



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Vatican's Declaration that Protestant Churches are not 'churches in the proper sense' and the hypocritical response of ecumenical leaders.

She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies, Lamentations 1:2.

A very significant event took place of late, though little appears to have been made of it. I refer to the Vatican's reassertion of the superiority of the Church of Rome over all other churches.

Back in 1967, at the time of the much-heralded changes in Rome, when ecumenical Protestant church leaders were justifying their involvement in the movement to re-unite with Rome, by trumpeting loudly about these so-called changes within the Roman Catholic Church, it was stated in the Vatican II document, "The Degree on Ecumenism," that in the Roman Catholic Church alone was found the fullness of the grace of Christ for she alone was the church that Christ founded. Now in 2000, she restates that same dogma in exactly the same words.

So, after some 30 years of talking, compromise and sell-out, and cosying up to popery, the ecumenical "Protestant" churches find themselves in the eyes of Rome exactly where they were at the Reformation -- a lesser and flawed breed of Christian. They are not true churches.

Since the beginning of this century and the first visible steps toward a one-world church, the Churches of the Reformation have followed a path of compromise with Rome. They have conceded to her Biblical doctrine after Biblical doctrine. Those teachings which were central to the creeds of the various churches, in dialogue with Rome, have been jettisoned at her bidding, in complete disregard of the Word of God. Rome's position on virtually every point of major controversy between herself and the Reformers has been accepted by the ecumenists. A perusal of the outcome of talks between the Anglicans and Rome, Methodists and Rome and the Lutherans and Rome will show this to be so. The recent agreements between Rome and the Lutherans and Rome and the Anglicans mean that these two branches of the Reformation have, to all intents and purposes, returned to Rome. They accept the Mass and all that such an acceptance of this dogma entails, as well as the headship of the Pope. Little remains to do to see the complete absorption of Anglicanism and Lutheranism into the Roman Church.

Despite all the surrender by Ecumenists, Rome has not moved one iota from her basic position. Ecumenists may well have hoped for agreement on the basis of some mutual shifting of ground by themselves and Rome. They have continued to talk in these terms throughout the years of dialogue and led their flocks to believe that there have been changes in Rome's views and teachings. Churches such as the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster have mounted a continual challenge to the claims of ecumenists regarding the so-called changes within Rome. There has been a highlighting of the various statements from Rome's spokesmen over the years in which it was made plain that popery had not changed



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in the least and any appearances of change were but ploys to deceive the unwary. Now we see that what the ecumenists were saying about Rome is not the case. Rome has not and will not shift her position and she is saying yet again that unity can only take place upon the basis of a full surrender by the ecumenical churches to her claims and authority. That makes the ecumenical leaders, after their years of deceitful claims, either fools, hypocrites or liars or, more likely, all three!

Up to the present, there has been little or no comment on the matter by ecumenists. What responses there have been suggest great concern on their part. But, in truth, their only concern is to avoid the members of their flocks asking too many awkward questions. The subject merits major discussion, for the most serious questions about the whole ecumenical process have been raised. If the ecumenical leaders were sincere men, they would cease all dialogue and say to their people that Rome has been deceiving them for the last 30 years of talks. But they will not do so. They are determined to bring about a return to Rome, irrespective of the terms upon which it is accomplished, and have always been of that mind. They will just continue on with the Rome-ward movement, telling their people that the issue can be settled by "patience and perseverance."

This latest statement by the Vatican does not come as a surprise to ecumenists. It may well annoy them and embarrass them, for it gives opportunity to the likes of me to point out to the people following them that their leaders are deceiving them and that they are on their way back to popery and that a total repudiation of the Reformation is what the ecumenists plan. For this reason, I believe, there has been little or no publicity given to any response by ecumenists.

Do we not see a parallel to what is happening in the political arena? The powers that be do not wish any public discussion of the blatant deceit that was perpetrated by Blair, Trimble and Co over the "Peace Agreement." There have been breaches of the Agreement by Republican and Loyalist terror groups and their political cohorts from the moment it was signed. But because the hidden agenda behind the Agreement was more important than peace, the murders and robberies and assaults and terrorism on the streets were ignored and the facade that peaceful political and democratic processes are functioning in Northern Ireland was maintained. The betrayal of our democratic rights is taking the same form as the betrayal of our gospel heritage -- a conspiracy of deceit and silence.

The outcome of this can only be that which has ever happened to a people who wickedly ignored the warnings of God's Word. The lessons of God's Word and the plain signals all around us indicate that there is grave danger ahead for the people of this land. Please consider with me

THE PATH OF ECUMENISM IS ONE OF LIES AND DECEIT.

1. It has not the warrant of God's Word. It is not God's will that the spiritual descendants of those who left Rome at God's bidding in the 17th century should now rejoin her and that on her terms. That has been the major lie upon which the whole process has been built. Every pronouncement by the ecumenists has been given weight by a reference to Christ's High Priestly prayer in John 17:20-21. *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe*



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that thou hast sent me,. The unity Christ here prays for is that between the apostles and disciples then with Him and those that would believe on Him through the preaching of the apostles. This is the unity that exists between all Bible-believers. Ecumenism is seeking a unity that very definitely includes those who have long departed from the Bible and repudiate its central truth. Indeed, it is endeavouring to bring those churches which claim allegiance to the Bible under the complete authority of Rome, a system of religion which is based upon a rejection of the Bible, whatever her claims to the contrary may be.

2. From the first, ecumenists have deceived their people. Changes in Rome have been proclaimed and, despite the warnings of God's servants that Rome was merely window dressing, the people have believed these lies. How many protests and demonstrations have taken place to highlight the deceptions? How many leaflets printed and sermons preached have there not been in order to draw people's attention to the ecumenical fraud? Men have gone to jail, been fined and bound over by the courts in order to warn their fellow citizens of this deception. Sadly, the nation appears to have ignored these warnings.

3. The lies of ecumenists have continued right up to the present. As we highlighted in our June/July issue of "The Burning Bush," there was a Free Presbyterian Church protest outside St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast against the Church of Ireland's involvement in the Toronto talks earlier this year. The central issue of the talks was the uniting of Christendom under the headship of the pope. Archbishop Robin Eames, the head of the Church of Ireland, denied that the Church of Ireland was involved in any such plan. Yet the Church of Ireland had a representative at the Toronto talks, one Dr. Samuel Poyntz, former Bishop of Connor. In that same issue of "The Burning Bush" we quoted the words of a Church of Ireland minister, Rev. William Hoey. He said the following in his parish magazine: " For as there are so called Protestants who would sell their soul and have peace at any price, there are so called Protestant Clergy and indeed they have their followers, who see nothing wrong in Roman Catholicism and are working towards union with that church, and would have no qualms about having the Pope as head of any united church. Well might we say, - "with friends like these who needs enemies?" There is a meeting in Canada this month and our own church will be represented and these very things will be discussed." It is clear that it is not just the Free Presbyterian Church that sees Ecumenism as a sell-out to Rome. There are those within the ecumenical churches who see it as such as well and who do not believe their leaders. They are right to do so for the ecumenical lies continue today. They would best underscore their rejection of the words of their leaders and best show an example to their flock by obeying God and getting out of their ecumenical denominations. That is what the Bible requires them to do. *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them,* Ephesians 5:11.

II. THE PATH OF ECUMENISM IS ONE OF CONFLICT WITH GOD.

Here is where the nation is going under the leadership of Ecumenism.

1. There is only one alternative to obeying God --DEFYING GOD Please read Amos 4:6-12. See what becomes of a people who refuse the warnings and the chastenings of God. God goes forth to meet them in judgment, verse 12. That is what Ulster invites upon herself by her continual rejection of God's Word and His providential dealings with us of



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late. We have been delivered more and more into the hands of our enemies, but still Ulster follows the counsel of those who lead us in this way. Our troubles can but increase if there is no rejection of the lies and deceits of Ecumenism.

2. Blessing comes by way of obedience but utter ruin will come of defiance. If we obey God it will be well with us. If we defy God, we will pay the high price of disobedience. Please read Deuteronomy 30:15-20.

3. Do we not see the beginnings of that ruin amongst us today? A plague of lawlessness and evil has broken out in our society. Neither the aged nor the infant is safe from perverse and wicked men in our land. Murder and violence fill the land to an unprecedented degree. Christian, it is time to be alarmed for the land. It is time for the actions of Aaron, in Numbers 16:41-50, to be followed by believers. Get out of ecumenical denominations and get to the place where you can stand before God in prayer for the land. That is the only hope for Ulster.

III. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DESPERATELY NEEDS REVIVAL.

The poison of false doctrine has almost quenched the light of truth in this day. We need God to pour out His healing, reviving, refreshing Spirit once again. This He has promised to do if His people seek for such an outpouring. *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land,* 2 Chronicles 7:14. See in these familiar words . . .

1. The people who must act. *My people, called by my name.* The burden of responsibility rests upon the shoulders of God's people today.

2. The need for a confessing and turning from sin. The trend amongst Christians today is toward the world and not away from it! Christians seem to be striving to get as close to the worldly in their habits, their dress, and their speech as they can. The distinctive marks of modesty and decorum have been abandoned by many. The consumption of alcohol, cinema going, dancing and immorality are all too common amongst professing believers. This can but accelerate the decline and hasten judgment in our land.

3. A call to earnest prayer. The prayer meetings are being neglected rather than thronged. At a time when the need for prayer is paramount it would be no exaggeration to say that 50% of professing Christians do not regularly and faithfully attend prayer meetings! The neglected prayer meeting is the most woeful sign of the times in which we live and is a sure harbinger of approaching tragedy.

4. A most gracious and encouraging promise. That promise was given for a people should they ever come under God's judgment. The words just before the verse show this to be so. *If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people.* These are the very conditions that spiritually prevail at present amongst us! The rain of God's blessing has dried up; there is a devouring of the land by voracious human locusts and there are spiritual pestilences amongst us. This promise was made for us. May we dare claim it in prayer!