



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

The bully and the coward

The following news items highlight what I believe is the increasing 'bully-boy' tactics of the 'pro-everything that is against the teaching of the Bible' brigade and the shameful cowardice of some professing Christians!

- BBC news report: [Dalriada Teacher apologises for 'Darkest Day' abortion reference](#)
- Belfast Newsletter report: [Northern Ireland abortion: Dalriada School launches 'critical incident' probe into pro-life display](#)

In this case a school teacher mounted a 'hashtag' which is associated with those who are aggrieved at the recent imposing of 'unregulated' abortion legislation upon Northern Ireland, coupled with legislation that permits 'same-sex marriage'.

Both of these changes in the law are absolutely contrary to the fundamental teaching of the Bible, which is the very foundation and fabric of a true Christian's faith.

The 'hashtag' in question is made up of two words. They are '#Darkest Day'. This is a reference to the recent dark day when the imposed legislation came into power here in Ulster, October 22nd. The actual 'display' measures a mere couple of inches and is almost unreadable in the picture of it mounted on the BBC website.

Nevertheless less there were howls of protest and outrage from the supporters of this legislation and a furious outburst aimed at the teacher deemed responsible for the 'display'!!

What followed was most disappointing. The BBC headlines tells it all. Teacher apologises for 'Darkest Day' abortion reference. This was the teacher's response to the school principal, Tom Skelton's reaction to the hashtag being mounted!

There is not much of the the spirit of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who when threatened with a death most terrible "answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up," Daniel 3:16-18.

What of Daniel's attitude when he was facing death for refusing to submit to the king's ungodly decree outlawing all prayer except to the king himself? He obeyed God in the face of death? "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime," Daniel 6:10.

Or what of Martin Luther who was placed in a similar life-threatening situation to that of the aforementioned men for his defiance of the Pope and popery in 1521? He responded to the threats issued against him: "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen."

Sadly, the modern 'evangelical' is all too ready to drop his/her protest and quickly cast aside the honour of the Lord and the glory of His name and the truth of His Word, doubtless, in this instance, in order to safeguard a teaching portion.

Were such a spirit to have prevailed in the times of challenge in ages past, we would have no gospel today!

I am reminded of the words of John 12:32-43. "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."



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It is a most dreadful thing to be ashamed of the truth of Christ out of a fear of man or a desire to hold onto a position. "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels," Mark 8:38.

Are not those fearful words?

Paul's counsel needs to be heeded today. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand," Ephesians 6:13.

May the Lord put spiritual backbone into His people again.

Ivan Foster.

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