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AN OLD BATTLE, AN OLD ENEMY, OLD TACTICS, AND OLD WEAPONS!!

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance with a despiteful heart, to destroy it for the old hatred; therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will stretch out mine hand upon the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethims, and destroy the remnant of the sea coast. And I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them," Ezekiel 25:15-17.

The weapons of war that men employ have changed radically over the years. Those ready to be employed by nations today are beyond what men could have imagined a generation ago!

However, there is a war that has been ongoing since the beginning of this world and earlier still, which is executed with the same weapons and tactics with which it began!

I refer to that war which has raged ever since the devil and his angels rebelled against the Lord and then, by the overcoming of Adam and Eve by temptation, recruited mankind as a means of enlarging upon and advancing the war against the Lord.

The motive behind that war, the tactics implemented, the weapons employed and the battleground are ever the same!

Yet, for all that, Christians tend to be easily deceived into forgetting these simple facts. Were these facts but remembered, a great advantage over the devil and his agents could be gained. All the lessons of God's past tactics, weaponry and victories would be ours to use successfully against our enemy today.

But sadly, we so soon forget the past and its lessons!

Ezra lamented that fact in his day!

"And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this; should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldst not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping? O LORD God of Israel, thou art righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day: behold, we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this," Ezra 9:13-15.

Earlier, Daniel had lamented the same sad truth.

"We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee." Daniel 9:5-7.

Brethren and sisters, the same sad saga is being repeated today within our ranks!

The present controversy regarding the dreadfully wicked folly of the Democratic Unionist Party in promoting the cause of sodomy by endorsing and presenting to voters a woman who adheres to the perversions of sodomy, as a candidate worthy of their vote in a local council election back on May 2nd of this year, is the case in question. Such an action has rightly scandalised many Christians in Ulster.

However, this assault upon God's truth has seen some motivated by a foolish loyalty to the organisation they have aligned themselves with over the years and the political interests of which they have laboured to advance, rejecting what God's Word commands them to do in such circumstances but rather following the



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notions of human reasoning.

I say that there is nothing new in this for I, and those who like me, can recall the controversy surrounding the the exposures of the wickednesses of the World Council of Churches and the Ecumenical Movement and its 'Romeward Trend' back in the 1960s, see a repeat of the actions and hear again the same old arguments used to defend disobedience to God.

Many Christians in membership of those denominations which were involved in the 'Ecumenical movement' back in the 1960s, obeyed God and separated from the uncleanness of ecumenism. However, many put forth arguments against such a response.

Now they were never able to bring forth a word from the Bible to defend their response but then that would be impossible for they were acting in defiance of the Word of God!

I say it is happening again!

Some will remember the arguments used to defend staying in the ecumenical churches!

"I will fight from within to defeat ecumenism!"

"There are many who seek to hold fast within the denomination and I am not going to abandon them!"

"My denomination has served the country well and it would be wrong to leave it now!"

These arguments are being 'rehashed' already by Christians, even Free Presbyterians, within the DUP, who seek to justify their "staying in"!

I have read it stated that some think that they can "get the party to review this decision" and "go back to its ethos".

That begs the question: "Why could those who believe this not influence the party to retain its ethos??!!"

If they failed to influence the party to remain true to its founding principles, it is a simple truth to state that to have it reverse its decision is all the more difficult, some might say impossible.

Apart from the logical arguments against remaining in the DUP, the most important reason for leaving is that which I stated to one I have known and been friends with for many, many years.

"I have to tell you that you are wrong. Those that embrace sodomy as an acceptable lifestyle lose the only means by which they can reform - the grace of God!!

You battle WITHOUT Him XXXXXX, and therefore you cannot win!! You simply remain within an organisation that has offended God."

You become an offence to God in truth by staying in amongst that organisation that has pitched its tent toward Sodom, Genesis 13:12.

One man was heard to say that if the DUP goes down then Ulster will go down! Therefore he would stay and fight for the continuance of the DUP.

That man has dethroned God and made the DUP the 'Defender' and 'Upholder' of all that is good in this land!

Surely it must be seen that such a statement is a blasphemy!

Our forefathers in the 'Home Rule' crisis of 1912 coined the slogan in the midst of that battle: "For God and Ulster"!

Their cause was God's cause and therefore their hope of deliverance was placed in Him.



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Those that remain within the DUP apparently do so for they believe it holds the key to Ulster's wellbeing. How they can square that with the DUP endorsing a sodomite candidate is impossible to conceive! Such a decision will most certainly bring ruin to the DUP and all who put their trust in it for deliverance.

Deciding to take up residence in Sodom cost Lot his family and all his earthly possessions. None today that trust in an organisation which embraces sodomy can hope for anything more and should expect nothing less!

Obedience to God, irrespective of the folly that human minds declare such an act to be, is the ONLY right and safe course of action.

Doubtless, Jehoshaphat thought that by aligning himself with Ahab he would maintain the political and military stability of his own kingdom.

How wrong he was!

"And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD," 2 Chronicles 19:2.

He learned the folly of human logic and the dreadful cost that such folly imposed.

I would that Dr Paisley had heeded the message of this verse when I pressed it upon him at a meeting between a delegation from the Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church and the leaders of the DUP in November 2006. The delegation was there to tell him of its fears regarding power-sharing with IRA murderers.

The adopting of a sodomite candidate indicates a hatred of God. Seeking to prop up the DUP, in the words of prophet Jehu, amounts to helping the "ungodly" and loving them that "hate the LORD"!

The same logic that is being espoused by the DUP 'stay-inners' could have been adopted by Paul in the face of Peter's sinful folly in siding with the Judaising party in the early church.

"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed (condemned). For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?" Galatians 2:11-14.

It can be seen that there were many, even Paul's missionary companion, Barnabus, thought it best to stay quiet and do nothing about Peter's folly.

However, now all Christians recognise that by OBEYING GOD Paul saved the early church from a grave sin that would have destroyed it. Judaisers were departing from the gospel and would have therefore brought down that dreadful curse stated by Paul earlier in this Galatian epistle. "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ," Galatians 1:6-10.

The truth is plain. If men or organisations abandon God's truth and embrace a falsehood, then they can only expect the judgment of God to fall on them. In the face of such a decision by an organisation of which we have been members, we can please men and stick with the organisation and try to undo the folly or we can obey God and separate ourselves from the error. By separating we thereby serve TRUTH and our



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NEIGHBOURS, witnessing to them how great is the folly they are involved with and what it is will follow their departure from God's truth by that organisation. By separating we show why, for our own good, we must forsake that which has come under God's judgment and which will be visited upon all who defy God and remain when He has said depart!

Is not all this familiar ground? Have we not been here before? Is this not the stand and witness of the Free Presbyterian Church in the face of the folly of the ecumenical churches and the old Ulster Unionist Party and its 'O'Neillism'? Did not Dr Paisley's pulpit, and every pulpit he occupied in those years, some half a century ago, ring with such words. The other FP pulpits all made up the chorus that echoed his cry and witness throughout the land.

Let any say that God did not honour and bless such a witness!!

Why then are so many of our pulpits silent on this issue today!! Why have few, to my knowledge, followed the example of Rev John Greer of Ballymena or of Rev Noel Hughes of Ballyclare or of retired minister, Rev James Beggs?

We once believed that in the providential grace of God the Free Presbyterian Church had "come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14.

Is this no longer the case?

May the Lord give again the grace that was given to His servants to protest and contend as in those years of revival blessing!

Ivan Foster.

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