

OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST HOUR BROADCAST

By the *WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH*

September 20, 1987

IRRESISTIBLE GRACE: “OF HIS OWN WILL BEGAT HE US BY THE WORD OF TRUTH.” JAMES 1:18

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 practices of the primitive Christian church of the First Century A.D. They reject every innovation in doctrine and religious practice not found expressly authorized in the Scriptures.

The last territorial governor of Kansas, Governor Beebe, that’s B-E-E-B-E, was an Old School or Primitive Baptist. He left office in 1861 when Kansas became a state, and returned to New York where he was elected to Congress. His father was Gilbert Beebe; an Old School Baptist preacher in Middletown, New York. Beebe used to preach at Welch Tract Baptist Church in Salisbury, Maryland. Welch Tract Baptist Church is the oldest existing Baptist Church in America. That Church moved with 100% of its membership from Wales; lock stock and barrel in 1702; and built a little church on a tract of land deeded to them by the English King, in Maryland; and took the name Old Welch Tract Baptist Church.

Throughout the intervening 285 years, and down to the present day, that Church has maintained and defended pure Gospel truth. That Church preaches the Five Points of Calvinism. They publish a bi-monthly paper entitled “The Remnant”; wherein are reprinted sermons of the Old School Baptist preachers



from days long gone by; great sermons by great and godly Old School Baptist preachers of early America. If you would like a subscription to “The Remnant”, you may have it free of charge upon request. As always, no donations will ever be solicited or accepted by this radio program.

That little paper is entitled “The Remnant” after the name given to God’s elect throughout the Scriptures. For example, “Though the number of Adam’s corrupt seed be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant shall be saved.” Romans 9:27. “I will gather the remnant of my flock.” Jeremiah 23:3. “I will save my people, the remnant of Israel.” Jeremiah 31:7. “I will surely gather the remnant of Israel.” Micah 2:12. “Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.” Isaiah 1:9. “Even so, then, at this present time also there remaineth a remnant according to the election of Grace. The election hath obtained it and the rest were blinded.” Romans 11:5, 7.

The proposition is very plain and clear, my friend. And, it is this: the corrupt mass of mankind is doomed; the Adamic race is doomed; except for a very small remnant whom God has purposed to redeem and deliver from the wrath to come. If you are one of those highly favored few that go to make up the remnant, then the Gospel is good news for you. This is the true Gospel message and there is no other. Old School Baptists doctrines and practices are demonstrably those, and only those, of the primitive Christian church of the First Century A.D. Old School Baptists doctrine and practices are those, and only those, supported by the Scriptures; and they are the only religious doctrines and practices that may be rationally drawn from and justified by the Scriptures.

Old School Baptists doctrines are sometimes called the Five Points of Calvinism; named after John Calvin, the Sixteenth Century preacher who was mentor to John Knox, founder of the Presbyterian Church. But the doctrines contained in the Five Points of Calvinism are nothing other than the Doctrines of Grace, which are nothing other than the Gospel of the Grace of God; which is the only message of Divine truth delivered to the sons of men.

If you do not have a thorough working knowledge of the Five Points of Calvinism, you are truly ignorant, period. Let alone being ignorant of religious truth. You are not properly entitled to call yourself educated; whatever else you may have knowledge of if you are unskilled in the Five Points of Calvinism. And you certainly are lying in your teeth to call yourself a Christian in any proper sense, if you do not have a thorough knowledge of and genuine belief in and love for the Five Points of Calvinism. And if you have never heard the Five Points of Calvinism preached and expounded, then you have never heard the Gospel preached, you have never heard the Gospel expounded.

The Five Points of Calvinism are as follows:

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, to repent, or to seek God, or to hear the truth when preached, let alone to believe and receive the truth when preached.

Next and the second of the Five Points of Calvinism is 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, 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 absolutely 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 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; Mark 10:45. He did not give his life a ransom for every individual of mankind, but for “many.” And, “The good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep only.” John 10:11. And, to pursue this Bible metaphor; the Lord Jesus Christ did not give his life for a single goat, a single dog, or a single hog; such as the great mass of those listening to me now. 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 be irresistibly called or drawn by a compelling inner force to hear the truth, believe and embrace the truth, and be saved. “All that the Father giveth me 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, will be irresistibly subdued by the sovereign will of Almighty God. For we read, “It is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13. And, we read: “His people shall be willing in the day when God puts forth his power and calls them to salvation.” 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, 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 make it to heaven at last; because notwithstanding their trials and their numerous temptations and failings they are nevertheless kept by the power of God continually. 1 Peter 1:5.



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

“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 the one group and damnation of the other group are fixed and unchangeable and irreversible. For we read, “Our God is in the heavens, he has done whatsoever he hath pleased.” Psalm 115:3. And, 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 further 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 further 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 further read: “Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and for thy pleasure they were created.” Revelation 4:11.

God is likewise absolutely unchangeable with regard to his purposes and his promises. It is written: “God is not a man that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?” Numbers 23:19. And, further: “And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should change his mind.” And, further: “I the LORD have spoken it: it shall come to pass, and I will do it; I will not go back, neither will I spare, neither will I change my mind.” Ezekiel 24:14. Further: “The gifts of God and the calling of God are without any possibility of his changing his mind. Romans 11:29. Further: “He,”—that is, the Lord God himself—“abideth faithful, and cannot deny himself.” 2 Timothy 2:13.

By the purpose of decree of God, we mean his determinate counsel, whereby he did from all eternity preordain whatever he should do. In particular, it 

signifies his everlasting appointment of some men to life and others to death; which appointment flows entirely from his own free and sovereign will. For it is written: “For the children 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; It was said: ... Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.” Romans 9:11-13.

Furthermore, all the names of God’s elect were written in heaven, carefully, distinctly, discriminatingly, before the foundations of the world were laid; that is, in eternal ages past. Revelation 17:8. In Luke 10, Christ said to his disciples: “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:19-20. My friend, if your name was not written in heaven, in the Lamb’s book of life, before the foundation of the world; Christ did not die for you; and ten thousand lying preachers telling you that God loves you and Jesus died for you will not change that solemn, immutable fact. You must, therefore, give diligence to make your calling and election sure. 2 Peter 1:10. That is, get a hold of some undoubted evidence and proof in your life that you are indeed one of God’s elect.

And this fact of sovereign, electing grace was the source of profound rejoicing by the Lord Jesus. Just after he announced that their names were discriminately written in Heaven: “In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O 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. Here you see the basis, and the only basis, upon which God chose to save some and to damn others: “even so, Father; it seemed good in thy sight.” The fountainhead of it all is the Father’s good pleasure. God is a sovereign in the absolute sense. He alone chooses whom to save and to whom to damn; who will go to heave and who will go to hell; and he made that choice, that election, in eternal ages past. And, those he chose to be his sheep, his people, his elect, his chosen ones, his ancient people, were written in heaven before the foundation of the world; and hence we read that at the end



of the ages: “Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:15.

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 the will of God is the sole rule by which God goes in all his dealings with his creatures? Deny this and you at one stroke destroy his immutability and his independency; and you at once undeify the deity. Jacob have I loved; Esau have I hated. 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 Rebecca: “Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.” Romans 9:10, 13. These twin boys 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, then 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 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 yourself that you are indeed one of God’s elect. And, to all the rest of you, I am 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 and I have no good news for you.

Old School Baptists have never had any good news for the reprobate. Surely God has put your feet in slippery places while you live. Psalm 73:18. And very soon now, Hell from beneath will be moved to meet you at your coming, and



the worms will be under you and the worms will be spread over you. Isaiah 14:10, 11. And, the smoke of your torment will ascend up for ever and ever, and you will have no rest day nor night. Revelation 14:11. But, you will be tormented in those flames. Luke 16:24. You have no hope, and you have never had any hope; and you will throughout eternity have no hope. And, all of which is unconditional: “For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion;” and I will harden and destroy whom I choose to harden and destroy; So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee” by destroying thee. Romans 9:15-17.

Don't you understand: if you are not God's elect, God Almighty raised you up—that is, allowed you to survive infant mortality and live to maturity—for the single purpose of showing his power in you. That is, punishing you in justice for your sins in hell forever. You were born and survived, not for God to show his grace by saving you from hell, but for God to show his justice and power by punishing you in hell, and that forever. “Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.” Romans 9:18.

Far from God wanting you to be saved, and pleading with you to take Jesus as your Savior and be saved; and far from your stubborn will being the cause why you are not saved; the truth is that God never loved you but hated you from eternity past; and his everlasting purpose is to harden your heart so that you will believe the truth and be saved; and, upon your death, following a reprobate life of adultery and lasciviousness and every evil thing, to justly condemn you and punish you in hell forever. Jude calls you, and all your kind: nothing but brute beasts made to be taken and destroyed and before of old ordained to be thus damned. Jude 4 and 10. Christ referred to you and all your kind when he said: “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you (I never loved you): depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” Matthew 7:22-23.

Your religion may be very extensive, laced with references to God and Jesus; but the essential, vital point is: I never knew you with approbation and favor; I never, no not from eternity past, loved you; you are not one of those I fixed my love upon and elected to salvation in the council halls of eternity past. Depart from me you workers of iniquity; you have never been one of my sheep; you have never been the object of my affection; you are one of those that I and my Father have hated from all eternity; I never knew you; I never loved you; depart from me. Such, my friend, is the doctrine of Unconditional Election.

And, if you do not thoroughly understand it and heartily love it; it is because you are bound up in the chains and fetters of ignorance and religious superstitious lies.

This is Fred Phelps, Pastor of Westboro Baptist Church. More of the same next week; same time, same station.