

WESTBORO BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS:

THE OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST HOUR, 17TH IN A SERIES,

DECEMBER 13, 1987

SANTA CLAUS WILL TAKE YOU TO HELL, YO!

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

This is Fred Phelps. Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka is an Old School or Primitive Baptist Church. It has existed in this place for thirty-two years in the defense and confirmation of the gospel (Philippians 1:7), contending earnestly for the faith, that is: the body of divinely revealed truth that was once and for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3), believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets (Acts 24:14), and testifying both to the Jews and also to the Gentiles: repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21).

Old School Baptists once were very numerous in America, and indeed all Baptists were Primitive or Old School Baptists in the early days of this country. The name, Old School Baptist, was applied to them about two hundred years ago when Sunday schools, and Theological schools, and Bible schools began to be established in this country. These old Baptists rejected such inventions of men and preached against them with vigor. They took the position that only the Church was established by Jesus Christ; not the Sunday school, not the Theological Seminary, not the Bible school. They roundly condemned Sunday schools as being extra-scriptural and unscriptural. If they could not find a doctrine or a practice clearly set out in the Bible, they condemned it as being from the Devil. Christ said, “On this rock I build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18. “Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:21. And, “[t]o the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.” Ephesians 3:10. And, Christ is the head of his body, the Church. Colossians 1:18.

This sampling of verses suffices to demonstrate conclusively that wherever you find organized Christianity in the New Testament you find it in the form of a properly established and orderly functioning New Testament Church, and in no other form. Certainly not in the form of a Sunday school. And certainly not in the form of a Theological Seminary, or a Bible College, or any of the other of the myriads of so-called schools; which are of human origin established to preach and teach religion during the last two hundred years. Christ said: "I build my Church;" not my Sunday school, not my Theological Seminary. Matthew 16:18. His glory is in his Church; not some human organization like a Sunday school or a Theological Seminary. Ephesians 3:21. The manifold wisdom of God is made known by the Church; not by the Sunday school or the Theological Seminary. Ephesians 3:10. And, Christ is the head of his body, the Church; not his body, the Sunday school, or his body, the Theological Seminary. Colossians 1:18.

Therefore, when these strange new schools began to proliferate, about two hundred years ago in this country, the old Baptists took a dim view of them. They said we do not find these new schools provided for in the scriptures. We have an old school, which is the only teaching institution established by Christ in the earth; and it is called the Church. The old school is good enough for us. We reject all the new schools in favor of this old school. And, hence, they came to be called Old School Baptists.

It is a matter, my friend, of the integrity of the word of God. You cannot twist the scriptures to suit your wicked will. This is a matter of the integrity and the exclusivity of the Church that Jesus built. "One thing," said David, "have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock." Psalm 27:4-5.

You are a rational creature, my friend; a human being. You have a solemn, primary duty in life that supersedes every other duty. And, that is to find the house of God and dwell there all the days of your life. You must above all else, in your miserable career on this earth in these short few years of human existence wherein you spend your years as a tale that is told (Psalm 90:9), determine for yourself and at your everlasting peril where God meets with his people on earth. You must search and find the place that God has chosen wherein to put his name. Deuteronomy 12:5. And, "unto his habitation shall

ye seek, and thither thou shalt come.” Deuteronomy 12:5-6. Otherwise, you are living your life as a horse or a mule, “which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle.” Psalm 32:9. And, you are nothing other than these: “as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, [who] speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; and shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, ... sporting themselves with their own deceivings ...; having eyes full of adultery, [and sodomy and] that cannot cease from sin; ... cursed children.” 2 Peter 2:12-14.

These are Bible descriptions of the overwhelming majority of those now listening to my voice. You are drifting through life like some horse or mule, like some dumb brute beast, so far as a vital interest in and knowledge of the things of God are concerned. You have some half-hearted voodoo religion, presided over by some wimp of a priest or a preacher, who is just as ignorant as you are about the truth of God in the earth; and who is probably a homosexual, a fornicator, an idolater, or all three. And your level of genuine respect for that witch doctor, you call your minister, is about as low as it can get and allow you to still maintain a modicum of belief in your own sanity and self respect. And you are in the midnight darkness of ignorance and superstition. Listen: “Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old path, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your soul.” Jeremiah 6:16. Listen: “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20. Listen: “[H]e that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully.” Jeremiah 23:38. Listen: “But he answered and said unto them, why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?” Matthew 15:3.

You are stumbling through life in a religious fog. Your thoughts of God are so low and too human. You like Christmas because Santa Claus suits your faulty notion of how you think God ought to be. A kind of cheerful, grandfatherly, old gentleman who is going somehow to let you muddle through life and when you die take you to some indistinct hazy place or state of existence called heaven. You are a fool. Psalm 14:1. You have made lies your refuge and under falsehood you have hid yourself. Isaiah 28:15. You do not treat any other serious matter in life in the cavalier fashion with which you treat the Bible and religion or you would be dead within a fortnight. And, you do not treat any other serious writing in the same dumb way you treat the word of God or you would be

in jail within a week. You think you can insult God Almighty by your careless, silly approach to the eternal destiny of your never-dying soul. That you can give the Bible a lick and a promise. That you can leave the grave issues of life and death and salvation and eternity to some money-grubbing, pompous ass of a preacher or priest who wears a dress, and who is obviously an inferior specimen of the human race. Listen: “Judgment also will I lay to the line,” saith the Lord, “and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters [of my judgment] shall overflow [your] hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand.” Isaiah 28:17-18.

In the days of Henry VIII of England he had a Surgeon General named Dr. Linacer, L-I-N-A-C-E-R, a famous physician. This was not long after the development of the printing press and the wide-spread printing and distribution of the Bible. Dr. Linacer got a hold of a copy of the New Testament and read it. Thereupon he announced to the court of King Henry VIII: “Either this book is not true, or we are not Christians.” My friend, if you would take the trouble, for the first time in your miserable life on earth, to seriously undertake an unbiased study of the scriptures, you would reach the same conclusion: either the Bible is not true, or you are not a Christian. You cannot, in reason, leave the vital interest of your soul to others. Especially to these greedy, dumb dog witch doctors, who masquerade as preachers and priests nowadays. They are all thieves and robbers and hirelings. John 10:1 & 12. You need to wake up and smell the coffee. They care zero for your soul. David, indeed, cried out: “No man cared for my soul.” Psalm 142:4. Listen: “I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul. [Then] I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.” Psalm 142:4-5.

In the final, awful analysis, my friend, it is between you and God Almighty. Listen: “For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again ... it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10:30-31. In the final analysis, no man cares for your soul. “[And] if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard

him.” Hebrews 2:2-3. The answer is, of course, there is no escape for you from the wrath to come, if you ignorantly neglect the weighty matters of sin and righteousness and judgment to come, and life and death and eternity. You are indeed a fool to drift along through life vaguely hoping for the best, and leaving such vital matters as heaven and hell to others; to professional religionists; to clock-watching, time-serving preachers and priests: the blind leading the blind. Listen to me: No man cares for your soul! You understand that? You must care for it. Your feet are in slippery places. You will soon now “be brought into desolation, as in a moment,” and you “will be utterly consumed with terrors.” Psalms 73:18-19.

What will you do? What will you do when the “heavens depart as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island [are] moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man [shall] hide themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and say to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?” Revelation 6:14-17. What will you do, my friend, when the great day of his wrath is come? Who will care for your soul? Listen to Dr. Linacer: “Either this book is not true, or we are not Christian.” And I say unto you: either this Bible is not true, or the masses of the citizenry of this evil city known as Topeka, Kansas, are not Christian. Either this Bible is not true, or you blind frenzied, mad fools rushing about with your Christmas orgy are not Christians. Indeed, you are pagan; not Christian. You are heathen; not Christian. You are idolaters; not Christian.

If God Almighty had intended for you to celebrate the birth of his Son on December 25th or any other day; don’t you understand that he could have and certainly would have said so plainly in his book? Both the time and the manner in detail of such a celebration would have been spelled out in the scriptures. When God would have the ancient Jews celebrate the Passover, for example, the exact time and methodology of the celebration was specified in great detail in the scriptures. Listen, I am reading from Exodus Chapter 12:

“And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, this month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year

to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: and if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats: and ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening. And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it. And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof. And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel. And in the first day there shall be an holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be an holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, [and] that only may be done of you. And ye shall observe [this] feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance for ever. " Exodus 12:1-17.

Now, my friend, how is that for specificity? And I am saying to all of you empty-headed little Christmas freaks, running around with your holiday cheer dripping on your bibs, that if God Almighty had intended for you to celebrate the birth of his Son on

December 25th or any other day you would be able to find it said with just such plainness and specificity in the Bible; just as the other celebrations plainly commanded to the Church.

As Water Baptism, for instance. Listen: “baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 28:19. And the Lord’s Supper, for further instance. One unleavened loaf; one cup of wine—not grape juice, you dummy-- One cup of wine, from which every Church member was commanded to drink; not a lot of little cups of grape juice. And the order was given: “This do in remembrance of me.” Luke 22:19. And, “as oft as ye eat this [loaf], and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come [again].” 1 Corinthians 11:26.

We are thus plainly commanded, and with great specificity, to celebrate the Lord’s death and the Lord’s resurrection and the Lord’s coming again; and all this by the detailed ordinances of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. But there is not a word, not a hint, not a suggestion; that we are to celebrate the Lord’s birth on December 25th or any other day. And, you idolatrous Christmas freaks have simply added a pagan festival, attended by numerous heathen customs and practices, to the word of God. And, you have done it in bold defiance of the plain threats and warnings from the Almighty himself, that to do such a thing is to incur the wrath of God and to enhance your punishment for your sins. Listen: “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, [that] if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.” Revelation 22:18. And this mighty hold, this strange addiction, this powerful attraction which this hellish, heathen festival has upon you should persuade and convince your mind that you are not a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, that you are not in obedience to the scriptures of God, but that you are rather anti-Christ, anti-God, and headed straight for a devil’s hell. You are sunk down in the deep debauchery of superstition and idolatry; and the soul-debilitating darkness of spiritual ignorance. You are in a word doomed and damned and lost; and your Christmas fetishism is proof positive of it.

And, further irrefutable and undoubted evidence that the citizenry of this evil city are possessed of the spirit of anti-Christ rather than Christ is their pleasure in and toleration of blatant sodomy, or as it is said nowadays: gays coming out of the closet. Such a state of affairs is described from Genesis to Revelation in the Bible as the certain

sign that a society has degenerated to the lowest level of moral depravity and spiritual apostasy and is ripe for final judgment. The Sunday magazine section of the Topeka Capital Journal recently was devoted to a lengthy discussion, favorably, of homosexuality in Topeka. Listen to these quotes from that article, quote:

“Topeka harbors a large, close, active homosexual community. There is a strong strain of religiosity among Topeka homosexuals, and forty-one churches in Kansas and the four states on its borders have an outreach program supported by the gay community. There is tremendous diversity within the city’s homosexual community, with all ages, social and economic strata represented; many professional people among them. You’d be surprised who they are, including ministers from major Protestant denominations, and Priests; and a disproportionate number are Nurses, Social Workers, Occupational and Physical Therapists. Many are found wherever volunteers are needed. You see them active in environmental and civil rights issues. It’s a subculture that’s very close. It’s like being undercover and in a foreign country.” End of quote from the Capital Journal.

This society has made homosexuality respectable and accepted exactly as the ancient Sodomites did. “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.

This is Fred Phelps, Pastor of Westboro Baptist Church; more next week on “The Old School Baptist Hour.”