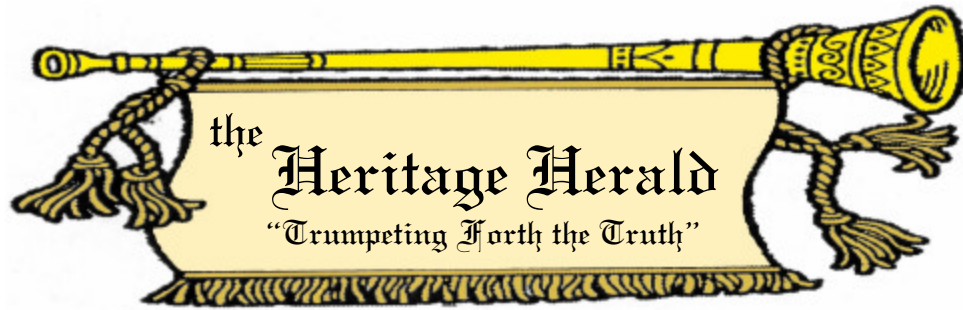




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The Old-Time Religion

Introduction: I just love Old-Fashioned Day. It gives me another opportunity to remind our church what a rich heritage we have as Christians, Baptists, and Americans.

There was a time in America that when anyone mentioned religion, they automatically thought of Christianity. Sadly, we find that this is no longer the case.

Just what does the old-time religion bring to mind?

FIRST: THE OLD-TIME RELIGION PREACHES A SALVATION THAT IS ETERNAL. (JOHN 6:37)

Salvation was purchased by Jesus Christ on the old rugged Cross. When He died, He cried out, "*It is finished.*" Then, He sat down when He entered Heaven. Why? Nothing more to do. He did it all.

Question: If God did not mean to say what He did, then why didn't He say what He meant? By the way, if you can lose eternal life, you never had eternal life.

Point: God says what He means and means what He says. "*I give unto them eternal life... and they shall never perish...*"

SECOND: THE OLD-TIME RELIGION PROMOTES A BAPTISM BY IMMERSION. (ACTS 8:36-38)

I would be willing to put up \$1000 to any religious organization that can show me from the Bible where anyone was baptized in any other way than the mode of complete immersion.

Illustration: Baptism pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. No mode, other than immersion, can picture the Gospel. (Romans 6:3-5)

THIRD: THE OLD-TIME RELIGION PROMPTED FOR A DECISION TO BE MADE. (II COR. 6:2)

"... now is the accepted time; Behold, now is the day of salvation."

Never put off receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. You have no guarantee of tomorrow.

Illustration: Tommy Lindsey and I were sharing the Gospel with two sisters. They both refused the offer of salvation. They said, "We have some more living to do." That very day, one of these two young women died. The other received Christ shortly after. How sad to realize that one entered into eternity without receiving the free gift.

FOURTH: THE OLD-TIME RELIGION PRACTICED FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE TO CHURCH. (HEB. 10:25)

Now I know what I am about to say will fall under criticism, but I find it hard to accept that you have enough faith to get to Heaven, but you do not have enough faith to get to church.

FIFTH: THE OLD-TIME RELIGION PERPETUATED THE GOSPEL BY SHARING. (MATT. 28:19-20)

The Great Commission commands us to teach the next generation, to teach the next generation, to teach the next generation.

The reason false religion abounds in our churches and in our nation is a direct result of our failure to share the Gospel.

SIXTH: THE OLD-TIME RELIGION PROTESTED AGAINST THE WICKEDNESS OF SOCIETY. (MATT. 5:13)

"Ye are the salt of the earth... But if the salt have lost his savour... it is good for nothing..."

We live in a society that speaks of tolerance toward sin, but they are extremely intolerant of those who preach Old-fashioned Godly living.

SEVENTH: THE OLD-TIME RELIGION PRESENTS THE REAL CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS. (LUKE 2:11)

We do not celebrate X-mas, but the birth of the Son of God. It can truly be said that Jesus is the reason for the season.

Conclusion: Is it not true for you that are reading this article, that you expect Christians to live like Christians? In your mind, you condemn us when we fail, yet you will not support us when we are victorious? Isn't this a sign that something is horribly wrong?