

ALF McCREARY'S 'DECEMBER DARKNESS'

It's been a while since I shone the spotlight of God's Word on the writings of the Belfast Telegraph's 'Religion Correspondent', Alf McCreary. In fact it was back in October 2013 when I then wrote an article with the following heading –

'Rev' Liz Hughes and 'Elder' Alf McCreary: "Blind leaders of the blind"?

That article can be accessed on http://www.takeheed.info/pdf/current-concerns-2013/Liz_Hughes_blind_leaders_at_Mass.pdf and the matters it addressed are closely tied to what I will write in this short article.

In his 'Review' page in the Belfast Telegraph of **Saturday 20th December 2014** his main article was headed '**We must never let acts of evil darken the Christmas spirit**'. The first glaring unscriptural statement by Mr McCreary that I wish to draw attention to is this – he wrote "**Why do we bother with Christmas. I believe that deep down there is a goodness in nearly everyone who wants to share in the spirit of the times and who contributes to the best of our common humanity**".

Mr McCreary is an elder in the Presbyterian Church and yet he seems oblivious to what he would have affirmed as being his beliefs at his ordination. At his ordination as an elder he would have affirmed that **The Bible** was his '**Supreme Standard of Faith**' and that **The Westminster Confession of Faith** was his '**Subordinate Standard of Faith**' (after the Bible). In **The Bible** we read "**There is NONE righteous, no, NOT ONE... there is NONE that doeth good, no, NOT ONE**" (Romans 3: 10 & 12; cf Psalm 14:1-3) but Mr McCreary obviously chooses to ignore that clearly stated divine truth. Then he also he chooses to ignore what **The Westminster Confession of Faith** states. In **chapter VI** it speaks of '**The Fall of Man, of sin and of the Punishment thereof**'. Part of that section reads – '**Our first parents, being seduced by the subtlety and temptation of Satan, sinned in eating the forbidden fruit... By this sin they fell from their original righteousness and communion with God and so became dead in sin and WHOLLY defiled in all parts and faculties of soul and body. They being the root of ALL MANKIND, the guilt of their sin was imputed, and the same death in sin, and CORRUPTED NATURE, conveyed to ALL their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation. From this original corruption, whereby we are UTTERLY indisposed, disabled and made opposite to all good, and WHOLLY inclined to evil, do proceed all actual transgressions. This corruption of nature, during this life, doth remain in those that are regenerated...**'

The second and final glaring unscriptural statement by Mr McCreary that I wish to draw attention to is this – he wrote **“There will still be the bad news but hopefully in the Christmas season each of us will have experienced even a little magic and stardust. And for believers there is the greatest truth of all, so beautifully captured by Betjeman in his poem that “God was man in Palestine, and lives today in bread and wine...”** (John Betjeman was a ‘High Church Anglican’ so no real surprise that he wrote such ‘transubstantiated’ words).

When you read comments like that by Mr McCreary it explains why he (and his minister, ‘Rev’ Liz Hughes’) are so disappointed at not being able to take the **‘consecrated elements’** when they happily attend a **Roman Catholic ‘Mass’**.

The **“bread and wine”** are symbols of the Lord’s death at Calvary but He does not **“live”** in them for again the Apostle Paul crushes that false teaching when he stated **“God, who made the world and all things in it... dwelleth NOT in temples made with hands”** (Acts 17: 24) and that applies not just to man-made **‘Temples or Tabernacles’** but to anything made by human hands including **‘consecrated elements’**.

Moving on, in a short article headed **‘Bishop appointment sign of the times’** Mr McCreary was ‘singing the praises’ of the decision by the Church of England to appoint their first female ‘Bishop’, ‘Reverend’ Libby Lane. Not unexpectedly he could not resist ‘getting a dig in’ at the Presbyterian Church by writing these words **“This leaves the Irish Presbyterian Church far behind the rest, though they were the first to ordain women”**.

Every year, regular as clockwork, Mr McCreary crusades for Irish Presbyterians to elect a woman as Moderator and as a sign of increasing Presbyterian defection from the teachings of God’s Word, Mr McCreary’s own minister, Liz Hughes actually was in a three-way tie after the first round of voting earlier this year but lost out in the second round of voting. No doubt in the New Year Mr McCreary will once more be ‘beating the drums’ via his column to rally support for the election of his minister as Moderator in 2015.

Mr McCreary’s **‘December Darkness’** is a promotion of all that is harmful to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and to the spiritual well-being of much of what claims to be His Church.