



Pardon the Interruption!

Lesson 2

"Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints." Jude 3 ESV

He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. Titus 1:9 ESV

Last Week We Answered the Question: Why a Series on How to Listen to a Sermon?

- Cultural Reasons:** We live in technological age with radically short attention spans and stunted learning styles.
- Practical Reasons:** Few of us have ever been taught how to be a good listener.
- Spiritual Reasons:** We are all born spiritually deaf—*hard of hearing and hard of heeding*.
- Biblical Reasons:** One the main biblical words for hearing actually means heeding = obeying.
- Reasons:** Not every preacher or sermon should be listened to because some are false teachers that need to be rejected or teaching false doctrine that needs to be refuted. *1Timothy 4:1-2; 2Timothy 4:1-5; Titus 1:9; Jude 1-3*

So Pardon the Interruption... for a Message about a Book on Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived by Pastor Rob Bell

Who is Rob Bell? Rob Bell graduated from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois, and Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

Where does he pastor? He is the Founding Pastor of Mars Hill Bible Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

What is he known for? Effective communicator who uses creativity, technology, and compelling questions as a means of evangelism. He is a recognized leader in the emerging church movement.

Why should I care? Rob Bell is the Elisha to Clark Pinnock's Elijah—he is the latest prophet to proclaim, publish, and promote a false view of the gospel that is called _____. He has just written a new book called, *Love Wins*, that has already gone viral on the internet and landed him interviews on multiple network and cable shows.

What Was the "Is Jesus the Only Way to God?" Series All About? Three Questions in One: *Is Jesus the only way to salvation?*

Q 1 Will anyone experience eternal, conscious torment under God's wrath in hell?

Q 2 Is the work of Jesus necessary for salvation?

Q 3 Is conscious faith in Jesus necessary for salvation?

Match the "-ism" with Its Answer

Annihilationism	The "Good News for All in the End" View (or The "Doomed to Be Saved" View)
Universalism	The "Sincerity Is Sufficient for the Savior" View
Pluralism	The "It Will All Be Over Soon" View (or the "Conditional Immortality" View)
Inclusivism	The "Second Chance" View (or the "Death-Does-Not-Seal-Destiny" View)
Post-mortem salvation	The "Burger King: Have It Your Way" View (or the "All Roads Lead to God" View)
Exclusivism	The "Jesus Is the Only Way" View (or the "One Way Out" View)

Exclusivism	Inclusivism = Evangelical Pluralism	Pluralism
Jesus is the only Savior for all humanity and it is not possible to attain salvation apart from explicit knowledge of Him and conscious faith in Him.	The unevangelized may be saved on the basis of the work of Christ, if they respond in faith to God based on the light/revelation they have.	The major world religions provide independent paths to salvation and the divine reality, whatever that is.

Dividing Point

Dividing Point

FAITH in Jesus is Necessary

JESUS Is Necessary

Both universalism (all will be saved in the end) **and pluralism** (many paths to salvation) are advanced **by means of inclusivism** (many will be saved on the basis of the work of Christ but apart from hearing the Gospel or trusting in the name of Jesus Christ).

Two Axioms Drive Inclusivists

Axiom 1 The **LOVE** of God for all people and His desire for universal salvation.

Axiom 2 The **NECESSITY** and finality of Jesus Christ for salvation. Acts 4:12; John 14:6

"God is love. Love is the ground of our being. Jesus came to give us and show us this love." ~ Rob Bell

Rob Bell Promotional Video for "Love Wins" (3 min)

What were initial impressions?

What are the questions Bell raises in the video promo?

Q1 "Will only a few select people make it to heaven and will billions and billions of people burn forever in hell?"

Q2 "If that is the case how do you become one of the few?"

Q3 "And then there is the question behind the question. The real question, what is God like?"

Bell goes on to say: "Millions and millions have been taught that primary message, the center of the gospel of Jesus is that God is going to send you to hell unless you believe in Jesus."

What are other conclusions Bell presents in the video promo?

C1 "This is why lots of people want nothing to do with the Christian faith. They see it as an endless list of absurdities and inconsistencies. And they say, 'Why would I ever want to be a part of that?'"

C2 "What we believe about heaven and hell is incredibly important because it exposes what we believe about who God is and what God is like."

C3 "What I am going to show from the Bible is far better than what you have been taught"

Good Morning America Interview (6 min)

What were the opening questions?

Q1 "How can a good and powerful God allow innocent people, like the victims of the disaster in Japan, suffer unspeakable tragedy?"

Q2 "And then as so many Christians believe, how would God allow these victims who chose another faith to die to eternal punishment? Why would he do that?"

How did Bell respond to the charge of being a false teacher and an heretic?

A1 "I am deeply compelled and fascinated with Jesus."

A2 "I think the orthodox, historical Christian tradition is this vast, diverse, conversation that has been going on thousands of years. And I think Jesus can handle the discussion and can handle the debate. I am interested in his message of good news."

Did Bell answer the question?

Is the Christian faith an ongoing DISCUSSION or a DEPOSIT that is _____ delivered to the saints to be protected, passed down, and proclaimed even when it is not politically correct?

Jude 3; 1Timothy 6:20-21; 2Timothy 2:2; 3:13-17; 4:1-5

How did Bell respond to the question about the victims of the Japanese earthquake, most of whom are not professing Christians and who, therefore, are suffering in eternal torment in hell right now?

How does Bell describe heaven and hell?

MSNBC Interview by Martin Bashir (7 min)

How did Bashir summarize Bell's views in the book?

S1 Bashir states clearly and empathically that Bell has written:

- 1) "Our response to the Christian message in this life will not necessarily determine our eternal destiny."
- 2) "Rob Bell says ultimately all people will be saved..."
- 3) "...even those who have rejected the claims of Christianity."
- 4) "People will be eventually persuaded by God's love, postmortem [after death] in the life to come."
- 5) Bashir did not mention that Bell believes all this while still claiming that Jesus is on some way involved.

How Bell respond to Bashir's summary?!

How does Bashir begin the interview?

How does Bell answer? Does he answer?

Is Bashir buying any of this?

How does Bell answer the question about being a universalist?

How does Bell respond when Bashir pins him down about the need to respond to Christ now in this life, if God is going to melt hearts after death?

BELL "It is terribly relevant and terribly important. How exactly it works out and how it works out in the future, when you die we are in the realm of speculation. And my experience has been a lot of Christians built whole dogmas about what happens when you die and we have to be very careful we don't build whole doctrines and dogmas on what is speculation."

BASHIR: I'm not talking about what happens when you die. I'm asking you how you respond here and now. The question I'm asking you what you seem to be saying in the book, god will love, will melt everyone's heart eventually, some even postmortem in death. You're the one making speculation about the afterlife. What I'm asking is, is it irrelevant and immaterial how you respond to Christ now to determine your eternal destiny, relevant or irrelevant? Does it have a bearing or does it have no bearing?

Bashir ends by summarizing his view of Bell's book and motives as a question:

BASHIR "You're creating a Christian message that's warm, kind and popular, for contemporary culture but it's, frankly -- according to this critic -- unbiblical and historically unreliable. That's true, isn't it?"

BELL "No. It's not true."

BASHIR "What you've done is you're amending the Gospel—the Christian message -- so that it's palatable to contemporary people who find, for example, the idea of hell and heaven very difficult to stomach. That's why you've done, isn't it?"

What Should We Take Away from Today's Lesson?

1. Heaven and hell are topics that people are interested in and willing to talk about—we need to speak up and share **both the Bad News and the Good News much, much more!**
2. Not every pastor is preaching biblical Truth about heaven and hell—no matter how good their communication skills are, how slick their videos are, how big their church is, or how hip their ministry is—we need to learn to discern **between what is right and wrong, what is true and false, and what is biblical and unbiblical.**
3. The Bible is clear on the importance of responding to the person, work, and message of Jesus Christ **RIGHT NOW** before we die—we need to learn how to **ὕπακούω**—quick to hear, quick to respond to what He has said!