

## “Quo Vadis, Christianity?”

Prague, Czech Republic, 17. December 2013



UPF chapter in Czech Republic organized a public lecture followed by a panel discussion on the topic „Quo vadis Christianity?“ in Prague. The inspiration to organize this event came from Slovakia where there was a conference with the same topic. The main purpose of this public lecture was to remind people of the historical event of the year 313 when the religious freedom in Europe was proclaimed by Edict of Milan issued by the emperors Constantine and Licinius.

The topic attracted some 18 people to come in spite of a very busy time before the Christmas.

Right at the beginning the moderator pointed out that today's Christianity has to face many challenges. There are still many unclear and unexplained things in the Christian faith, decline of Christian values worldwide and increasing influence of other world religions. Did Christianity fulfill its role? What is the role of Christianity? The role of Judaism was to prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah. Similar mission has also the Christianity - to prepare the people for the Lord of the Second Coming. Did Christianity fulfill its role? What is the future of Christianity?

The first speaker Petr Leba, UPF lecturer gave a very clear overview what Christianity brought to humankind. He mentioned that the life of Jesus and first Christians finally changed the world. Christianity supported education, human rights, equal role of women in the society, development of modern sciences and arts. He showed the way of Christianity

in history. On the other hand there were many fights, wars and conflicts in the name of Christianity. This is the black side of Christianity. In this context the speaker mentioned what the pope Franciscus said about the church. The pope expressed the idea that if the church would lose faith in Christ then it would become another non-governmental organization.

The second speaker, university professor Ivan Odilo Štampach, from the Hussite theological faculty, a known religion scientist gave us a short but very profound overview of the history of Christianity in the last 1700 years up until now. He mentioned that the religious intolerance similarly as nationalistic intolerance are cause of many wars. Edict of Milan meant that in the whole Roman Empire the religious freedom was guaranteed. Everybody could chose his own religion. He pointed out that from the very beginning after Edict of Milan the Christians were privileged. Later they started to persecute people of different faith. This he could illustrate in the Czech history.

After the presentations of the speakers a very lively discussion emerged. There were many questions concerning the future of Christianity, role of religion in today's society, and coming of the Messiah. It was expressed that some people consider Rev. Moon to be the returning Messiah.

In the end all the participants were invited to the Divine Principle lecture seminar which will take place on the 9th January 2014.