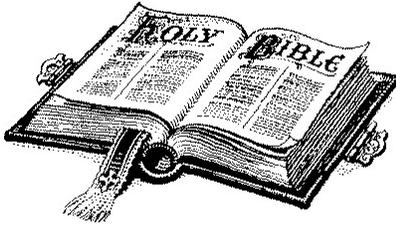




## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

“It is never right to do wrong to do right” — Bob Jones Sr. 1883 - 1968



*This article was posted at approximately 2.00 pm on Thursday May 31st, 2007. At 6.05 pm, I received a phone call from Rev David McIlveen. He told me that the words attributed to him in the article by "The Newsletter" political editor, Stephen Dempster, were never uttered by him and that he would be taking the issue up with Mr. Dempster.*

*I have altered my reply to "The Newsletter" article to take into account Rev McIlveen's denial.*

*However, such words as these do form the basis of the defence commonly used to excuse the actions of Dr Paisley and the DUP in entering a power-sharing arrangement with a political party which has come to power through murder. Accordingly, I will leave the article with the appropriate clarifications inserted. Subsequent to the above, I received an e-mail from Stephen Dempster in which he acknowledges that Rev McIlveen did not make the disputed comment that appeared in his article. Part of the e-mail read: "I feel I should accept responsibility for the paragraph in which he was paraphrased as saying that people should take into account Dr Paisley's decision on power-sharing had been a dilemma and had to take into account the outcome for the Union would have been dire if he had not agreed to devolution. It should not have appeared in the newspaper. I offered my apology and he has graciously accepted."*  
*Ivan Foster. (1/6/07, 3.07 pm)*

**An article appeared in "The Belfast Newsletter" of Thursday 31st May 2007. It was about the monthly meeting of the Ulster Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church the next evening.**

**As is to be expected, it was full of errors, misrepresentations, ecclesiastical 'spin' and falsehoods.**

**It also contained an example of a moral theory developed by an ecumenist in the 1960s. It is called "Situation Ethics"!**

Basically the theory propounds the unscriptural notion that sometimes vital moral principles can be cast aside in certain situations, if it is believed that the cause of God may best be served by doing so. It is a tampering with the standard against which human behaviour will be judged.

Dr Alan Cairns in his Dictionary of Theological Terms, states: "According to the relativist, the idea of what is right can never be settled by divine law, but by the cultural norms. Furthermore, the validity of any decision or behaviour must be judged in the context of the situation in which the subject finds himself. This is known as situation ethics, the idea that the moral quality of an action is not determined by any absolute standard of right and wrong but by the situation in which a person makes his ethical choices.

This ethical relativism has opened the door for the acceptance by society of all sorts of de-



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

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viant behaviour, from abortion-on-demand, to homosexuality, to euthanasia.

Many people see the moral morass which moral relativism has brought the nation as a threat to the very fabric of society. However, among them are those who, though decrying relativism in morals, uphold the same theory with regard to truth. Without absolute truth there are not absolute standards for life. But given that Jesus is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6), and that God's "word is truth" (John 17:17), the Bible is a sufficient statement of moral standards for all men, in all places, at all times." Page 306.

The writer of the article alleges that Rev. David McIlveen, of Sandown Free Presbyterian Church, asked ". . . people to consider the dilemma Mr Paisley had faced in power-sharing with Sinn Fein — suspecting that if he had not, the outcome for the Union would have been dire."

Rev. McIlveen denies uttering these words and is to challenge "The Newsletter" about the truthfulness of its report (See above). However, these words, whoever uttered them, form the basis of the excuse used by the defenders of the DUP's power-sharing with Sinn Fein/IRA and must therefore be addressed for they are an example of "Situation Ethics".

Power-sharing with Sinn Fein is deemed unpalatable and in other circumstances should not take place, but because of the alleged consequences that might have taken place, had Dr. Paisley and the DUP refused to power-share with Sinn Fein, when there "may" have been dire consequences, that which would otherwise be wrong, now becomes right and morally acceptable!

What a pity Daniel did not have the wisdom of those who think like this! He might have been spared the trauma of the lions' den if he had been aware that there were circumstances in which doing what is wrong is sometimes acceptable to God, such as the circumstances he found himself in.

He could comply with the demands of the king and stop praying and so spare himself from being fed to the lions because to do right would result in dire consequences.

Church history would have to be completely rewritten if the millions of persecuted and martyred saints had known that they could do wrong, reject the plain teaching of the law of God and not sin.

Such thinking as displayed by those who advance this defence is utter nonsense and worse than that is unscriptural.

That which is wrong in the light of God's truth never can become right, no matter what circumstances may arise.

It was wrong in the past for the murderers of Sinn Fein/IRA to be placed in government. That was plainly stated in a statement issued by our Presbytery in 1998. Since then, Sinn Fein/IRA may have undergone some peripheral alterations to their political stance but they remain loyal to the actions that took place during their 30 years of terrorist war against the majority of the population in Northern Ireland. They have made that abundantly clear by their celebrating of the attack upon Loughall police station in 1987 when 8 of their killers were shot dead by the security forces. Smiles and platitudes do not evidence a change of



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

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The truth is the DUP wanted into power and have used, as an excuse to cover their inexcusable actions in fulfilling that desire for power, the alleged threat of “dire” action against Ulster if power-sharing are refused.

Even if there were dire consequences, why did not those who would be modern-day Lord Carsons, follow his example and defy the threats?

No evidence that there ever were threats has ever been produced and they have even been denied by Bertie Ahern, the Dublin premier. Jim Allister, MEP, former senior DUP member, has stated that no threat was ever discussed by the DUP executive.

Sadly, the whole thing was a sham to cover the shame of the DUP going back on its word. Now we have the thinking of modernists employed in an attempt to justify that shame. Free Presbyterians need to note that the enemy of modernism is knocking at the gates and, sadly, there appear to be some ready to open those gates and allow the enemy in!

**“It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law,”  
Psalm 119:126.**

Rev. Ivan Foster  
31st May 2007.