

Some Who May Be Inclusivists (pc for Universalists)

We could give many examples of how that the heretical **idol of inclusivism** is present in the **Southern Baptist Convention**. Here I am referring to the doctrine that men can be saved apart from faith in Christ.

Billy Graham has blazed the trail in this. In an interview with McCall's magazine, January 1978, entitled "I Can't Play God Any More," Graham said: "I used to believe that pagans in far-off countries were lost—were going to hell—if they did not have the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them. I no longer believe that. ... I believe that there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God—through nature, for instance—and plenty of other opportunities, therefore, of saying 'yes' to God." In 1985, Graham affirmed his belief that those outside of Christ might be saved. Los Angeles reporter David Colker asked Graham: "What about people of other faiths who live good lives but don't profess a belief in Christ?" Graham replied, "I'm going to leave that to the Lord. He'll decide that" (Los Angeles Herald Examiner, July 22, 1985). In 1993, Graham repeated this doctrine in an interview with David Frost. "And I think there is that hunger for God and people are living as best they know how according to the light that they have. Well, I think they're in a separate category than people like Hitler and people who have just defied God, and shaken their fists at God. ... I would say that God, being a God of mercy, we have to rest it right there, and say that God is a God of mercy and love, and how it happens, we don't know" (The Charlotte Observer, Feb. 16, 1993). In an interview with Robert Schuller in May 1997, Graham again said that he believes people in other religions can be saved without consciously believing in Jesus Christ. "[God's] calling people out of the world for His name, whether WHETHER THEY COME FROM THE MUSLIM WORLD, OR THE BUDDHIST WORLD, OR THE CHRISTIAN WORLD OR THE NON-BELIEVING WORLD, THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN CALLED BY GOD. THEY MAY NOT EVEN KNOW THE NAME OF JESUS but they know in their hearts that they need something that they don't have, and they turn to the only light that they have, and I think that they are saved, and that they're going to be with us in heaven" (television interview of Billy Graham by Robert Schuller, broadcast in southern California, Saturday, May 31, 1997).

Some conservative SBC leaders like **Al Mohler** have reproved **Rob Bell** and his book *Love Wins*, but what is Rob Bell saying today that Billy Graham hasn't been saying for more than 30 years?

Speaking of Rob Bell, his universalistic book *Love Wins* ("even the most 'depraved sinners' will eventually give up their resistance and turn to God") isn't sold in LifeWay bookstores, but an earlier book, *Velvet Elvis*, has been sold since it was first published in 2005. Here Bell claims that Jesus is already with people even in their false religions, thus "the issue isn't so much taking Jesus to people who don't have him, but going to a place and pointing out to the people there the creative, life-giving God who is already present in their midst" (*Velvet Elvis*, p. 88).

C.S. Lewis, whose writings are fervently loved among Southern Baptists and are sold in LifeWay bookstores, claimed that followers of pagan religions can be saved without faith in Jesus Christ: "There are people in other religions who are being led by God's secret influence ... Many of the good Pagans

long before Christ's birth may have been in this position" (C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, HarperSanFrancisco edition, 2001, [pp. 64](#), [208](#), [209](#)). Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia* intertwines a few vague biblical themes with pagan mythology: nymphs, fauns (part man and part goat), dwarfs, centaurs (part man and part horse), Dryads (tree-women), and Naiads (well-women). All of these creatures are depicted as serving Aslan, the alleged Christ figure. Lewis presents the deeply heretical idea of good magic. He calls Aslan's power "Deep Magic" and Aslan's father's power as "Emperor's Magic." He introduces the pagan god Bacchus and his orgies as a desirable thing. He presents the myth of "Father Christmas." He teaches that Adam's first wife was not Eve but rather a woman named Lilith and that she was a witch.

Henri Nouwen wrote: "Today I personally believe that while Jesus came to open the door to God's house, all human beings can walk through that door, whether they know about Jesus or not. Today I see it as my call to help every person claim his or her own way to God" (*Sabbatical Journey*, 1998, p. 51).

Max Lucado, whose books are sold in LifeWay bookstores and whose writings are hugely popular among Southern Baptists, preaches the same heresy. In the book *Max on Life* the following question is asked: "What about the people who have never heard of God? Will God punish them?" Lucado replies: "No, He will not. Heaven's population includes throngs of people who learned the name of their Savior when they awoke in their eternal home" (p. 222).

Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary and author of *Uncommon Decency*, says that after a rabbi friend of his died, he "held out the hope that when he saw Jesus he would acknowledge that it was Him all along, and that Jesus would welcome him into the heavenly realm" (*Christian Post*, March 20, 2011).

Popular author **Josh McDowell** says that he does not know whether "those who have never heard about Jesus will be automatically damned" (*5 Minutes with Josh*, April 1985). He believes that the Scriptures imply that "someone who has never heard of Jesus can be saved." He says, "We do believe that every person will have an opportunity to repent and that God will not exclude anyone because he happened to be born 'at the wrong place and time.'"

Clark Pinnock, author of *Salvation in a Pluralistic World*, writes: "Faith in Jesus as the Savior of the world leaves room for us to be open and generous to other religious traditions. ... I welcome the Saiva Siddhanta literature of Hinduism ... Japanese Shin-Shu Amida ... Buddha as a righteous man ... Mohammed as a prophet..."

Dallas Willard says, "It is possible for someone who does not know Jesus to be saved" (*Cutting Edge* magazine, Winter 2000).

Tony Campolo said: "I am not convinced that Jesus only lives in Christians" (*The Charlie Rose Show*, cited from *Calvary Contender*, October 1, 1999). When asked by Bill Moyers on MSNBC in 1996 whether

evangelicals should try to convert Jews he replied: "I am not about to make judgments about my Jewish brothers and my Muslim brothers and sisters."

Popular author **Brennan Manning**, in his books *The Signature of Jesus* and *Gentle Revolutionaries*, describes a dream he has had about judgment day. He sees Adolf Hitler and Hugh Hefner (founder of *Playboy* magazine) and himself and others going before God to be judged, but God just takes them by the hand and walks them home. The implication is that everyone is accepted by God through grace, regardless of whether they repent and believe the gospel and have a born again experience.

<http://www.discerningtheworld.com/2012/01/24/heaven-is-for-real-this-story-is-not/>