

OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST HOUR BROADCAST

By the *WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH*

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“UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION”

The Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas, presents “The Old School Baptist Hour”, with Pastor Fred Phelps:

This is Fred Phelps, and you’re listening to “The Old School Baptist Hour.”

Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka is an Old School or Primitive Baptist Church. Primitive Baptists are so-called because they adhere strictly to the doctrines and ordinances of the primitive Christian church of the First Century. They eschew every innovation in faith and practice not found in the Scriptures.

They baptize by immersion none but intelligent, penitent believers, and despise the idolatrous practice of sprinkling unconscious infants.

They recognize no sacraments; but two ordinances only: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. They use only one cup filled with wine; from which each member drinks; “All of you drink from it,” says Christ. Matthew 26:27. And, they use one loaf of unleavened bread; broken before all and shared by all. They reject as unscriptural and anti-Christian the spurious practice of passing out little individual glasses of grape juice and wafers; there is no authority for such in Scripture.

They do not tolerate divorce for any cause; and forbid sex in any form outside the Bible prescription of one man, one woman, for one lifetime.

They vigorously enforce church discipline; and exclude any member who does not walk orderly in all things in Christ Jesus.

They detest the demeaning and disgusting practice of passing collection plates at public worship services; and all other forms of religious begging.

They despise and abhor all idolatrous festivals and ceremonies; such as Christmas, Easter, religious statues, images and pictures, masses and sacraments; all as being alien to the Scriptures and without any divine authority whatsoever; being nothing but the inventions of men in violation of the plain commands of God Almighty forbidding such extra-Scriptural religious trappings and fetishes.

Their public worship services are plain and simple: consisting of solemn prayers, hymn and psalm singing, and expository preaching of the doctrines of Grace and the whole counsel of God; and they reject modern innovations such as Sunday Schools, women preachers, and religious entertainment; holding all such is abomination to God and anti-Scriptural in the extreme. "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak." 1 Corinthians 14:34.

My friend, if it is ever your good fortune to attend the services of an Old School Baptist church you will not have a collection plate poked at you nor be entertained by flashy, fleshly special musical numbers, nor be subjected to the vulgarities of shrieking women teachers and preachers. Nor will you be treated to fanciful lying words about God loving everybody and Christ dying for everybody, and God hating sin but loving the sinner, and other doctrines of devils. But you will have the truth preached to you plainly: perhaps for the first time in your life. And you will be convinced of all, judged of all, and thus the secrets of your heart will be made manifest and you will truly worship God and report that God is in the midst of that church of a truth. 1 Corinthians 14:24-25.

Old School Baptist doctrines and practices are thus demonstrably, those and only those, of the primitive Christian church of the First Century A.D.

Old School Baptist preachers are contentious and disputative in their style and substance, pursuant to the mandate of the Scriptures: “I exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this damnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness.” Jude 4 and 5. It is utmost folly to speak of preaching the Gospel without being contentious and disputative in the process. We are ordered to earnestly contend for the only body of divine truth God has delivered to the sons of men. “Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught by God himself, that he may be able by sound doctrine to exhort and to confute—overwhelm with tight argument--the gainsayers.” Titus 1:9. “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins.” Isaiah 58:1. “Preach this word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” 2 Timothy 4:2-4.

Old School Baptists have heard from a sovereign God who has laid a necessity upon them thus that they experience an internal woe if they preach not this Gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:16. That whether an apostate and reprobate world will hear or forbear to hear them, yet shall that world know there hath been a prophet among them. Ezekiel 2:5. Thus that they take all their hearers to record in their day that they are pure from the blood of all men, for Old School Baptists have not shunned to declare all the counsel of God. Acts 20:26-27. And, they endure all things for the elects sake, that all God’s elect may obtain like precious salvation. 2 Timothy 2:10.

Old School Baptist say without any hesitation or apology say: “We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us (that is, receives and believes our message); he that is not of God heareth not us (that is, does not heartily receive and believe our message). Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” 1 John 4:6.

My friend, if you do not heartily and believe the message embraced in the so-called Five Points of Calvinism it is because you are not of God; you have not been born of God; you have not been taught of God; you are seized with a powerful spirit of error.

They (that is, these false preachers peddling a perverted Gospel of free will) are of the world therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 1 John 4:5.

As Martin Luther said to Erasmus, “Your thoughts of God are too human, my dear Erasmus.” Your notions of the nature and attributes of God are too human. “Thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself.” Psalm 50:21. “And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.” 1 John 5:19. Only the elect are possessed of such knowledge: a powerful, internal divinely-imparted knowledge. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world (that is, all the rest of the corrupt mass of mankind) lieth in wickedness (that is, totally submerged in wicked doctrines of religion and wicked lifestyles). 1 John 5:19. “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we (the elect) are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and this is eternal life.” (1 John 5:20).

Only the elect have such knowledge: such internal divinely-imparted knowledge. And we know (that is, we have such knowledge of the true nature of attributes) that we may know him that is true. This, and only this, is eternal life. That is, an accurate and true knowledge of the nature and attributes of God the Father and God the Son. Hence Christ says, “And this

is eternal life, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” John 17:3.

To know God the Father and God the Son is eternal life. To know God means simply to have a thorough knowledge of the nature and attributes of God. Just as to know any person means simply to have a thorough knowledge of the nature and attributes of that person. A person indeed is defined by his essential nature and attributes. For example, he’s a kind person, a love person, a clean person, a thrifty person, and so forth. A person is nothing else than the aggregate of the characteristics or attributes that go to make up that person. Even so, God may be known only by his nature and essential attributes in the totality of his being. And, only God’s elect have such knowledge and such an understanding; “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us (the elect) an understanding, that we may know him.” 1 John 5:20.

My friend, if you do not thoroughly understand the Five Points of Calvinism, and if you do not heartily and love the Five Points of Calvinism; you are ignorant of the true nature and attributes of the Almighty God; you do not know the Lord; and you are yet in midnight darkness and religious superstition. Your thoughts of God are too human. You are of the world, and you are seized with the spirit of error and not truth; and you possess the spirit of Anti-Christ and not the spirit of Christ.

I will articulate for you now the Five Points of Calvinism, which are none other than the Gospel of the Grace of God; which is nothing else than the only message of divine truth vouchsafed to the sons of men. How beautiful are the feet of him on the mountains that brings and publishes this Gospel of peace. Isaiah 52:7. This is the only report delivered from heaven to earth in the mouths of all the holy prophets and apostles; and none but the elect believe this report. Isaiah 53:1. This is the only record that God hath given concerning his Son, and he that believeth not this record hath made God a liar, because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son; and this is the record that God hath give to us; that is, to

the elect and only to the elect; eternal life; and this life is in his Son. 1 John 5:10-11.

This record that God hath given of his Son is simply and succinctly put under the headings of what have been called since the Sixteenth Century: The Five Points of Calvinism. The Five Points of Calvinism have indeed existed under other names since the fall of Adam; and indeed since before the foundations of the world were laid. Such prior names including: The Wisdom of God, The Counsels of God, The Covenant of Grace, The Gospel of the Grace of God, The Everlasting Gospel; or simply, The Gospel.

Listen:

“The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.” Proverbs 8:22-23.

But, for convenience and ease of explanation and exposition, this glorious, eternal message has been referred to for some 400 years now as the Five Points of Calvinism; named after John Calvin of Geneva in the Sixteenth Century; John Calvin being the grand teacher of John Knox and the grand patron of the Presbyterian Church.

If you, therefore, do not thoroughly understand and heartily believe and love the message contained in the Five Points of Calvinism you are yet in gross spiritual darkness, and you are yet in ignorant of God and his word; and if you dare to preach any other message pretending it to be the Gospel, you are a heretic and a false prophet. God has not sent you; and you understand nothing of what you say (that is, you have no rational understanding of your preachments) nor whereof you affirm (that is, you cannot articulate a logical and rational basis, by any intelligent standard, for your bombastic pronouncements while you call it the Gospel). 1 Timothy 1:7. You are merely and truly one of a great army of heretic preachers identified in 1 Timothy 4:1: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy.” 1 Timothy 4:1.

The Five Points of Calvinism are:

First, Total Depravity. Which means that man is totally depraved and is therefore without any ability whatsoever to save himself or to contribute in any way to his salvation; that he has no ability to believe the truth, to repent, or to seek God, or to hear the truth when preached let alone believe and receive the truth when preached.

Second, Unconditional Election. Which means that God from eternity past has unconditionally elected or chosen a certain, relatively small number of mankind, each by name, to be saved from the wrath to come; and, has likewise predestinated all the rest of the human race--the overwhelming mass of mankind--not to believe and to be damned. And Unconditional Election means that God made his choice without any conditions attached, and without any consideration whatsoever to merit or virtue in the objects of his choice; the selection of those he chose to save was purely arbitrary on God's part, and the only explanation given in Scripture is, that it pleased the Almighty to do so. And, a sovereign God certainly has the absolute right to do as he wills with his own, saying: "Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?" Romans 9:20.

Next, and the third of the Five Points of Calvinism, is: Limited Atonement. Which means that Jesus Christ died or atoned for only a very small and limited number of mankind, to wit: only for those same persons whom God the Father elected or chose in eternity past to be saved. He gave his life a ransom only for "many". Matthew 20:28 and Mark 10:45. Not for every individual of mankind, for many; and "The Good Shepherd giveth his life only for the sheep" (John 10:11); and to pursue that metaphor, the Lord Jesus Christ did not give his life for a single goat, a single dog, or a single hog. There is no authority in Scripture for the lying doctrine that Jesus Christ died for everybody; and if you believe otherwise you have been misinformed.

Next, and the fourth of the Five Points of Calvinism, is: Irresistible Grace. Which means that each of those whom God the Father elected or chose in eternity past to be saved, and for whom God the Son in the fullness of time died

and atoned, will sooner or later during their lifetimes on earth and at the exact time appointed them by God, be irresistibly called or drawn by a compelling internal force to hear the truth, to believe and embrace the truth; and to be saved. "All that the Father giveth me," said Christ, "shall come to me." John 6:37. And, "The dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and they that hear shall live." John 5:25. If you are God's elect, my friend, have no fear: sooner or later before you die you will be irresistibly drawn to heartily believe and embrace these doctrines I am preaching to you today. Your will, your human will, irresistibly will be subdued by the sovereign will of Almighty God. For we read, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Philippians 2:13. And, we read that his people, his elect, shall be willing in the day when God puts forth his power and calls them. Psalm 110:3.

Next and the Fifth of the Five Points of Calvinism is the doctrine entitled, Perseverance of the Saints. Which means, that each of those whom God the Father elected to be saved in eternity past, and for whom God the Son died at Calvary in the fullness of time, and who have been therefore irresistibly called or drawn to believe the truth and be saved at the appointed time during their lives on earth, will thereafter inevitably and certainly persevere in this faith all their remaining days on earth, and will make it to heaven at last; because notwithstanding their trials, they are kept in every circumstance by the power of God continually. 1 Peter 1:5.

My primary subject for today is the second of the Five Points: Unconditional Election. "This," says Luther, "is it which demolishes the doctrine of free will from its very foundation: that God's eternal love of some men and God's eternal hatred of other men, is immutable, unchangeable and cannot be reversed."

We read, "Of his own will begat he us by the word of truth." James 1:18. Of his mere good pleasure, for his own secret purposes, and according to his own will, God Almighty elected or chose certain men, unconditionally, to salvation; and all the rest, the vast overwhelming majority of mankind, to damnation.

And, those decrees of salvation of one group and damnation of the other group are fixed and unchangeable and irreversible; for we read: "Our God is in the

heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased." Psalm 115:3. We read, "He is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth." Job 23:13. And we read: "He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" Daniel 4:35. And, we read: "Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places." Psalm 135:6. And, we read: "Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and for thy pleasure they were created." Revelation 4:11.

My friend, whatever comes to pass in time comes to pass by virtue of this absolute, omnipotent will of God; which is the primary and supreme cause of all things. Luther again, "This therefore must stand; to wit, the unsearchable will of God, without which nothing exists or acts. God would not be God if he was not almighty, and if anything could be done without his willing it or in defiance of his sovereign will." Listen: "The will of God is so the cause of all things, as to be itself without cause, for nothing can be the cause of that which is the cause of everything. So that the Divine will is the ne plus ultra of all our inquiries; when we ascend to that, we can go no farther. Hence we find every matter resolved ultimately into the mere sovereign pleasure of God, as the spring and occasion of whatsoever is done in heaven and earth."

"Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight." Matthew 11:25.

"I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight." Luke 10:21

Don't you understand the implications of what I am saying to you? The will of God is the mainspring that sets all the inferior wheels in motion, and is the sole rule which God goes in all his dealings with his creatures. Since nothing outside of God himself can possibly induce to will or nil one thing rather than another. Deny this, and you at one stroke God's immutability and independency; and you undeify the deity. Jacob have I loved; and Esau have I hated, saith the Lord. Malachi 1:2-3. Twin boys in their Mother's womb; one predestinated to salvation, Jacob; the other predestinated to damnation, Esau; and for no reason other than

the mere good pleasure of a sovereign God. “And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; God said unto Rebekah: Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.” Romans 9:10, 13. These twin boy in their Mother’s womb, “being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth.” Romans 9:11.

God Almighty from eternity past fixed his love on Jacob, and fixed his hatred on Esau; and the purpose of God according to election will stand. Romans 9:11.

My friend, I am telling you very plainly, that if God Almighty in eternal ages past, fixed his love upon you; calling you by name in those dark recesses of eternity past, and writing your name in his book; than Christ died for you, and you will be saved inevitably and invincibly, and despite the ragings of men and devils. And that is good news to you; and that is the only good news God has for this world; and that is just what the word, Gospel, means: good news. And, in time you will come to powerfully realize within your soul that God has fixed his love discriminatingly upon you; that Christ died particularly for you; and you will rejoice within you that you are indeed one of God’s elect; and you will then have strong evidence that your calling and election is sure. 2 Peter 1:10.

And, I am likewise telling you equally plainly; that if God Almighty in eternal ages past fixed his hatred upon you; then Christ did not die for you; and you will be lost and damned in hell forever inevitably and invincibly; and that is not good news to you; and I have no good news for you.

This is Fred Phelps, Pastor of Westboro Baptist Church: More next week on the “Old School Baptist Hour.”