

Evangelism

BELIEVING as we do, that in perhaps no area of Church life today is there greater confusion and misunderstanding and therefore misapplication of the New Testament program than in the field of Evangelism, your Committee on Resolutions wishes to make the following observations and offer the following resolutions:

FIRST: Let us say that we deeply deplore the light and glamorous unbiblical type of much of the popular evangelism of the day, which seems to imply that it is quite the popular thing to become a Christian and that nearly everyone is acceptably religious, which refuses to deal adequately with the matter of personal sin, and which fails to insist upon the absolute necessity of the new birth, and the regeneration of each believer, and his definite consequent separation not only from sin and ungodliness, but also from all connections with unbelief and apostasy as represented in much of the church life of today.

SECOND: That we are deeply grieved at the failure to distinguish between membership in some church of whatever denomination, and actually knowing Christ as one's personal Savior and Lord, which failure can only result in the deception of multiplied millions of people, and the betrayal of their souls into an eternal Hell.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

FIRST, that the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, assembled in this 24th annual conference in the city of Kansas City, Missouri, we reaffirm our whole-hearted adherence to the supreme mission of Churches of Jesus Christ to preach repentance and remission of sins in the name of Jesus Christ among all people.

SECOND, that in the interest of clarifying our thinking as a fellowship of Baptist Churches, which are set for the defense of the gospel, we recommend a restudy, a definitely Biblical study, of the meaning, the message, and the method of New Testament evangelism.

Meaning: that we definitely distinguish between all the popular drives for membership in some human organization or denomination, and the actual commission given by our risen Lord to His churches which He purchased with His own blood—that they preach the Gospel!

Message: that we see in all the Bible in both Old and New Covenants, the clear teaching that "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin," and that Jesus Christ our Lord is the only Mediator between God and men, and that there is no other name under heaven, given amongst men whereby we must be saved.

Method: that while we recognize all legitimate and Biblical means by which the gospel may be declared, still we hold that in all the New Testament the responsibility for the propagation and promotion of the Cause of Salvation through Christ is definitely centered in local churches of baptized believers, and must always contribute to the

strengthening and edification of those local churches, and in turn be sponsored and directed by them. We believe that any movement of so-called evangelism, which is seen to militate against the well being and proper recognition of local churches of sound Biblical doctrine and practice, is abortive, and should be shunned by all who will be true to Christ and the Bible.

THIRD, we strongly plead that beginning with each pastor, and each deacon and trustee, and each officer and teacher of Bible Schools, we rededicate ourselves to study of Biblical evangelism as affects our own ministry and the life and service of each member of our churches, that we follow the recommendation of sainted Dr. A.C. Dixon and in all our churches, we sing evangelistic songs, preach evangelistic sermons, multiply evangelistic services, conduct evangelistic prayer meetings, and magnify evangelistic experiences, and that we stay at it until the trumpet sounds.

May 10, 1955
Kansas City, Missouri