Rob Bell Tells How 'Love Wins' Led to Mars Hill Departure

By <u>Katherine Weber</u>, Christian Post Reporter December 3, 2012|5:05 pm

> Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: Rob Bell is just one of a host of false teachers that the New Testament Apostles warned us would appear in the last days. Although he was the pastor of thousands of professing Christians, he didn't even believe in hell or that people must repent of their sin and trust in Jesus as their Savior in order to spend eternity in heaven with God. Tens-of-thousands of church goers across the nation (and world) have embraced his book and its false teachings, showing that they too are CINOs (Christians in Name Only). As I said in our three-part study on heaven and hell (March and April of 2011, posted at <u>our website</u> under <u>sermons</u>, <u>topical MP3</u>, What Does the Bible Teach on Heaven and Hell – <u>Part 1</u>, <u>Part 2</u>, and <u>Part 3</u>), either Jesus lied to us when he spoke extensively on hell and what it took to avoid its eternal flames, or Rob Bell is lying to us when he says that there is no hell and everyone goes to heaven. The choice should be easy to make, but tragically, many are being deceived.

> 2 Timothy 4:1-5. I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. NKJV



Rob Bell, founding pastor of Mars Hill Bible Church in Grandville, Mich., is seen in this Nov. 2011 video still. (Photo: Rob Bell/Vimeo)

Former megachurch pastor Rob Bell, founder of Mars Hill Bible Church in Grandville, Mich., recently shared how his 2011 book, *Love Wins*, led to a fallout with the congregation and forced him on a "search for a more forgiving faith."

Bell details this search in a recent interview with <u>The New Yorker</u>, and discusses his invitation to Christians interested in a different kind of church, "one that can

keep pace with the rising 'waterline of culture.'"

"Bell is now loosely aligned with a cohort of pastors worldwide who are searching for ways to move beyond old-fashioned worship," Kelefa Sanneh of The New Yorker wrote in an in-depth, Nov. 26 feature on Bell, entitled "Hell Raiser."

The main issue discussed in Bell's recent interview regards *Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived,* in which the former pastor questioned the existence of hell and the evangelical teaching that only those who believe in Jesus Christ go to heaven.

Bell received a vast amount of criticism for his book and even lost members of his Mars Hill Bible Church congregation. The New Yorker writes that "word went out that a prominent megachurch leader had rejected Hell, thereby embracing heresy." Critics accused Bell of being a heretic, a political liberal, and a Universalist, among other labels.

Bell told The New Yorker that the publication of his book resulted in a 3,000-person decrease in membership at Mars Hill Bible Church, which he founded in 1999. "The book put pressure on the people around Bell, who found themselves...

To read this article in its entirety, go to: <u>http://www.christianpost.com/news/rob-bell-tells-how-love-wins-led-to-mars-hill-departure-85995/</u>