



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

A Little Light . . . A Little Hope



Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness, Psalm 112:4.

The recent by-election victory for Rev. William McCrea, when he was elected the Member of Parliament at Westminster for South Antrim, is a beacon of hope in the midst of the deepening darkness of Northern Ireland. This land, once so adorned by the light of evangelical Christianity, has sunk down into anarchy and immorality in the last 50 years. The cause of this decline is not hard to find. It is the religious apostasy of the main churches.

When the Presbyterian Church in Ireland elected Professor J E Davey Moderator of the General Assembly in the mid-1930s, it elevated to the highest position in its church one who was an open denier of the deity of Christ and a mocker of the historical Biblical faith. It effectively turned its back upon God and His Word. All that is clear to those who care to look back down the road that the Irish Presbyterian Church in particular, and Ulster Protestantism in general, have trodden these last 70 years. Whatever flurries of evangelical resistance there may have been on occasions within the main ecumenical denominations, nothing that effected a halt to the inexorable departure from God was accomplished.

Without a shadow of doubt, there are far fewer believers to be found in the ranks of the main churches today than there would have been a generation ago. Outright rejection of the doctrines of the gospel is widespread and in their place the gospel of self-salvation through the sacraments and ordinances of "the church" has been embraced. The inspiration of the Word of God, the deity of Christ, the necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit, the atoning work of Christ the sinner's substitute on the cross and justification of the sinner by the blood of Christ alone through faith in Christ alone — these have all but ceased to be proclaimed in the modern "Protestant" church. In their place is to be found the liturgical, ritualistic bowing and scraping of ecumenical religion with its stated objective of reunion with Rome.

Today, the trappings of popery are to be found adorning the places of "Protestant" worship. Each successive year sees more and more of Rome's unscriptural notions embraced by Presbyterians, Anglican and Methodists. Candles, crosses and even crucifixes are commonplace as are prayers for the dead and even intercessions to the Virgin Mary and the saints. Leading ministers and elders from the main denominations have taken part in various idolatrous functions in honour of the Virgin Mary without the slightest rebuke from their denominations. No modern church member, or church court it would appear, sees these things as offensive and wrong.

It is no wonder then that murder and robbery and other forms of violent crimes are commonplace upon our streets when such lawlessness is condoned within the courts of the main churches. Few ministers have remained faithful to their ordination vows. Few ministers uphold the credal position of their denomination. Thus solemn vows made before God are cast aside. This is the very bedrock of apostasy and the soil out of which anarchy



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sprouts and grows. It is a case of "like people, like priest" (Hosea 4:9). The general citizenry have followed their spiritual leaders in rejecting God's Holy Law and have embraced the philosophy that man is king and may do as he likes!

Ulster people, willing to follow preachers of lies and violators of ordination vows, have found themselves governed by political liars and charlatans and under that leadership their freedoms and liberties taken from them and their enemies ruling over them. *Who is the wise man, that may understand this? and who is he to whom the mouth of the LORD hath spoken, that he may declare it, for what the land perisheth and is burned up like a wilderness, that none passeth through? And the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein; but have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them: therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them,* Jeremiah 9:12-16. This is the inevitable harvest of apostasy from God. Was it not the ecumenical church leaders who subtly persuaded the people to support the "Peace Agreement," and that even after it was disclosed that the British government intended secretly recruiting those very church leaders to sell the "sell-out" deal?

Even when thus warned, Ulster Protestants blindly, stupidly, followed their false shepherds and voted for the treacherous placating of murderers at the cost of those liberties won at such a cost.

Consequently, when we see a majority of people outrightly voting against the pro-agreement Ulster Unionist party candidate, David Burnside, even when he attempted to confuse the electorate yet again by saying that he was against the agreement, it is a hopeful sign of a political awakening.

Of course, the political awakening we look for is that which follows revival. Were Ulster to be visited by the refreshing showers of God's grace, then there would be enormous changes — spiritual, social and political changes! Just as the blessing of God in the days of the Reformation resulted in the people effectively demanding changes in the way they were governed, so it would be again. Let us welcome any element of awakening to the lies of ecumenism that the South Antrim bye-election suggests and let us give ourselves to prayer for God to pour out His Holy Spirit in revival power upon this land.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me, Psalm 138:7.