

# Panel Discussion on the Theme Chosen for the 11th World Assembly of the World Council of Churches

Karlsruhe, Germany, September 8-16, 2021

*“Christ’s love moves the world to reconciliation and unity”*

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First, I will tell you a little of the plan for this session.

I will begin by providing some documentation on what the World Council of Churches has to say about its theme verse for its 11th World Assembly, in Karlsruhe, Germany, which is to be held from September 8-16, 2021.

I will then turn things over to Rev. Olson, who will be discussing just exactly what the true Biblical Gospel is and what it is not.

Following this, Rev. Greenfield will be discussing what the Bible says about the social gospel, social justice, and socialism, and what the true mission of the Bible believer and of the Church of Jesus Christ is.

At the end, we may have time for a few questions, and then I will give a few final remarks.

In January 2019, the World Council of Churches (WCC) announced the theme for its 11th World Assembly, to be held in Karlsruhe, Germany: “Christ’s love moves the world to reconciliation and unity.” It is said to be based on 2 Corinthians 5:14: “For the love of Christ constraineth us.” In the providence of God, a few months before this announcement, the ICCA had announced that its theme for this Congress would be “God Is Love,” based on 1 John 4:10: “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

In a press release announcing the theme of its upcoming Assembly, January 10, 2019, WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit stated that the emphasis will be upon Christ’s love expressed by advocacy for “justice and peace, and unity.” Tveit added that the Assembly will further emphasize “The one human family needs love and needs to love to face our future together.”

The WCC has made it clear that the “reconciliation” and “unity” of which it speaks is far different from that presented in the Bible. The theme of the WCC Executive Committee in Uppsala, Sweden, November 2-8, 2018, was “Behold, I make all things new,” from Revelation 21. Instead of rejoicing in the spiritual work of Christ culminating in a literal “new heaven and a new earth,” the meaning was

twisted to bolster the WCC agenda for the immediate transformation of society into a grand socialist utopia.

General Secretary Tveit stated at that meeting that the clear meaning of this Scripture, in English, seemed “archaic” to him. It was not that he did not understand what the Bible is teaching. He stated correctly: “The perspective is the eschatological horizon, the new heaven and earth.” However, he continued immediately to say that the WCC had “turn[ed] ... toward a more modern approach to the world ... and urg[ed] the churches to focus more on the enormous challenges of *this* world” [emphasis his].

He ridicules those he says have their focus on “pie in the sky bye and bye,” and cautions against being “too focused on the life after this one.” He concluded his address by stating: “... may God motivate and guide us in our planning and work, in anticipation of the coming unity of humankind. Thy kingdom come!”

The main emphases of Tveit’s address can be seen in the seven statements passed at this November 2018 meeting. None of them dealt with the true Gospel of Christ, but rather focused on such topics as Immigration, Climate Change, Universal Healthcare, and Economic Transformation.

Although some of these statements addressed matters we all should care about, it is apparent from reading them that the WCC is continuing on with its determined “progressive” agenda of seeking to bring its vision of “the Kingdom of God” on earth, while standing largely in opposition to the true “Kingdom of God,” as presented in the Bible.

#### “Progressive” Socialism is not Biblical

The strong advocacy for socialism can be seen in several of the Executive Committee’s releases, including its “Statement on the Urgent Challenge of Economic Transformation: 10 Years After the Global Financial Crisis.” It states that the WCC “renews its oft-repeated call for a new international financial and economic architecture for an economy of life that links finance to the real economy, accounts for social and ecological impacts, and sets effective constraints on greed.” It is of interest that no mention is made of the need for constraints on covetousness.

The WCC also advocates for such government-led socialistic programs as universal healthcare: “The WCC considers the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental human right,” and called on its members to fight for “effective national health structures....”

Another socialist program promoted is for government welfare for those crossing national borders illegally, where money is forcibly taken from citizens and “redistributed” as the government thinks is best. As a means of accomplishing these grand socialist programs, the WCC calls for government “taxation as a tool for promoting redistribution, accountability and sustainability, and regulating and democratising finance.”