

❖ Reasons Ministries ❖

Hell Yes or Hell No! Which is it?

In his recent book, *Love Wins*, Rob Bell, a Michigan pastor, has created a firestorm of controversy due to his assertion that in the end, God's love will make hell irrelevant . . . at least for the vast majority of people. While he denies being a universalist (the belief that all will be saved regardless of their knowledge or decision for Christ), Bell certainly proposes something close to universalism saying that many, if not most people, will respond to God's love, even after they die because God's love is more powerful. In other words, Hebrews 9:27 (man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,) is wrong, as is Jude 1:7; and Jesus, of course in, Matthew 18:8 and 25:41, 25:46 and others.

There are several problems with what Rob Bell is teaching beside it being false. First, if what Rob Bell says is true, there is no free will. Why? Because in the end, if we willfully reject Christ in this life, we will be saved against our will in the next life. This makes our decision for Christ in this life essentially meaningless. Second, if all will be saved, then there will never be any real justice for a person like a Stalin or Hitler. Why not live anyway you want in this life, if in the next life we will be saved anyway. Third, Jesus clearly taught the reality of an eternal hell. If Rob Bell is right, then Jesus is wrong. If Jesus is wrong, then he cannot be the Son of God. In Matthew 25:31 Jesus indicates that the punishment meted out by God will be eternal. In verse 26 Jesus contrasts the destiny of the cursed with the destiny of the righteous where the cursed will be in eternal punishment and the righteous in eternal life. In the story of Lazarus and the rich man the two are separated by an impassable gulf between them (Luke 16:26). Jesus states clearly that neither is able to cross the gulf between them. So who is right, Jesus or Rob Bell? There are many other verses which tell us hell is eternal. Revelation 20 makes it clear that hell is eternal for all those whose names are not found in the book of life.

The Bible teaches that God gives us this life to decide to either accept or reject his offer of eternal life through his Son. Hebrews 9:27 tells us that all will face judgement after they die. In this life we actualize our eternity by what we do with Christ. But if all will be saved in the end, or even most will be saved in the end then what possible motivation would we have for evangelism or for those we evangelize to receive Christ. This is the danger of Rob Bell's teaching. His teaching is not only wrong, but it's logical out-workings would render the Great Commission the "Why Bother Now, Why Not Wait Till After We Die Suggestion." Human nature would seize upon universalism as the best of both worlds. We get to do whatever we want now, and still have the blessings of heaven sometime after we die. In addition, we lose all urgency to win as many to Christ as possible in this life. This is why Rob Bell's theology is both dangerous and deadly.

It is vital that we hold on to the clear teaching of Scripture concerning the eternity of hell and reject Rob Bell's false teaching. Why? Because the eternal destiny of people depends on it.

Does Your Congregation or You Have Questions??

About God and the problem
of suffering?

The Bible's reliability?

The uniqueness of Christ?

What is a worldview?

Christianity vs. Other
Religions

Basic Apologetics?

Evolution vs. Creationism

**I can help with answers!
Give me a call or send me
an email!**

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Reasons Ministries' Mission

The mission of Reasons Ministries is to equip believers to know what and why they believe so they can stand firm in the Christian faith, be effective tools in God's hand for reaching those that do not yet know Christ and to be able to apply practical apologetics to everyday life.

David, thank you for working us into your schedule. The weekend was informative, challenging, uplifting and very profitable for our congregation. You did what we asked you to do and more. Thank you.

—Rev. John Zwirn, Kokomo, IN



Question: Don't all religions pretty much teach the same thing?

Answer: It is commonly believed by many today that all the world religions teach the same things essentially. They all have a moral code, they all emphasize being good and doing good. But when you actually look at what the different major world religions actually teach and believe, there is actually very little agreement. For instance, Buddhism is actually atheistic (rejecting the existence of a personal God. Hinduism believes in thousands of Gods (as does Mormonism), while Islam, Judaism and Christianity are monotheistic. Islam teaches that Jesus was a prophet of God but did not die on the cross and therefore could not have been resurrected. Mormons teach that Jesus was born from a union of Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother. Jehovah's

witnesses believe that Jesus is Michael the Arch Angel. Jews do not see Jesus as the Messiah. New Agers see Jesus as an enlightened teacher. He is not the unique Son of God, since all of us are divine. If the world's religions do not agree about Jesus, how can they all teach pretty much the same thing?

Another major difference between the world's religions is the means of salvation. In Buddhism, one is saved by works. In Hinduism one is saved by works. In Islam one is saved by works. In Mormonism one is saved by works. In Judaism one is saved by works. There does seem to be a pattern here. In Christianity alone is there a Savior who alone can save us. We cannot save ourselves by works. Rather we are saved by placing our faith in Christ, allowing all he did through his death, burial and resurrection to save us.

While there are some minor similarities between some of the world's major religions, the major differences are so vast that no one can honestly say that "all religions pretty much teach the same thing." All of the world's religions could be wrong, but only one can be right' the one with a Savior!



About David

- 18 Years of Pastoral Ministry. Ordained and Licensed through the Ohio Valley District of the C&MA
- Adjunct Professor @ Indiana Wesleyan University at the Louisville, KY Campus since 2001 Have taught 11 different courses and over 800 students (many courses were in Bible and Apologetics).
- Graduate of Toccoa Falls College with a B.A. in Missiology and

Alliance Theological Seminary with a Masters in cross-cultural and theological studies.

—Additional Masters level work at TFC and Columbia International University

— Serving on Ohio Valley District LO&CC and as a District Presbyterian

— Started Reasons Ministries in November 2008

— Married 32 years to Beth with three adult children and two adorable grandchildren.

Prayer Needs:

- Please pray for speaking opportunities for me this fall and spring of 2012.
- Please pray for God to provide the funds and the time for me to be able to attend the National Apologetics Conference in Charlotte, NC, October 28-29.

Recent & Upcoming Events:

June 7, 2011 — Ordination and Consecration Scripture Workshop for the Ohio Valley District of the C&MA

June 30, 2011 — "How To Study The Bible." Summer Growth Series @ Northeast Christian Church, Louisville, KY.

July 27, 2011 — "Creationism vs. Evolution." Summer Growth Series @ Northeast Christian Church, Louisville, KY.

July 28, 2011 — "Christianity vs. Other Religions. Summer Growth Series @ Northeast Christian Church, Louisville, KY.

October 28-29, 2011 — National Apologetics Conference in Charlotte, NC

Great Resource:

Who Made God?: And Answers to Over 100 Other Tough Questions of Faith
Dr. Ravi Zacharias and Dr. Norman Geisler, editors

Who Made God answers many of the questions that Christians and Non-Christians alike ask concerning God, the Bible, science, other religions, evil and other questions. While written by well-credentialed scholars, the book is quite readable and on a layman's level. Most of the answers to the questions are brief and summaries of much more extensive answers. The book, however, provides a good starting point for finding answers to many questions that can lead to deeper research.