

# Westboro Baptist Church

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May 10, 2014

Gabriel Hughes, Pastor  
First Southern Baptist Church  
1220 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Junction City, KS 66441

Dear Pastor Hughes:

This responds to your letter of May 5, 2014, regarding our plan to picket the graduation of the Junction City High School on May 18. We appreciate you writing and are always ready to give an answer for a reason for the hope that is in us with meekness and fear: having a good conscience; that, whereas you speak evil of us, as of evildoers, you may be ashamed that falsely accuse us of our good conversation in Christ (1 Pet. 3:15-16). We tell you the words in this response to help your soul and for no other reason. *Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful (Pr. 27:6).*

We have a duty (as do you) to preach against sin. We have faithfully preached on the streets of this doomed nation against all forms of sin (like Christ and the apostles did) every single day for 22 years, "losing our lives" (Luke 17:33). You scold us for not helping the poor and needy. Yet, hear the words of the Lord, Am. 8:11 *Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.* Preaching the word of God faithfully every single day to an apostate nation that has utterly forsaken God **is** feeding the poor and needy. *And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God (Luke 4:4).* The standard is to preach to your neighbor so his sins do not take him/her to hell. *Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him (Lev. 19:17).* This is love thy neighbor. God told Isaiah, *Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins (Isaiah 58:1).* Paul told Timothy: *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the 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.* We have reached the very time Paul spoke of when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts have heaped to themselves teachers having itching ears.

It is required that the people of God make good on that charge to reprove, rebuke and exhort. We come from a long line of bold preachers in the Bible that preach God's word without apology. This world does not need any more love talk, they are drunk on it. When the land is full of sin, the prophets of God reprove and rebuke like they are supposed to. See Elijah (he reprovved and killed 400 prophets of Baal for their rank idolatry), John the Baptist (reprovved King Herod for his adultery and preached to the Pharisees and Saducees, *O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Mat. 3:7*), Stephen (reprovved the Jews – Acts 7:51 *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost*), Amos (reprovved the King of Israel to the point the land could not bear his words - Amos 7:10), Isaiah (Is. 1:4 *Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away*

backward), Jeremiah ( Jer. 5:8-9 - *They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife. Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?*), Ezekiel (16:2 *Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations*), and Hosea (Hos. 5:3-5 - *I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled. 4 They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the LORD. 5 And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them*). Christ, Paul, Peter and the rest of the apostles died violent, tortious deaths not because they preached love (everyone loves this!), but because they preached with boldness against sin and the truth of God and for that reason they were murdered. Christ says if you are preaching the truth of God the world will hate you. John 15:18-20 - *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also*. The Bible teaches from one end of it to the other that the prophets of God are hated and misused. *But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy (2Ch 36:16).*

The preachers in this country have absolutely failed in their duty to reprove, rebuke and exhort. We have same-sex marriage in this country because the preachers did not clearly preach the wrath of God about fornication, adultery, and homosexuality when they should have like Paul did for example in Eph. 5. We fear the preachers of this country have become partakers (Eph. 5:7) of the sins of this country because they had fellowship with them that committed them and were effectively silent. Eph 5:7-13 *Be not ye therefore partakers with them... And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, **but rather reprove them**. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light*. The preachers of this country have excused proud sin by telling everyone God loves them, and that God hates the sin and not the sinner (which came from Gandhi and not God) than in **preaching a clear message that the wrath of God abides on those who engage in such blatant sin**. *His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber (Isaiah 56:10)*. You should, **today**, start preaching like a trumpet the need for repentance for homosexuality, fornication, adultery and the rest; and that the absolute judgment of God awaits those who fail to repent. These are like the days of Isaiah and Jeremiah that led up to the destruction of Israel at the hands of the Babylonians. Remember the command of God to Ezekiel about the duty to sound the alarm. *But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them...(Eze. 33:6-7)*. The lack of the preachers to be dutiful watchmen and preach God's judgment is exactly why the world is waxing worse and worse, and why Christ is coming in judgment.

You say you feed those students, but we fear that there is death in your pot (2Kings 4:40), and that you make them twofold more children of hell than yourself (Mt. 23:15). Your use of 2 Pet. 3:9 to say that God "does not want anyone to perish but all should come to repentance" and therefore God loves loves, loves, loves everyone is completely misplaced, as the context is the absolute wrath of God in Noah's day where billions perished and the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in destruction. Clearly God intended for most to perish in The Flood as only eight souls were saved (1 Pet 3:20)! Unfortunately, you left out of your quotation who the "any" is to in that verse - it clearly says to "us-ward" not all mankind as you would like the verse to say.

2 Pet 3:6-12. 6 *Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men [where is the love of God here?]... The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 10 *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?* Again, that doesn't seem like love, love, love to usward. If you would like to know more about 2 Pet. 3:9 and to who the "us-ward" is see the famous expositor John Gill on this verse; you are not even close on your view of this verse. (Go back to the words, and read them with distinction, as if it is an important matter that you want to represent accurately, not as if you are a manpleaser determined to slop nonsense for money. Read 2 Peter 1:1 for clarity as to whom Peter is addressing those precious words to).*

To summarize your missive letter you say we are not loving enough. The Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Bible is to keep the commandments of God (Mat. 19:17 and Deut. 4) and not the commandments of men (Mat. 15:9) and to repent or perish (Luke 13:3, 5). *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand* (Mat. 4:17). The Lord Jesus Christ is coming in judgment and it is directly tied to the lack of repentance of this world for its sins and for its utter failure to keep the commandments of God. *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous* (1Jo 5:3). *And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk; Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts* (Rev. 9:20-21).

The Lord Jesus Christ preached about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and tied it directly to His Second Coming in power and judgment. *Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed... Remember Lot's wife. Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it* (Luke 17:28-33). Also, consider this: *And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all* (Luke 17:26-27). Marrying is not a sin, but abusing the marriage covenant is, such as adultery (including, marriage, divorce and remarriage) and same-sex marriage. Again, such abuse is tied directly to the Lord Jesus' return in retribution. Yet your letter is completely silent on these topics of Christs' return and these sins. You say we strain out a gnat... This nation and the whole world violates all of the commandments of God daily and the whole world lies in the lap of the wicked one and the preachers mask these awful sins under the guise of preaching love and you call that a gnat. No, that is not a gnat, that is the complete forsaking of the commandments of God, which is death and ends in God's curse (Duet. 11:28).

The Lord Jesus Christ came the first time, 2,000 years ago with good news – to repent or perish, and that salvation through the blood of our dear Lord Jesus Christ is effectual for as many as are ordained to eternal life pursuant to the electing grace of sovereign God (Acts 13:48; Psalm 1110:3). **He is coming the second time in judgment.** *The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his*

power (2<sup>nd</sup> Thes. 1:7). Like John the Baptist, we lay the axe to the root of the tree. Christ is coming in vengeance and with punishment on his mind.

*And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him... (Jude 14-17).* Again, Christ is coming to execute judgment and not to save. Remember, Luke 17:29-30? *But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.* There were three people saved at Sodom and eight saved on the ark. There was not much repenting going on in those days, right before that judgment. And, there isn't much now either. Why don't you start focusing on the end of the New Testament and the coming of Christ and His destruction? We realize that is not popular to this apostate nation, and you will in fact be hated for it and suffer greatly for it; but it is the truth. If you would read the end of the Bible you would see that "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" has a bad ending for this world. The world is de-created with death everywhere and its natural resources destroyed. *Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat (2Pe 3:12).*

Your theology includes the lie that "God loves everyone." It permeates your letter and all Southern Baptists. It is uncontroverted fact the phrase "God loves everyone" appears zero times in the Bible; and in fact God does hate all those He sends to hell. God hates all workers of iniquity (Psalm 5:5). *As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated (Rom. 9:13). For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth (Rom. 9:17-18). He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him (John 3:36).* If the wrath of God abides on you, that is not love.

Unfortunately, the churches of this country are lukewarm, which thing Christ hates. *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth (Rev. 3:15-16). Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might (Eph 6:10).* The preachers appear to *speak lightness and lies (Jer. 23:32) and preach smooth things instead of right things (Isaiah 30:10).* Meanwhile, this world has murdered a billion babies through abortion; fornication is everywhere, adultery (including marriage, divorce and remarriage) is the norm, sodomy is accepted as a perfectly acceptable alternative life style; Sodomites marry in spite of God's command at the Garden of Eden that marriage is between male and female as quoted by Christ in Mat. 19:4-6; idolatry, which thing God hates is everywhere around you; alcohol and drug use are a plague over this nation/world; war and murder is exported across the globe as good business, and, covetousness, greed and stealing are rampant and fully accepted as normal.

*Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. (Luke 13:23-24).* We pray you will enter in at the strait and narrow gate and not follow the broad way and wide gate we fear you are on.

Your Friends at the Westboro Baptist Church.

Brent Roper, Elder