

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Was Christ represented in Washington?

(Jerry Fite)

Last week, the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. invited a diverse group for religious observances in remembrance of the 10<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary terror attacks on our country. The dean of Cathedral in Washington joined a rabbi, a Buddhist nun, an Imam, an incarnate Lama and a Hindu priest in an interfaith prayer vigil. Diversity was the goal, but criticism arose when evangelicals, and the largest denomination in the country, the Southern Baptists were not invited. National Cathedral responded by saying that their clergy were the representatives for the Christian religion. Last weekend they were the only representatives of Christianity for the “Call to Compassion.”

The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. is Episcopal in its church heritage. The question is, was Christ and Christianity truly represented by the dean of National Cathedral? On May 22 of this year, the dean, Samuel T. Lloyd III, preached a sermon from John 14:1-6. Jesus speaks of the “many mansions” in His “Father’s house” and affirms to be

“the way. . .” and says, “no one cometh to the Father but by me.” But Mr. Lloyd warns, “But if we use that same affirmation to declare that only Christians will enter God’s many roomed mansion, we have lost its real meaning”

In Mr. Lloyd’s reasoning, the expansive many mansions message is antithetical to the interpretation that only those who follow Jesus are going to heaven. This is apparent when He says “And all of a sudden this warm, inviting passage about the expanse of God’s love seems so narrow as to squeeze about two-thirds of the people on earth and the countless billions down through the centuries who have not been Christian.” While Hebrews 11 speaks of the faithful who preceded Christianity, no one outside of Christ today has the hope of Heaven (*Ephesians 2:12-16*). Jesus is indeed as He said, “the way” being the way of “peace” unto God. Mr. Lloyd apparently cannot fathom that millions, even billions will be lost in Hell. Yet, Jesus himself said there would be “many” who enter the “broad” way unto “destruction” compared

to the “few” who enter the “narrow” or restrictive gate to find “eternal life” (*Matthew 7:13-14*).

Mr. Lloyd teaches that Jesus is the way to the “Father”, not the only way to “God.” He says, “It doesn’t say no one comes to God, but that Jesus is the one who can take them into an intimate relationship with God as ‘Father’”. Mr. Lloyd is implying that one can come to God today through some other way than Christ. Yet Paul writes, “to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. . .” (*2 Corinthians 5:19*).

Mr. Lloyd also states in the sermon, “What saves us is Love – God’s love for us, and our learning to live in this love.” However, the inspired apostle Paul says the “gospel is the power of God unto salvation” (*Romans 1:16*). God’s love for the world was manifested in giving His Son to die for all (*John 3:16*), and communicated through the distinctive message of the Gospel. In light of the counsel of God, do you think Jesus is happy with His so-called representative?