

AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT BAPTIST NEWSLETTER

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Standing unashamedly for the King James Bible

<http://www.churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/156093-rob-bell-s-replacement-speaks-out-on-bell-and-hell.html> ROB BELL'S REPLACEMENT SPEAKS OUT ON BELL AND HELL (Edited by Editor) – Shane Hipps is the man who replaced Rob Bell at Mars Hill Bible Church. Here Hipps is discussing his thoughts “...surrounding Rob Bell's book and the issue of hell.”

According to Hipps, many books have been written on the subject of heaven and hell and some of these were “...in direct response to Rob Bell’s book Love Wins (incidentally and ironically, a book almost entirely concerned with this life, not the next one).” Hipps says that “As a Christian who believes in the Bible and Jesus, I have found the intensity and certainty of the debate all very bizarre. It’s strange that so much passion and ink has been spilled over something that is all speculation.” Then he attempts to tell us what he means. “Here’s what I mean: If you died, took pictures, and came back to life again, then you would know with certainty what happens after death. Of course, you would only know what happens to you, not everyone else. But if you haven’t died, you can only speculate about what happens to you and everyone else.” Further in the article Hipps declares “I take a position when I know something with certainty. Almost always through direct experience (DCB). If someone pinches me, I don’t believe they pinched me. I know it. I experienced it. It doesn’t reside somewhere in my head. Nothing to debate. It happened.

I consider a possibility when it’s something I don’t know. This is something I merely believe. Either because someone I trust told me, or the Bible seems to say it, or reason supports it. But until I’ve experienced it, this is only something I believe– a possibility (DCB). And possibilities should be held with an open hand, perhaps with some humility and even humor. Who knows, I could be wrong about what I believe? Now having said this, I’m only aware of one person who died, and I mean really died, like three days dead, and came back to life again. His name was Jesus. Upon his return from the dead, he didn’t believe anymore; now he knew. So if I wanted some indication about what happens after I die, I should probably pay attention to what he said after he came back from the dead.” Hipps states “Here’s what he said about heaven and hell after his resurrection. Nothing. Nada. Zip.” So says Hipps “If it were important to him, you’d think he would have written a book about it. Or preached a sermon or two. But he didn’t. After Jesus rose from the dead, he spends his time talking about this life. It would seem Jesus is more concerned with this life than the next. Perhaps we should be, too.” It doesn’t seem Hipps believes the Bible by faith but by experience.

There is a LOT from the Bible to refute Hipps but without going into a long discourse on how wrong Hipps is, here are three verses the Lord gave before His death and resurrection.

Mr 9:44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mr 9:46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mr 9:48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

On these verses Spurgeon said “There is a worm undying, and a fire unquenchable. Let man say what they will, the wrath of God abides forever upon those who die unsaved. It is worthwhile to make any sacrifice rather than fall forever into hell.” Then in Revelation 20 and verse 15 John the Apostle wrote concerning what he saw God doing with those who were not His “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life **was cast into the lake of fire.**” Sounds pretty definite too me!

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/nc-megachurch-pastor-says-its-a-sin-to-forbid-speaking-in-tongues-74184/> NC MEGACHURCH PASTOR SAYS IT'S A SIN TO FORBID SPEAKING IN TONGUES May 1, 2012 (Edited by DCB) – Some “conservative” churches support ABWE missionaries and therefore it is interesting (at least to this Editor) that ABWE has at least one missionary couple going out of a church where the leading Pastor says “it’s a sin to forbid speaking in tongues”! Has the Word of God changed or have the churches? Yes, a church that is sending out SBC missionaries and a missionary couple through ABWE has “...asserted that he would not forbid people from speaking in tongues and to do so is a sin.” Yes, this mega-church, Together 4 the Gospel speaker, told his congregation “You’re never going to hear me either publicly or privately tell somebody that they should not be speaking in tongues in their private prayer times”. This popular Southern Baptist preacher went on to describe “...his church as ‘charismatics with a seatbelt’ – that is, they honor and want to receive spiritual gifts but cautiously.” Greear did go on to say “...that not all Christians speak in tongues. It’s a gift that God doesn’t give to everybody and it’s something that can be desired but does not have to be sought after. ‘The Bible never tells you one time to seek for the gift of tongue’”. It seems you can have a doctrine both ways in this church!

http://www.jdgreear.com/my_weblog/2012/04/tongues-and-prophecy.html THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE GIFT OF TONGUES (Edited by DCB) – On his blog J D Greear continues his commenting on tongues. He says concerning 1 Corinthians 14: 39 “I do not believe it is wise or biblical for our denomination—as has often been the case—to forbid missionaries or leaders to speak to God in a private prayer language. I do not have a private prayer language, nor do I think Paul encourages us toward one in this, or any, passage. But while not really encouraging speaking in tongues, Paul stopped short of forbidding it. Thus, in our church, we will stop where he did. We encourage people toward gifts that edify others, but do not forbid speaking in tongues.” Do the ABWE missionaries out of this church have a “private” prayer language?

Below are two more sites you may be interested in viewing.

<http://t4g.org/t4g-year/2012/> J D Greear has been a speaker at the ever so popular Together 4 the Gospel (t4g) events where pastors from all denominations, including independent Baptists, are attending.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7vqZBbcTlo> JD GREEAR ON BEING SBC AND A29 Not wanting to wear the reader out with Greear videos but in this one he seeks to explain why he is in the SBC and Acts 29. In this he gives what he believes are the benefits of the SBC foreign missions as compared to the type of mission’s programme he grew up with.

It is interesting that the ACTS 29 network was a topic of negative discussion at a recent SBC Convention because of its inter-denominationalism. Things are moving fast brethren. 2Ti 4:5 But **watch** thou in all things...” This word is often translated “be sober”. As preachers, as Christians, we are to be awake and have our wits about us so we can make Biblically correct decisions such as those with whom we will fellowship etc.

Because of Calvary,
David C. Bennett, D. Min.