

Did Judas Really Go to Hell?

When reading Mathew 27:3-5, some Christians must ask the questions, "Did Judas repent of sin, or did he indeed go to hell?

Bill Wiese, author of "23 Minutes in Hell," says to the latter, "Most certainly."

Matthew 27:3-4 (MEV) reads, "When Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood."

"Yes, he (Judas) most certainly did go to hell, and yes, he most certainly could have been saved," Wiese says in this recent video. "If Judas would have simply repented and turned to God, the Bible tells us that every person, regardless of what they've done, can repent and be saved. Great people of the Bible have committed murder, adultery, idolatry, lied, stole, acted cowardly and more.

Wiese says Judas did not experience true repentance, however.

"If he would have turned to God and repented, then he would have been saved," he says. "But regarding Judas in Matthew 27:3, he repented only to himself. He knew he had sinned, as it says in verse 4, but he didn't confess his sin or repent to God. A person can feel remorse to themselves, but not actually repent for their sin against God.

"Second Corinthians 7:10 says 'For godly sorrow works repentance unto salvation, but the sorrow of the world works death,'" Wiese explains. "The sorrow Judas experienced was a worldly sorrow that only brings death."

For more on this teaching, watch this short video from Bill

Wiese.{eoa}

Shawn A. Akers *is the online editor at Charisma Media.*

Charisma Brief: Korean Pastor Faces Disciplinary Action for ‘Non-Traditional’ Blessings

The ongoing trial of Pastor Lee Dong-hwan from the Korean Methodist Church (KMC) has ignited a significant debate within the Korean Christian community. Rev. Lee’s involvement in blessing LGBTQ+ individuals at a pride festival has resulted in his suspension and subsequent legal actions.

Adherence to Traditional Doctrine

Traditional Christian teachings hold that homosexuality is contrary to God’s design for human relationships, as outlined in the Scriptures. It is within this theological framework that the Korean Methodist Church and other traditional Christian denominations prohibit same-sex blessings and marriages. These rules are established based on their interpretation of biblical passages that address human sexuality.

The Discipline of the Church

The KMC, like many other Christian denominations, operates under a set of doctrines and discipline guidelines. These rules provide a framework for ethical conduct and adherence to biblical teachings. Pastor Lee’s participation in the blessing ceremony for LGBTQ+ individuals was deemed a violation of these established rules, leading to his suspension and

subsequent disciplinary actions.

Doctrinal Integrity

The indictment against Pastor Lee is based on the KMC's commitment to uphold its doctrinal integrity and prevent actions that could be seen as endorsing or sympathizing with homosexuality. The KMC's stance reflects the belief that true love and compassion are expressed through adherence to God's commandments, even when such adherence may be difficult or counter to prevailing cultural norms.

Seeking Doctrinal Clarity

From a traditional Christian standpoint, the interpretation of scripture plays a vital role in guiding one's beliefs and actions. The disagreement surrounding the phrase "agreeing or sympathizing with" highlights the need for continued dialogue and study within the church. The ongoing trial should serve as an opportunity to explore the theological implications and engage in discussions aimed at seeking doctrinal clarity.

Maintaining Unity

While the trial of Pastor Lee has sparked controversy, it is crucial for Christians with traditional values to approach this issue with love, humility, and a commitment to biblical truth. In the midst of differing opinions, the focus should remain on fostering unity within the body of Christ and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in addressing complex matters.

The trial of Pastor Lee Dong-hwan presents a challenging situation for the traditional Korean Christian community as it navigates the intersection of biblical teachings and contemporary social issues. From a traditional perspective, the case underscores the importance of upholding established doctrines while engaging in respectful dialogue and seeking a deeper understanding of God's Word. {eoa}

Shawn A. Akers *is the online editor at Charisma Media.*

Amsterdam2023: Uniting Christian Leaders to Ignite a New Era of Evangelism

The city of Amsterdam is abuzz with excitement as thousands of Christian leaders from around the world have gathered for the highly anticipated Amsterdam2023 global conference. This monumental event aims to herald a new era of evangelism, igniting a passion to share the life-transforming message of Jesus Christ with every person on earth.

As the Empowered21 (E21) Global Council convened, work groups such as the Global Evangelist Alliance (GEA), Global Prayer Alliance and NextGen Network came together to develop strategic plans, driven by the Great Commission's call.

In a landmark moment, "Global Network of Spirit-Empowered Scholars" was launched under the capable leadership of Dr. Wonsuk Ma and Opoku Onyinah as co-chairs. This prestigious group of scholars embarks on a journey of scholar consultation, resource development and the publication of books aimed at deepening understanding of the Spirit-Empowered movement.

They are also committed to rigorous academic research, shedding light on the movement's history and achievements. One of their first efforts is the creation of a comprehensive compendium, encompassing over 130 plenaries and workshop sessions from the Amsterdam2023 conference. Within 24 hours of its launch, more than 160 scholars from around the globe have

already registered, demonstrating the resounding support and interest in this groundbreaking initiative.

Oral Roberts University's Center for Spirit-Empowered Research will serve as the host for this network, with Dr. Ma at the helm as the director. Dr. Billy Wilson, President of ORU and Empowered21 Global Chair, expressed his joy and emphasized how the network brings to fruition the vision of Dr. Vinson Synan from the Society of Pentecostal Studies, who recognized the need for a practical theology to underpin the Spirit-Empowered movement.

This annual conference will serve as a hub for scholars worldwide to connect, engage in consultations, find fellowship and receive encouragement. The network also aims to build a deeper and broader knowledge base of the movement while enhancing its understanding and articulation to the world.

The Empowered21 Global Prayer Alliance, a key component of the conference, unveiled a crucial aspect of their EveryONE initiative. Believers from every corner of the world are encouraged to dedicate just five minutes each day to pray for five individuals by name who have not yet encountered the life-transforming message of Christ.

Director Brian Alarid shared the remarkable news that over 500 million people have already been lifted up in prayer through this collective effort. The alliance's vision extends to ensure that every person on this planet will be prayed for by name by the year 2033.

In another significant development, the Global Council launched the Global Worship Alliance, placing renowned Australian worship leader Darlene Zschech as its chair. Dr. Wilson shared Zschech's dream of uniting worship leaders from diverse backgrounds and cultures worldwide. Through this powerful initiative, they aspire to reclaim worship as a ministry for the kingdom, setting an example of excellence,

integrity and familial unity within the worship industry.

An encouraging report highlighted the impact of the EveryONE Initiative Fund, which underwent a year-long “beta test” phase. During this time, the fund allocated two million dollars to support 56 evangelistic projects in 50 countries, resulting in nearly 500,000 individuals responding to the gospel message.

Ministries committed to innovative strategies in areas such as digital evangelism, church planting and mass evangelism are invited to apply for funding assistance through this initiative, which will officially launch at Amsterdam 2023.
{eoa}

Shawn A. Akers *is the online editor at Charisma Media.*

San Francisco Presbyterians Thanking God for ‘Gift of Drag Queens’

For one historic Presbyterian church in San Francisco, Isaiah 5:20 is a glaring reality.

The verse warns, “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who exchange darkness for light, and light for darkness, who exchange bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.”

By hosting an all-ages “Drag Queen Bible Story Hour,” Calvary Presbyterian Church brought blasphemy and shame into the house of God last Sunday. The nearly 200-year-old church’s services featured drag performers speaking to audience that included young children.

While it was a first for the church, LGBT advocates Rev. Jane Spahr and Rev. Victor Floyd welcomed the drag queen performers with open arms.

“We’re hoping to offer a little balance to all of the hateful rhetoric that is out in the country and especially from churches and politicians who are using churches and using trans people as their props,” Floyd told a local NBC affiliate television station.

On top of its deplorable actions inside the sanctuary, the church’s Facebook page boldly proclaimed, “For the gift of Drag Queens, O God, we give you thanks!”