

To Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Religion was not an end but a means

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[Newsis] “To Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Religion was not an end but a means”...Shedding New Light on the Transcendence Discussion

The Sun Myung Moon Research Institute of Sun Moon University held the “Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s World Discussion, the Aftermath of Religion” academic seminar at the Korean Press Center in Taepyeong-ro, Seoul, on the 11th. The event was attended by about 200 people. The discussions of the religions of the 21st century were transcended as Rev. Moon’s religious philosophies were explored.

Jae-Wan Joo, Vice President of the Sun Myung Moon Research Institute of Sun Moon University, acted as the master of ceremonies for the event. The seminar began with a welcoming speech by Sun Moon University President Sun-Jo Hwang, which was followed by an opening speech by Son-Dae Oh, President of the Sun Myung Moon Research Institute of Sun Moon University. Catholic Professor Hye-Ran Woo then gave a presentation, followed by presentations by Sun Moon University Professors Hang-Jae Kim and Eung-Tae Jo.

Comments were made by Imam Heng-Rae Lee of Korean Islam, Daejonggyo Preservation Federation Director Yang Jong and Cheong Shim Theological Institute and University Professors Kwang-Bong Jo and Jin-Soo Hwang.



“Rev. Sun Myung Moon saw religion with a fresh and unique perspective. He saw it as a means, rather than an end, through which humankind could be restored to its original state. His sharpest criticism of religion was that the exclusivity and claim that only one’s own religion was correct encouraged conflict between religions,” said President Sun-Jo Hwang.

“When Rev. Sun Myung Moon changed the name of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC) to the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), he was predicting the end of religion and the beginning of an era of the fulfillment of the ideal family. When the mission of restoring the world to its original state of creation is fulfilled, religion will then have realized its purpose, and there will be no need for it anymore. We will welcome in an era free of religion,” said President Dae-Oh Son.



“In the near future, religion will play the role of securing one’s identity, while helping one break down his own limitations. This both benefits one’s own personal growth and inevitably influences society in a major way. I do believe that the interreligious teachings of the Unification Church and the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon will be able to take their place among current religions, thanks to the way that they handle the tense relationships between systematized religions and religious movements,” said Professor Hye-Ran Woo.

“One of Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s arguments was his post-religious argument, which was the idea that the religions, which have been interspersed throughout human history were not self-fulfilling, but rather that they were all means to an end—the end being the creation of God’s nation and an ideal world. Rev. Moon’s religious world arguments point out the future path for today’s religions,” said Professor Hang-Jae Kim.



“Rev. Sun Myung Moon was a man who contributed greatly to bringing about unification between religions and to boosting the role of religions as peacemakers. I remember him as a man who spent his life more passionately than anyone to carry out his worldwide peace movements. I think that the discussion of the conservation and extinction of religions is one that requires deep thought. Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s religious peace philosophy and post-religious theory is extremely meaningful in this light,” said Imam Heng-Rae Lee.

“We have reached today an era of introspection, in which all religious people must carve in their hearts the message of Rev. Moon: that the true responsibility of all religious people is to overcome boundaries, including that of religion itself. It is possible to misunderstand that the transcendent ideal world view is the starting point by which one can overcome one’s own boundaries,” said Professor Jin-Soo Hwang.



“In this age of high expectations for the role of religions, and as we look back on Rev. Moon’s life and philosophies while we celebrate the 2nd anniversary of his Seonghwa, we can see that from the perspective of the realization of world peace, which he worked so hard for, these philosophies are more useful, valuable and necessary than ever for the future. Through his peace movements, Rev. Moon pioneered the path of peace for religion, and religion for peace. With the proclamation of the era of the Family Federation and the tribal messiah, he predicted the post-religious age and illuminated the dream of one human community standing upon the foundation of religion. What remains now is how we will inherit this dream after his passing,” said Professor Eung-Tae Jo.

“Rev. Moon is a man who brought about social revolution, not through guns and knives, but through new religious philosophies. The ‘Godism’ that he proposed is not simply a dream or an ideal, but a philosophy that can be made tangible and brought into reality,” revealed Director Yang Jong.

“Through Rev. Moon’s peace movements, a common ground for religions and philosophies can be found from which the two can move forward together. What is important now in order to tangibly realize his peace movements is the direction we take in the future,” said Professor Kwang-Bong Jo.