

# The Young Covenanter

The National Covenant, first signed in Greyfriars Church in February 1638, was intended to bind the Scottish nation to God and to the Reformed Religion. Both Charles I and his son, Charles II, saw it as nothing more or less than a direct challenge to their "Divine Right" and absolute power over the Church, and a period of persecution began which intensified in 1660-88, often referred to as "the Killing Times". In 1661 the National Covenant was condemned as high treason and in 1662, by Royal Proclamation, the Covenanters' "conventicles" (or meetings) were strictly forbidden. Anyone found attending them could be put to death on the spot.

In one of his books, Dr. D. M. Lloyd-Jones refers to an incident that took place in those dreadful times. A young woman was on her way to attend a Communion Service arranged by the Covenanters for a Sabbath afternoon. On her way, she turned a corner only to come face to face with a band of soldiers looking for people going to the prohibited Service. She knew she was trapped. Speaking roughly and

threateningly, they asked her where she was going and the purpose of her journey. Her answer was, "My Elder Brother has died and they are going to read His will this afternoon, and He has done something for me and has left something for me, and I want to hear them read the will."

They allowed her to go on. What she had said, of course, was the truth. Her Elder Brother, the Lord Jesus Christ, had died, and in her place, in order to secure her salvation; and at the Communion Service his last will and testament would be read and she would then be told of what he had done for her and all the benefits he had left for her. In Brown's Catechism, the Question is asked, "What are the legacies left in his testament?" and the Answer given, is, "They are all the benefits of the covenant, even HIMSELF, and ALL THINGS in and with him." Included in the "all things" are pardon, acceptance, redemption, the Holy Spirit to comfort, joy and peace, sanctification, assurance, grace to persevere, and the certain hope of life eternal.

Let us make sure that, by faith, we too are related to Christ, and let us enjoy to the full, the precious legacies he has bequeathed. As for the Lord's Supper, we should highly value it, faithfully and regularly attending its observance, lest we ever forget what the Lord has done and what, in his wonderful love, he has left to us and to all true believers.