

## GOODNIGHT, MR GREAT-HEART [ *continued* ]

the apostasy of his day, Dr. Paisley filled the shoes of more than one 'Bunyan character.' Faithful, Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth: each of these grand titles is strikingly appropriate.

This stalwart in intercession, passionate evangelist, and huge-hearted friend saw many hundreds of souls brought to saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. In a sermon preached by Dr Paisley on 12 January 2003 – 'The First Five Minutes After Death,' he announced: *"If you hear in the press that Ian Paisley is dead, don't believe a word of it. I'll be more alive than ever ... I'll be singing as I sang never before."* In the same message he spoke of those who, *"... pass over triumphantly into the eternity of the blessed."* He has been given grace to do exactly that.

We extend our deep sympathy to his wife Eileen and family, Sharon, Rhonda, Cherith, Ian and Kyle, his brother Harold and sister Margaret (and their families) and assure them of our prayers. *Till we meet at Jesus' feet.*



## GOODNIGHT, MR GREAT-HEART

We shall see you in the morning.

The news that came through to us on Friday, 12 September, informing us that our highly esteemed former pastor, Lord Bannside, had passed away saddened all of our hearts.

The name of Dr. Ian R.K. Paisley is synonymous with the Martyrs Memorial. His Spirit-anointed ministry on the Ravenhill Road, commenced in 1946, necessitated the construction of what was then (in 1969) the largest Protestant church to be built in the British Isles in the 20th century.

From its pulpit sounded out the Gospel message, under such striking titles as, 'Man of Sorrows' (1970), 'How to Set a Church on Fire' (1970), 'The Greatest Creed Born at the Wondrous Cross' (2001), 'Meet Mr. Turn-Away from the Town of Apostasy' (2003) – the latter message sounding like a character and location from John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress.

In terms of his masterful and bold proclamation of the Gospel of Christ, his strident denunciation of error, and faithful exposure of

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 22–26 September @ 8.00pm each evening: **AUTUMN WEEK OF PRAYER**, inc. Rev. Lyle Boyd on Wednesday 24 Sept. @ 8.00pm.
- Sunday, 5 October @ 3.10pm: **ADULT BIBLE CLASS** (with Rev. Ian Kenny, Dromore FPC) ... @ 8.30pm: **LADIES MEETING** (with Mrs. Karen Murray, Tandragee).

## MEETINGS TODAY

- Sunday School & Bible Class – 10.15am
- Morning Worship – 11.30am • Evening Service – 7.00pm
- Supper and Fellowship Time (after evening service)



## WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED ‘THE REDEEMER WE EXALT’

Text: **1 Corinthians 1:23.**

*“But we preach Christ crucified ... .”*

Neither Jew nor Greek warmed to this message; the former wanted something exciting (a sign), the latter preferred something educating (wisdom). However, in his determination to preach nothing but Christ Crucified, the apostle Paul refused to give people what they wanted; instead, he gave them what they needed.

Why this emphasis on *“We preach Christ crucified”*?

### **(1) BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONLY MESSAGE THAT PROCLAIMS ESCAPE FROM A GUILTY PAST.**

When men are sufficiently sobered to consider their past, two basic remedies tend to be suggested:

#### **(a) CAST IT ASIDE.**

The world’s counsel is to, *“Forget about it!”* However, we cannot, by a mere act of will, cut the bond that ties today to yesterday. Sin pushes for payment (**Numbers 32:23; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Galatians 6:7**).

#### **(b) COUNTERBALANCE IT.**

Men hope their good deeds will outweigh and compensate for their bad ones. **Isaiah 64:6** underlines the fact that this is impossible because even our best deeds are defective and defiled. Spurgeon advised: *“Nine out of ten of the arrows in a minister’s quiver ought to be shot at the sinner’s good works, for these are his worst enemies.”*

### **(2) BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONLY MESSAGE THAT PERMITS ENTRANCE INTO A GREAT PRESENT.**

One proverb runs: *“There are many ways of going out of the world, but only one of coming into it.”* It is the same for salvation: the only way to enter into eternal life is through “Christ crucified” (**Isaiah 45:22; Acts 4:12**).

*“God can create ten thousand billion worlds, but He can never make another Cross. For the Cross is the ultimate of the energies of the Divine attributes united to carry out one great act – the act of redeeming sinners. Creation cost God His breath. Redemption cost God His blood.”* (I.R.K. Paisley).

### **(3) BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONLY MESSAGE THAT PROMPTS EXPECTATION OF A GLORIOUS PROSPECT.**

That the unrepentant are excluded from heaven is plain from **Revelation 21:8**. Heaven is barred to all who have never turned from sin by looking to “Christ crucified.”

*“The Gospel Ship has not had an easy voyage since it was launched by the Hand of Grace in the Red River of the Redeemer’s blood. Its passage has been stormy. [But] ... through good report and ill report, through dark scandalous attacks and wicked frontal assaults this Gospel Boat will sail on and on until the great day shall arrive. That is the day which shall end all days and usher us from time to Eternity”* (I.R.K. Paisley).

Joseph Irons asked:

*What voice is that that speaks for me  
In Heaven’s High Court for good?  
And from the curse has set me free,  
‘Tis Jesus Precious Blood.  
What theme my soul shall best employ  
My harp before my God;  
And make all Heaven to ring with joy?  
‘Tis Jesus Precious Blood.*

*[ To catch up on any messages you may have missed from the Martyrs pulpit, call in at our church site – [http://www.freepresbyterian.org/church/martyrs\\_memorial](http://www.freepresbyterian.org/church/martyrs_memorial) – and scroll down to “Sermons” ]*