



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

Reply to ecumenical letter-writers

As one of the usual 'Easter' unity events, Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland ecumenists in the Castlewellan area had what has become an annual march.

Free Presbyterian ministers in the area wrote to 'The Mourne Observer' and protested at the anti-Bible nature of the event.

The protest was reported in the 'Belfast Telegraph' - read the report [here](#).

The letter of protest led to a number of reactions from ecumenists to which this letter is the final response by Rev Daniel Henderson on behalf of the local Free Presbyterian ministers.

It is refreshing to read of the spirit of protest that is still alive in the Mournes!

Ivan Foster.

Dear Editor,

We are writing a final response to the letters that have been published in relation to the Free Presbyterian Ministers' Protest Letter against the deliberate and shameful act of wilful apostasy demonstrated publicly in Castlewellan on Good Friday.

Some seem to think that this event was a great success due to the increased numbers that participated, but it was an act of defiant stubbornness against a sincere warning from God's inerrant, inspired and infallible Word. From the outset let us be clear. Men may be applauding this apostasy; but the true and living God is most certainly not. Romans chapter 1 verse 18 outlines the Lord's views on false ecumenism: "For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness..."

The letters published, including that of the Castlewellan Bible Prayer Group and Churches Forum Secretary Ronald J. Hamilton, seem to have completely missed the point that was initially expressed. The Protest raised by the local Free Presbyterian Ministers was not politically motivated in any way; it was Biblically motivated.

The Scriptures are abundantly clear in Galatians chapter 5 verse 1: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Our desire was - and still is - to emphasise the fact that this 'Walk of Witness and Reconciliation' was wrong. Those that are saved by God's grace have a duty to stand against error; not embrace it. Christians are not to be "entangled" in error. We are called to separate from it.

Therefore, in reply to all the letters that were published, we would like to repeat the fact that the Roman Catholic Church is not a Christian Church as outlined in the Scriptures. The Scriptures make it abundantly clear that any "church" which promotes the ungodly doctrine of salvation by works and does not accept the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Way of Salvation is not a Christian Church; but rather an institution that true Christians ought to be separated from.

In conclusion, let us also emphasise the fact that we do not hate Roman Catholics, but rather the opposite. We love Roman Catholics. We love all individuals for Christ's sake. That is why we raise a voice of opposition against the system, which the Scriptures clearly teach is leading their souls to eternal destruction. It is our sincere appeal, that all reading this letter will turn away from dead religion and instead turn to Christ. He is the only One that can save (Acts 4:12). It is our heart's desire and prayer that men and women would call upon the Lord alone for their salvation. Romans chapter 10 verse 13 states: "For whosoever shall call upon



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the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

In defence of Christ,

- Rev. Daniel Henderson (Moneyslane F.P.C.)
- Rev. Andrew Patterson (Mourne F.P.C.)
- Rev. Ian Harris (Annalong F.P.C.)
- Rev. David Smith (Banbridge F.P.C.)
- Rev. Paul Hanna (Mount Merrion F.P.C. – Belfast)
- Rev. Gordon Ferguson (Ardaragh F.P.C. – Interim Moderator)