



Notes from the Pastor

On the day when Christians universally remembered the Lord's death for sin (Good Friday), TIME Magazine's cover story featured a popular "evangelical" pastor's new book, *Love Wins*. While the TM article was rather vague about the reality and experience of Heaven and Hell, the book is not. Pastor Rob Bell (the author), writes: "A staggering number of people have been taught that a few select Christians will spend forever in a peaceful, joyous place called heaven, while the rest of humanity spends forever in torment and punishment in hell with no chance for anything better. It's been clearly communicated to many that this belief is a central truth of the Christian faith and to reject it is, in essence, to reject Jesus. This is misguided and toxic and ultimately subverts the contagious spread of Jesus message of love, peace, forgiveness, and joy that our world desperately needs to hear."

Sounding like an "Evangelical Universalist," Bell argues that a loving God would not send people to eternal torment forever. His basic premise is that in the end, *Love Wins*. While Pastor Bell has sparked a widespread debate about the subject of hell and the afterlife, he has also raised the eyebrows of conservative evangelicals who have been openly critical of Bell's tampering with doctrines fundamental to the "once for all handed down to the saints faith" (Jude vs. 3). Godly men like Al Mohler, Justin Taylor, Kevin DeYoung, Michael Horton, and John MacArthur, as well as others, have all responded to Bell's redefining of hell, by defending the biblical teaching that has become increasingly unpopular in the world, and among some contemporary evangelicals.

Recently, my former Pastor John MacArthur, responded with an open-letter to the evangelical community that is more in line with the tone and teaching we have been receiving in 2 Peter. Is Rob Bell a genuine Christian or a contemporary false teacher? As you will read, MacArthur doesn't believe that Bell is a Christian brother whose views need to be considered and discussed in the forum of Christian discourse. MacArthur believes that this popular Emergent pastor is a wolf in sheep's clothing and urges the church to "beware." I have reprinted MacArthur's letter to illustrate why books like 2 Peter and Jude are so necessary and helpful to our spiritual health, even

when the "church" has drifted away from sound doctrine, becoming more open and tolerant to such views.

"If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, he is conceited and understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that religion is a means of gain" (1 Timothy 6:3-5).

Dear Christian Community:

No one in all the Scriptures had more to say about hell than Jesus. No stern messenger of doom from the era of the Judges, no fiery Old Testament prophet, no writer of imprecatory psalms, and no impassioned apostle (including the Boanerges brothers)—not even all of them combined—mentioned hell more frequently or described it in more terrifying terms than Jesus.

And the hell Jesus spoke of was not merely some earthly ordeal, some sour state of mind, or some temporary purgatorial prison. Jesus described hell as a "place of torment" in the after-life (Luke 16:28)—a place of "unquenchable fire" (Mark 9:43), "where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched" (v. 48). It is a "place [where] there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:30)—a place of "eternal punishment" (v. 46).

Rob Bell is clearly unhappy with Jesus' teaching about hell. He finds the very idea of hell morally repugnant and believes it is one of the main reasons "why lots of people want nothing to do with the Christian faith." He scoffs at the idea that divine justice requires endless punishment for unrepentant sinners. In direct opposition to what Jesus Himself taught in Matthew 25:46, Bell insinuates that it would be a gross, cosmic atrocity if the doom of the reprobate is everlasting in the same sense that heaven's blessings for the redeemed are everlasting.

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Church Happenin's

- Monday, May 2 Council Meetings, 7 PM—If you would like to participate in the ministries at FBC, please join us. Elders & Deacons meet at 6:30.
- Wednesday, May 4 Upward Bound Share-A-Dish Meeting at 11:30 AM at the Dillon home (1404 Dillon Rd).
- Thursday, May 5 National Day of Prayer Service, 7 PM at HR Nazarene
- Sunday, May 8 Happy Mother's Day!
- May 9, 11, 13 FISH Food Bank Service
- Monday, May 16 Elder Meeting, 6:30 PM
- Wednesday, May 18 Cal. Baptist Male Chorale Concert, 7 PM at the Vineyard Church
- Saturday, May 21 Men's Breakfast, 8 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday, May 25 Upward Bound Trip - Kah-Nee-Ta Leaving from the Church at 8 AM. Swimming and Mini-golf available. Lunch at the Hotel.
- Monday, May 30 Memorial Day Holiday—Church Office will be closed

Future Events

- Saturday, Jun. 25 Church Picnic at Toll Bridge Park
- Sunday, Jul. 24 Community Worship in Jackson Park, no regular Church Service
- August 12-14 Family Camp at Camp Morrow
- Sunday, Sep. 25 Mid-Col Fellowship Dinner
- October 14-16 Women's Retreat at Cannon Beach
- October 21-23 Men's Camp at Camp Morrow



BIRTHDAYS!

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Joan Kulper | May 2 |
| Laura Yates | May 4 |
| Andrew Clark | May 5 |
| Erma Blackwell | May 8 |
| Cliff Blackwell | May 12 |
| Angela Bryan | May 12 |
| Christy Frost | May 18 |
| Betty Weatherly | May 18 |
| Nathan Stenberg | May 19 |
| Heather (Judson) Fetsch | May 23 |
| Gordon McCarty | May 26 |
| Francis Hankins | May 31 |



** If your birthday doesn't appear on the list, that means we have no record of it. Please let Lora know




THANKS

Thank You to all those who were able to come and help with the Church cleanup April 16th. The grounds and the building looked wonderful for our Easter Holiday celebrations.

Thank You, as well, to those who helped make our Annual Easter Breakfast such a success. The food and fellowship were delightful.

Help for the Needy

Our Church Deacon fund is a means of ministering to people in our church family and community who are in financial distress. The Deacon fund is not a part of our general budget, but is funded by special offerings. The fund has seen a great deal of use this year, and needs your support to continue ministering to the needy. Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to help those in distress. There are small envelopes in the church pews which can be used for this purpose, or checks may be marked for the Deacon fund and submitted in the Sunday morning offering.



Notes from the Pastor

Continued from Page 1

Bell's notion of sin seems to be that its main evil consists in the hurt it causes to the sinner rather than the offense it causes to a righteous and almighty God. His concept of "justice" makes the punishment of sin wholly optional. His idea of mercy falsely holds forth a false promise of automatic leniency and a second chance after death to people already inclined to take divine clemency for granted anyway.

Rob Bell's god is clearly no one to be feared.

That all stands in direct and deliberate contradiction to everything Jesus ever taught about sin, righteousness, and judgment. By thus pitting his own ideas against Jesus' message, Bell makes it inescapably clear that he "advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ" (cf. 1 Timothy 6:3). He is wrong—seriously wrong—heretically wrong—to question the justice of God and to hold out false hope to unbelievers. He is, as we have seen, a textbook example of the false teacher who secretly introduces destructive heresies (2 Peter 2:1).

That must be said plainly and emphatically.

Just how serious is Rob Bell's heresy? It is not merely that he rejects what Jesus taught about hell; Bell rejects the God of Scripture. He deplores the idea of divine vengeance against sin (Romans 12:9). He cannot stand the plain meaning of texts like Hebrews 12:29: "Our God is a consuming fire." He has no place in his thinking for the biblical description of Christ's fiery return with armies of angels: "dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8). Bell's whole message is a flat contradiction of Jesus' words in Luke 12:5: "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"

Bell will have none of that. He therefore tries to eliminate the authority and clarity of Scripture so that he can reinvent a god who is more to his liking. It is the sin of all sins; the sin of the serpent. Like Eve's tempter, Bell is subtly but undeniably fomenting rebellion against the true God. He suggests that he is better—nicer, more kindly, more tolerant, more lenient—than the God who has revealed Himself in Scripture. He therefore sets aside God's revealed Word and makes his own musings the inviolable standard.

In effect he wants to assume the role of God for himself. That is not a minor evil; it is epic. It is the original sin of Lucifer.

As already shown, Rob Bell has been sowing doubt, confusion,

and error in the church for years. His theological trajectory has been clear for at least a decade. The stance he takes in Love Wins is the predictable fruit of many other compromises and concessions to worldly opinion that were already well established in Bell's teaching.

In fact, the most surprising thing about Love Wins is not the position Rob Bell takes, but the fact that so many people seem genuinely caught off guard and unaccountably confused by it. The record of Bell's own words makes it clear that this latest book of his is little more than a distillation of things he has been saying all along. He abandoned Jesus' teaching years ago in favor of a different religion—one more in keeping with his personal preferences. He is pointing people toward the broad way that leads to destruction.

The sad reality is that if Rob Bell does not confess the truth in this life, one day he will realize how wrong his understanding of hell really is. His view of hell will be painfully altered forever when he receives the more severe punishment reserved for those who with a Bible in their hands mock God and trample the blood of Christ underfoot (Hebrews 10:29; cf. 2 Peter 2:21).

My earnest prayer is for Rob Bell's repentance. But I am even more deeply and urgently concerned for the many untaught and undiscerning people who are being led astray by his toxic teaching (Jude 22-23). It is time for faithful shepherds to speak up and warn the flock of the deadly peril posed by false teaching such as this.

It is also time for the people of God to proclaim the gospel more clearly and more carefully than ever, including the difficult parts of the message. For too long, evangelicals have been prone to omit the full truth about sin, righteousness, and judgment—falling back instead on dumbed-down, dampened, defanged versions of the message. In all candor, that is one of the main reasons there is so much confusion over Rob Bell's book among evangelicals today.

We have a sacred duty to preach what Jesus preached in the manner He preached it—without toning it down or adjusting it to make it more suitable to secular culture. Those who trim or alter the message to avoid the parts that are offensive are not faithful ambassadors of Christ. Whatever their motives and despite their best intentions, their tamed-and-toned-down versions of the gospel do not represent authentic Christianity. More often than not, the result is a different religion altogether.

We need to weigh that fact carefully, and seek God's grace to remain faithful—to proclaim the true, unabridged, unadulterated gospel more clearly and more boldly than ever in a world that is growing less tolerant of the offense of the cross, more anesthetized against the fear of God, and increasingly hostile to Christ.

John MacArthur
Pastor-Teacher



Spotlight on Service

By Marian Warrenka



Ellie & Lila Quezada

Working in translation & birthing center ministries in Oaxaca, Mexico in partnership with Missionary Ventures.

(Excerpted from their recent prayer letter.)

Ellie is pleased as punch to have two new recording technicians (a married couple) who have joined the studio team. They have taken to the scripture-recording process like fish to water and are, even as we speak, out in a village doing a field recording of the Chinantec of Lalana New Testament for three or four months. We anticipate that Diego and Luz will be a huge help not just recording the New Testaments in the indigenous languages, but also promoting and distributing them. Miguel and Lupe, our 2nd team, are in Northern Oaxaca recording another NT in Chinantec of Ozumacim and are almost done.

Ellie has been working lately on the Chinantec N.T. of Tlacoatzintepec but it was suspended til further notice. So, tomorrow he will begin the multi-voice, dramatized recording of the N.T. in Tepehua of Tlachichilco, a language in Veracruz. Please pray for the families of all involved in these recordings.

In January the new birth center, Casa Compasiva, opened its doors! (birthcenter.blogspot.com) As we mentioned in our last letter, God gave us a fabulous facility-- a huge house with ample space and five bathrooms --ideally suited for our purposes. It was in our lovely new house that we held a doula-training course to equip our doulas (better termed *monitrices*) or midwives' assistants. Sherry Bushnell, a professional midwife from Idaho, gave generously of her time and energy to come to Oaxaca and facilitate the training course. A good time was had by all, as the would-be doulas learned to take vital signs, medical histories, support a laboring mama, resuscitate a slow-to-start baby, care for mama and baby post-partum, etc.

Also helping with the course was Jenny Norris, an emerging midwife from Oregon. Jenny and her husband Greg are currently raising support to come to Oaxaca and join the Casa Compasiva team. Jenny will help with the midwifery and training aspect of the ministry, and Greg with the development and maintenance of the physical plant. We are really looking forward to their arrival, as I often feel pretty over my head in this whole "starting up a birth center" thing. Please pray for the Norris' support to come in quickly!

Now that we have been up and running for awhile, I have to say that we actually have the best national staff in the world. The doulas, plus our administrative assistant and book-keeper, are the most godly, precious Mexican ladies that I have had the privilege of working with. Each one seems to have been hand-picked to fill a particular role and exercise certain essential gifts needed within the birth center. Praise God with us for



such wonderful, responsible co-workers!

We have had our first birth already, which was long, hard, and triumphant. All those involved cannot help but give glory to God for the wonderful way that He helped and gave strength to the mama when she cried out to Him. It truly was a fabulous experience for all concerned. By the way, the baby is named Lila, but spelled Layla for Spanish pronunciation's sake. Nice, eh? :)

Rather than flooding in, Casa Compasiva's clients have been trickling in, giving us time to get well-organized with proper systems in place. We have eleven ladies (some with and some without husbands) attending pre-natal classes on alternate Fridays. Besides the weekly pre-natal clients, we have four births in April, four in May, etc. So we are busy but not swamped. A prayer request is that we will always be able to find gracious, creative, natural ways to share the good news about Jesus with each client. So far the women we attend are pretty blown away by the quality of care and attention that we give them. May they also come to know the love of Christ through the care that they receive!

Please Pray for the salvation of the Oaxacan people, that they will be open to the Word of God that they hear.

Please pray for the Quezadas' son, Caleb, who is in the US military serving as a Psychological Operations Specialist in Afghanistan. Please pray for his wisdom and safety. Pray also for his wife, who is spending the year at home in Virginia by herself.

Updates

Ben & Libby Spotts— Ben & Libby welcomed their 4th child, Bella Kathryn Spotts, on April 6th in Hyderabad, India. Bella was 9 lbs, 8 oz and 21" long. Please pray for the health of the family, especially for Libby and little Bella.



Nadine House—Nadine has been accepted at Tunghai language school in Taiwan and will be learning Mandarin Chinese. She begins her schooling September 13th.

Praise God, Nadine is 94% supported for her upcoming mission trip. She only needs to raise another \$205 more per month. If you are interested in supporting Nadine, you can email her at nadine.house@gmail.com or send gifts to CEF, PO Box 348, Warrenton, MO 63383. Account MSP-HQ00 4423.

FIDELIS

NOTES

By Doris Kahler

Fidelis Missionary/Pastoral Supply is a designated fund in our Church budget, totally dependent on free-will offerings. Our group makes items requested by mission hospitals and our local nursing homes, and collects various items needed by missionaries, Christian schools, and other Christian organizations. We also raise funds and collect items to assist with local area ministries such as the Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC), Child Evangelism, and Columbia Gorge Young Life.

We use:

- Lots of old, part-cotton sheets of any color or design for roller bandages and wipes for mission hospitals.
- New or good used baby clothing and blankets for the PRC and mission hospitals.
- Fabrics for making clothing protectors, neck pillows, and walker bags for nursing homes.
- Health care items such as cotton balls or rolls, sterile and non-sterile exam gloves, 4"x4" gauze pads, and adhesive tape for mission hospitals.
- Cancelled stamps, which will be sent where they can be sold to collectors to raise funds for missions.
- Christian literature, such as daily devotionals, magazines (please no *Guide Posts*), biographies, books, teaching materials, Bibles and Concordance. These will be sent to Christian Resources International, which will distribute them to missionaries all over the world.
- Monetary Donations. (Please make any checks out to First Baptist Church, and mark any funds for Fidelis.)

Praise! - We have a volunteer to roll bandages! If anyone else would like to help with this ministry, join us at our Great Commission Council meeting at my house at 1511 Tucker Road on Monday, May 2nd at 2 PM. We will have strips of sheets ready to use and 2 roller machines to train people on to learn to make roller bandages.

If you have any questions about our work, or would like to find out how you can help, please contact Doris Kahler at 541-386-5388.

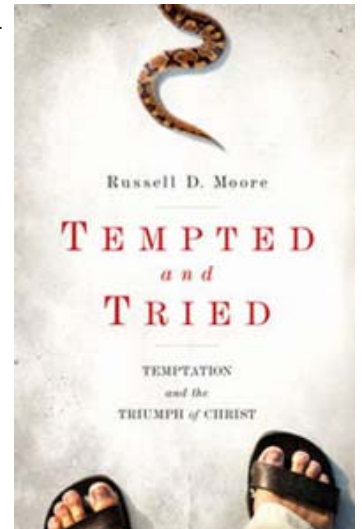


Book of the Month

by Russell D. Moore

Although temptation is a common and well-acknowledged part of the human experience, few realize the truth behind temptation and fewer still know how to defeat it.

Tempted and Tried will prepare believers for battle by telling the truth about the cosmic war that is raging. The author shows that the temptation of every Christian is part of a broader conspiracy against God, a conspiracy that confronts everyone who shares the flesh of Jesus through human birth and especially confronts those who share the Spirit of Christ through the new birth of redemption.



Russell Moore walks his readers through the Devil's ancient strategies for temptation revealed in Jesus' wilderness testing. He considers how those strategies might appear in a contemporary context and points readers to a way of escape. *Tempted and Tried* will remind Christians that temptation must be understood in terms of warfare, encouraging them with the truth that victory has already been secured through the triumph of Christ.

Upward Bound

Share-A-Dish Lunch • April 20th

Meeting at 11:30 AM at the home of Gary & Dee Dillon (1404 Dillon Road). Lunch is served at noon.

Trip to Kah-Nee-Ta • Wednesday, May 25th

Leaving from the Church at 8 AM. Swimming & Mini-golf available, lunch at the resort hotel. See the Dillons for details.



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 21, 8 AM
Meeting in the Fellowship Hall.

**FISH FOOD BANK
SERVICE OPPORTUNITY**

May 9, 11 & 13

Contact Julie Clark at 541-354-1972 for how you can help.



First Baptist Church

1889 Belmont Dr.
Hood River, OR 97031



Thurs, May 5, 7 PM
Hood River Church
of the Nazarene

Come join us as we lift our nation to the Lord in prayer.



Associate Pastor Profile Survey

Congregational Surveys

Last fall the congregation confirmed the Elders' desire to pursue an Associate Pastor. For the first three Sundays in May we will have surveys available for the Church body to provide feedback on what the position of Associate Pastor should include. Please take the time to fill out these surveys and return them to the basket in the Church foyer. All surveys need to be received by May 15th so the results can be tabulated and discussed at the Elder Meeting on May 16th.

Developing a Job Description

From the results of the Profile Surveys, the Board of Elders will develop a job description and form a Search Committee. The Search Committee will use these documents to guide them in sorting through resumes from CB Northwest and other seminaries.

Financial Coverage

Approximately \$44,000 has been pledged to help cover salary, insurance, and other ministry related expenses. We expect the actual cost of adding a new staff member will be between \$60,000 and \$70,000, depending on several factors. A designated fund for the Associate Pastor's first year expenses has been established and we are now accepting donations toward it.



cbu

Invites you to a performance by...

The Male Choral

In Concert May 18th,
7 PM at the Vineyard Church

We Need Volunteers!

We are looking for people who would be willing to host 2 or more men from this 90-member choir on the night of Wednesday, May 18th. Hosting duties would include: pick-up after the concert, housing for the night, breakfast and a bagged lunch for Thursday, and drop off at FBC at 9 AM Thursday morning.

We are also looking for folks who could help provide salads or desserts for these men prior to the concert on Wednesday. FBC has purchased meat for the main course, so we are also looking for donations to cover costs.

If you would like to help, please contact Becky Sandercock (54becky@gmail.com) or Tom Yates (tfyates@embarqmail.com).