right to be in power as exercised by those now in power in various lands through virtue of their terrorist campaign, then why was not that right conceded long ago?

Why did those Free Presbyterians who might now hold to this view sign a document, published in the press in 1998, which stated that power-sharing with terrorist murderers was "immoral, unethical and unscriptural"?

What has made them come over to this view? It cannot be claimed that it is because Sinn Fein/IRA have changed their position on murder since their own website tells us they have not.

I have no explanation since no real attempt has been made by those who support this view to present their reasons. However, they will have to explain their actions to the Lord. He will not accept their silence and their prevarication!

Ivan Foster, 4th May 2007.