

## 'The Future of Christianity' TP Sun Myung Moon 1973 October 28th

"The Future of Christianity" on October 28, 1973, in New Orleans, Louisiana. This address was part of his "Christianity in Crisis: New Hope" 21-city speaking tour across the United States.

### Core Theological Claims

In this speech, TP Sun Myung Moon presented several "new truths" that challenged traditional Christian interpretations of the Bible:

- Symbolic End Times:** He argued that biblical prophecies about the Last Days (such as the sun darkening or stars falling) are symbolic, rather than literal. He defined the Last Days as the transition from a history of evil to a new age of goodness.
- Judgment by the Word:** Moon stated that God's "judgment by fire" does not refer to literal flames but to the "**fire of the word**". He cited James 3:6 inter alia ("the tongue is a fire") to argue that truth acts as the judge for humanity.
- The Mission of Jesus:** A central and controversial point was his claim that Jesus did not come to die on the cross as part of God's original plan. TP Moon asserted that Jesus intended to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth during his lifetime but was murdered because the people of Israel and John the Baptist failed to recognize and support him.
- The Role of John the Baptist:** Moon specifically criticized John the Baptist, stating that John failed his mission by denying that he was the Elijah (No Elijah, no Messiah); by not following Jesus (becoming his main disciple); and later doubting Jesus, which directly led to Jesus' rejection by the then chosen people, and the crucifixion.

TP Moon concluded that because Jesus' physical mission was left unfulfilled, a Second Coming in human (physical, as well as spiritual) form is necessary to complete the restoration of humanity. He urged Christians to:

- Move beyond "self-centered" salvation (seeking only a personal heaven).
- Sacrifice individual and denominational interests for the sake of world salvation.
- Prepare for a "spiritual revolution" to establish a world characterized by true love and divine unity by actually becoming Sons and Daughters of God, thereby creating a One World Family of Humankind centered upon God through True Parents.