

OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST HOUR BROADCAST

By the *WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH*

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“Total Depravity”

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.”

Old School Baptists are sometimes called T.U.L.I.P. Baptists. That’s T-U-L-I-P, like the flower. Capital T, capital U, capital L, capital I, capital P. They’re called T.U.L.I.P. Baptists because they believe and mightily proclaim the so-called five points of Calvinism. The five points of Calvinism properly understood and preached constitute nothing other than the true Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. And, any other message pretending to be the Gospel is nothing other than a lying fable.

I am not talking to you about an interesting difference of opinion about some minor point of doctrine. I am talking to you about vital Christianity; the truth of God versus the lie of the Devil. My friend, if you do not thoroughly understand and heartily believe and love the five points of Calvinism you’re not a born again Christian; and 10,000 lying television preachers telling you different does not change that solemn fact. These lying preachers, who tell you that you are a free moral agent, who tell you that you have a sovereign free will whereby you can believe and be saved, are in Isaiah’s words, blind. They’re all ignorant; they’re all dumb dogs; they cannot bark; sleeping; lying down; loving to slumber. Yeah, they’re greedy dogs which can never have enough; and they’re shepherds that cannot understand. They all look to their own way, everyone for his gain. Isaiah 56:10-11.

My friend, the truth of God is that you are not a free moral agent. God Almighty is the only free moral agent in the universe, and he alone has a free will. And, in the words of the prophet Daniel: “All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he”—God alone—“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. You have no free will. The human will is in total bondage and slavery to ignorance, superstition, spiritual darkness and sin. Your will is free only to do wrong; free only to select between one depraved thing and another.

Martin Luther, who in the 16th Century, established the Lutheran Church, wrote a book entitled, “De Servo Arbitrio”; which means, literally, free will a slave. And, the English title is “The Bondage of the Will.” Luther said that this book, alone of his writings, deserved to survive to posterity. Luther’s book has been reprinted by Baker Book House in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and you can get it at any bookstore. It has 419 pages. On the last page Luther turns attention to these false prophets and lying preachers who abounded in his day, as well as in our, who taught that man has a free will and that man is a free moral agent. Luther said of all such: “If I could have my way these liars should be exploded from our schools altogether. For if they be not pernicious they are certainly useless because they in truth discuss and teach nothing.”

Any preacher who does not vigorously preach and proclaim and plainly expound the five points of Calvinism as the only true Gospel of God, has in Paul’s word “depart[ed] from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and [is preaching] doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; [and] having [his] conscience seared with a hot iron.” 1 Timothy 4:1-2. Such preachers have not received the love of the truth, that they and their hearers might be saved; and for this cause God himself has sent them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteous doctrines and live unholy lives. 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12. Such preachers who tell you ad nauseum that God loves everybody and Jesus died for everybody, and that you have a free will, and that your free will makes the difference whether you’re saved or lost; I say these preachers, in Ezekiel’s words, are violating God’s word

and have profaned God's holy things and doctrines. They have put no difference between the holy and the profane. Neither have they showed the difference between the unclean and the clean. Ezekiel 22:26.

They need desperately to hear and heed the words of Jeremiah: “[I]f thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth.” Jeremiah 15:19. “And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy [in doctrine], and between unclean and clean [in your preachments].” Leviticus 10:10. “[F]or I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine [and hold forth my truth]. Leviticus 20:26. “Wherefore,” the command is, “Come out from among them”—these lying false preachers and phony religions—“ be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing”—these lying doctrines of devils—“ and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” [2 Corinthians 6:17-18].

My friend, if you do not thoroughly understand and heartily believe and love the five points of Calvinism, you know nothing of the truth of God. You have never taken forth the precious from the vile. You have never put a difference between the clean and the unclean. You have never distinguished the holy from the profane. You have never come out from among these lying notions and these lying doctrines of devils. And, God has never received you, has never become a father unto you, and you have never become his son or his daughter.

Old School Baptists, I say, are sometimes called T.U.L.I.P. Baptists, because T.U.L.I.P. is an acronym of those five letters. The first letter of each of the five points of Calvinism spells out the word T.U.L.I.P. The “T” stands for the doctrine of Total Depravity. The “U” stands for the doctrine of Unconditional Election. The “L” stands for the doctrine of Limited Atonement. The “I” stands for the doctrine of Irresistible Grace. And, the “P” stands for the doctrine of Perseverance of the Saints. Thus making out the acronym of T.U.L.I.P. and on that account the Old School Baptists are sometimes called T.U.L.I.P. Baptists. Because of their love for and constant preaching of the doctrines of grace sometimes called the five points of Calvinism.

If you do not thoroughly understand and heartily believe and love each of these doctrines, then you understand nothing of the truth of God. You know nothing of the true Gospel of God. And you are yet in a state of spiritual darkness, ignorance and superstition. You have never turned to God from idols to serve the true and living God and to wait for his Son from heaven. 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10. You have never taken been taken from the kingdom of darkness and been translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Colossians 1:13. And, God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness as the first divine command in Genesis Chapter 1 has never signed shined in your mind or heart to give you the light of the glorious knowledge of God in the face or image of Jesus Christ. You're yet in darkness; you're yet in your sins. 2 Corinthians 4:6. And, if you die in your ignorance, if you die in your spiritual darkness, if you die in your sins; you cannot go where Jesus is. John 8:24.

Again, I am not talking to you about some little interesting difference of opinion on some minor point of Christian doctrine. I am talking to you about vital Christianity. I am talking to you about the only truth of God that saves the soul verses the lies of the Devil that damn the soul. If you do not thoroughly understand and heartily believe and love the five points of Calvinism, which are none other than the doctrines of grace, you are not a Christian of any true sort; let alone a born again Christian of the Bible sort. And, 10,000 lying preachers telling you different will not change that solemn fact.

This program, The Old School Baptist Hour, just as has Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka for the last 32 years, thoroughly expounds the five points of Calvinism, the absolute sovereignty of God, absolute predestination of all things, and batters down and smashes from its pedestal the idol which is universally worshipped and adored nowadays, and whose name is "Free Will" and "Free Moral Agency".

My subject for today is the first of the five points of Calvinism: Total Depravity, or Total Inability. This Bible doctrine is the proper place to begin because those who err here also commit error everywhere else in their faith. This doctrine teaches that man is totally depraved with emphasis on both words.

Man's depravity is total. Man's inability to seek and know the truth of God is total. The favorite Scriptural metaphor to describe man's condition is death. My friend, you came into this world spiritually dead, dead, dead. In the absolute sense and meaning of that word, dead. "You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." Ephesians 2:1. The hour is coming and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and only they that hear shall live. John 5:25. "Son of man, can these dry bones live?" Ezekiel 37:3. Every son of Adam who has not been quickened or brought to life by a supernatural act of a sovereign God is as spiritually dead, dead, dead; as the dry bones of Ezekiel's vision. He has no life; he has no ability whatsoever to hear, to believe, to repent, or to do anything else spiritually. This modern notion that man is really good at heart, or at least has a little good in him, is a lie straight from hell and a doctrine of devils.

Call the roll of the giants of the Christian faith through the centuries, and with one accord they believed and roundly preached that the fundamental doctrine of Christianity is the doctrine of Total Depravity. Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, Augustus Toplady. Thus, every Lutheran, every Presbyterian, every Episcopalian, to name but a few, who do not believe the doctrine of Total Depravity are betraying the very faith they profess. Their founders believed it; and virtually every ancient, honorable and widely-accepted and believed creed and confession of faith from then 'til now plainly expounds the doctrine of Total Depravity as bedrock Christianity.

The Westminster Confession of Faith; the old London Confession of Faith; The Savoy Confession of Faith, the Philadelphia Confession of Faith; call the roll. They all set forth in substantially the same terms this grand old doctrine, this fundamental doctrine, of Christianity; this doctrine of Total Depravity. Listen: Chapter Six, Article One:

Although God created man upright and perfect, and gave him a righteous law, which had been unto life had he kept it, and threatened death upon the breach thereof, yet he did not long abide in this honour; Satan using the subtlety of the serpent to subdue Eve, then by her seducing Adam, who, without any compulsion, did willfully transgress the law of their creation, and the command given unto

them, in eating the forbidden fruit, which God was pleased, according to his wise and holy counsel to permit, having purposed to order it to his own glory. (Gen. 2:16-17; Gen. 3:12, Gen 10:13; 2 Cor. 11:1-3)

Article Two:

Our first parents, by this sin, fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and we all fell in them whereby death passed upon all men: all becoming dead in sin, and wholly defiled and unable to recover themselves; and this in all the faculties and parts of soul and body. (Rom. 3:23, Rom. 5:12; Titus 1:15; Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-19).

Article Three:

They being the root, and by God's appointment, standing in the room and stead of all mankind—this Adam and Eve--, the guilt of the sin was imputed, and corrupted nature conveyed, to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation, being now conceived in sin, and by nature the children of wrath, the servants of sin, by nature the subjects of death, and all other miseries, spiritual, temporal, and eternal, unless the Lord Jesus set them free. (Rom. 5:12-19; 1 Cor. 15:21, 22, 45, 49; Ps. 51:6; Job 14:4; Eph. 2:3; Rom. 6:20, 5:12; Heb. 2:14, 15; 1 Thess. 1:10).

Yes, my friend, you were born totally depraved and alienated from the life of God. And, unless God chooses to bestow mercy upon you by striking fire in your soul and calling you forth from the dead, as Jesus called Lazarus; you will live in your spiritual death and die in your spiritual and go to hell forever still in your spiritual death. You can no more save yourself than a dead man lying in the Penwell-Gabel Mortuary can rise off the embalming slab, dress himself, and go home.

These lying evangelists screaming that if you will take the first step than God will do the rest and save you, are very foolish indeed. Understanding neither what they say nor whereof they confidently affirm. That is just like telling the corpse at Penwell-Gabel that if he will rise from the slab and take the first step you will carry him the rest of the way home in your car.

Mr. Spurgeon used to tell the story of the lying Roman Catholic legend of St. Dennis, who was martyred by decapitation, and who thereafter stooped over, picked up his own head, and holding his own head in his hands walked two thousand miles. Mr. Spurgeon said I will give him the two thousand miles; it's the first step that bothers me.

These lying Arminian evangelists, that fill the television waves with their lying perversions of the Gospel, tell you that if you will only believe; just take that first step; believe; God will save you. My friend, in your spiritually dead and ignorant state, you can no more believe the truth of God than you can fly to the moon and the stars. You are, according to God's word, dead, dead, dead.

The book of Romans is without question the greatest theological treatise ever penned. It begins in Chapter 1 just where the Gospel of grace begins: with the doctrine of Total Depravity. If you do not have a thoroughgoing knowledge and understanding of the book of Romans, you are an ignorant person. And, you have no excuse for such ignorance. You have no moral right to call yourself an educated person, or even an intellectually honest person, if you have no thoroughgoing knowledge and understanding of the book of Romans.

The book of Romans is about twenty pages long and consists of sixteen chapters. The ablest minds of the last twenty centuries have turned attention to the book of Romans. And, many of their commentaries and expositions on that book are available to us today. You have no excuse.

The First Chapter of that book declares that "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Romans 1:18. That is, such is the nature and extent of man's total depravity, which incurs God's wrath, that not only is man entirely ungodly and unrighteous but the evidence of his total depravity is that he perverts the very truth of God itself: "Holds the truth in unrighteousness."

"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." Romans 1:19-20.

“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.” Romans 1:21-22.

“And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.” Romans 1:23.

“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves.” Romans 1:24.

The pervasive evidence of total human depravity is thus seen and declared to be all around us, in every nation and every age, in the form of sexual perversion. I say to you, on the authority of the great God himself, that sex in any form--straight or perverted, in the common parlance—outside the Bible prescription of one man, one woman, for one lifetime, is anathema to God Almighty. And, is solid universal evidence of human depravity.

It does not matter to this eternal principal that President Ronald Reagan has two living wives. It does not matter that Senator Bob Dole has two living wives. Such is merely manifest evidence in our day of human depravity, and the extent to which it is ignored and indeed honored and respected in our society.

Only Bible marriage is honourable in all times and places. And, only that marriage bed is undefiled. One man, one woman, for one lifetime. And, every other sex coupling constitutes perversion and constitutes “holding the truth in unrighteousness.” “Marriage”, we read, “is honourable in all, and that bed is undefiled.” But all the rest constitute whoremongers and adulterers, whom God will judge. Hebrews 13:4.

Every faithful New Testament preacher, from John the Baptist to the present has adhered to that position. John the Baptist was executed by decapitation because he preached this doctrine to King Herod. Saying to him, it is wrong for you, sir, to be married to the woman who used to be the wife of your

brother. She now has two living husbands. Divorced does not count. Your brother that married her first is the only husband she can ever lawfully have through all eternity. It is wrong, said John, for you to have her. Mark 6:18.

“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature.” Romans 1:25-26. Lesbianism—the ultimate in demonstrable total human depravity—solid evidence from Romans Chapter One of Total Depravity; the perversion of Lesbianism. “Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.” Romans 1:32.

Not everybody in ancient Sodom and Gomorrah and in ancient Benjamin were homosexuals. In fact, relatively few were. Just as today. But the great sin of those ancient civilizations, which brought divine judgment and doom upon them, was in tolerating with official and popular approval the homosexuals among them. They created a tolerant society that welcomed the homosexuals to come out of the closet; just as we are doing in this country and throughout the world, today.

“And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet (or fitting). And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not seemly (that is, things that are defiled and disgusting).” Romans 1:27-28.

Thus, homosexuality is declared to be the ultimate evidence among mankind of total depravity. Homosexuals have reached the bottom of the chain of human depravity, and are utterly beyond redemption or hope of salvation. Homosexuals are as certainly in hell as if they had already died and gone there. All talk of preaching the Gospel to homosexuals with the hope or expectation that they will repent and change their lifestyle is utmost folly. There is no question with anyone at all familiar with the Bible, and anyone who is taught of God from

that Bible, that the world wide plague of AIDS is anything other than the judgment of the Almighty upon this generation pursuant to the specific warning of Romans Chapter One.

We have made it comfortable and acceptable for homosexuals to come out of the closet. Homosexual conduct has been declared to be acceptable as an alternate lifestyle by our recognized and respected leaders. In 1969 it officially began when the American Psychiatric Society formally voted and approved the reclassification of homosexuality from abnormal to normal. Putting the imprimatur of acceptability upon homosexual conduct is precisely the sin of ancient Sodom and Gomorrah.

This is Fred Phelps, pastor of Westboro Baptist Church: more next week.