



## **The Burning Bush - Online article archive**

### **The voice of the devil heard in Westminster**

#### **"Act now on LGBT+ conversion therapy, ministers urged"**

Thus reads a BBC News headline and so another chapter in the degradation of the United Kingdom and its rejection of God's Word advances!

In the light of Mark 3:14-15, which reads: "And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils," I believe that the Lord Jesus would still have His servants oppose the devil as much as in them lies. For that reason we pen this article.

What is being campaigned for by the enemies of the gospel in the LGBT camp, has rightly been opposed by Rev Gordon Dane. In a statement he issued as Convenor of the Government and Morals Committee of the Free Presbyterian Presbytery, he said: "There are many questionable things that have gone under the banner of "conversion therapy" but what should concern us is that this debate is probably going to be used as a vehicle to attempt to ban the legitimate preaching of the gospel and the call that men repent and be converted. There could be a move to count praying with someone who has asked for prayer on these matters as "conversion therapy". It is certainly the agenda of many in the LGBT lobby to confuse Christian conversion with "conversion therapy""

Yes, this is but another attack upon God's Word under the cover of opposing the "conversion therapy" folly that some so-called 'evangelicals' have espoused.

How like the devil to launch an error and then arouse opposition to that error and in doing so attempt to sweep away that of which the error was but a poor counterfeit!

Thus the devil promoted "conversion therapy" and then stirred up opposition to it but also to that of which it was a wretched fake — gospel conversion!

#### **Westminster Confession of Faith**

The importance of true conversion may be seen in the words of the Saviour in Matthew 18:1-2. "And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." No conversion, no heaven! Christian conversion is a cardinal doctrine of the gospel!

Of true conversion we read in The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 9, Paragraph IV. "When God converts a sinner, and translates him into the state of grace, He freeth him from his natural bondage under sin; and, by His grace alone, enables him freely to will and to do that which is spiritually good; yet so, as that by reason of his remaining corruption, he doth not perfectly, nor only, will that which is good, but doth also will that which is evil."

It is for this change that the Christian should pray and desire to see wrought in ALL sinners, including those caught up in the dreadful perversions multiplying all around the world.

The preaching of the gospel has the power to work this wonderfully thorough and lasting change. Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, made up of converts out of a most profligate society: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God," 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Here is the truth of conversion and the dimensions of it. Gospel converts are washed from the stain and guilt of their sin by the atoning blood of Christ. They are given a holy nature whereby they live a sanctified life. They are declared righteous by God, their sins having been fully paid for by the Saviour on



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

the cross. There He "once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit," 1 Peter 3:18.

### Devil robbed

The gospel robs the devil of some of his chief 'disciples' and for this reason he would destroy it! He has tried every form of attack upon it. Persecution, infiltration, counterfeiting and mockery are among the many weapons he has employed. None has been effective in silencing or stopping the work of true gospel conversion amongst sinners. Acts 8:1, 4-8, 9:31 record the outcome of the devil's efforts to stop the spread of the gospel in the early days of the apostolic age.

*"And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles . . . . Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city. . . . Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."*

### Millions

That has been repeated in many ages. That there is still the preaching of the gospel today is testimony of that. The devil has slaughtered millions of true believers, he has sought to corrupt and defile the truth of God, he has raised up false prophets innumerable and brought ruin upon many denominations that were deceived into believing his lies, and yet a witness to the true gospel remains alive!

Truly, as the Saviour said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away," Luke 21:33.

The devil's attempts to destroy the Word of God have continued unabated since the dawn of time. The mighty providence of God is seen in the frustrating of these attacks and turning them so often to the advance of the gospel. Paul wrote: "For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you," 1 Corinthians 11:19. Thus the Lord uses the devil's onslaught of false doctrine to 'weed out' those who are not genuine believers. John touches upon the same truth in his first epistle. "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us," 2:18-19.

### Stormont

I can recall how that in 1966, the Stormont Government, under the leadership of the ecumenist, Terence O'Neill, issued a decree banning all gatherings of two or three people or more within seven miles of Belfast city centre. This was an attempt to stop crowds protesting against the imprisonment of three Free Presbyterian ministers for their part in protesting against the ecumenism of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland at its June General Assembly. The protest had been led by Dr Ian Paisley. As a result of that decree the protests and protesters were driven out of Belfast into the rural areas of the Province. Some eighteen congregations were born of the subsequent protests! In a small measure it was Acts 8:1 all over again.

Thus the devil has been thwarted throughout the ages!

However, his final overthrow is yet in the future. Right up until the return of Christ the devil will continue in his futile efforts to overthrow the purpose of God! Even when he KNOWS he cannot succeed he will continue!



## The Burning Bush - Online article archive

"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time," Revelation 12:12.

### Glorious return

But when Christ returns in glory, his hindrances to the gospel cause will end.

*"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled," Revelation 20:1-3.*

The Christian has the joy of knowing that the cause of Christ will ultimately and utterly triumph, and that without fail! It has ever been so. Job could say:

*"For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me," 19:25-27.*

Likewise we may say today,

*"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens," 2 Corinthians 5:1. And again: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is," 1 John 3:1-2.*

### Victory assured

Whatever the LGBT lobbyists and their allies in Westminster may achieve with their present campaign, it cannot stop the final God-appointed outcome of all things.

They will eventually fail and their cause perish in the face of the triumph of the Son of God. God has said: "I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear," Isaiah 45:23. "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God," Romans 14:11. In the light of this glorious and immutable declarations we can join with Paul in saying: "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father," Philippians 2:10-11.

Rest easy dear Christian, all is well!

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