

The Quarterly Journal



THE NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OF PERSONAL FREEDOM OUTREACH

VOL. 31, NO. 4

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2011

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Bell's Hell

The Universalist Gospel of Rob Bell

by J. Greg Sheryl

This past March, HarperOne released a controversial book by Michigan pastor Rob Bell, titled, *Love Wins: A Book About Heaven, Hell, and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived*.¹ The book caused quite a stir both among Christians and the media even before its release due to its apparent premise that God would save everyone in the end, a theological view known as universalism.

Bell appeared on television, including *Good Morning America*, to discuss the subject and many Christians reacted strongly to the book. The front cover of *Time* magazine's Easter week issue asked the question, "What if There's No Hell?" with the cover story targeting Bell and his new book.² The Internet media site YouTube also has a number of video clips featuring interviews with Rob Bell.

Rob Bell is the 40-year-old emergent church³ pastor of Mars Hill Bible

Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which he founded when he was 28.⁴ According to *Time* magazine, the

church "draws 7,000 people each Sunday; its sanctuary is called the Shed."⁵

Bell gives his testimony of coming to Christ in the final chapter of his book *Love Wins*. There he states:

"One night when I was in elementary school, I said a prayer kneeling beside my bed in my room in the farmhouse we lived in on Dobie Road in Okemos, Michigan. With my parents on either side of me, I invited Jesus into my heart. I told God that I believed that I was a sinner and that Jesus came to save me and I
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