

Temperance

When the Governor of the state of New York, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, made his speech of acceptance of his first nomination for President of the United States, he said, "From this hour the 18th Amendment is doomed." He might have said, "Starting now, the United States of America, the greatest nation of all human history, is doomed to moral corruption and pollution and to final oblivion." That prophecy would have been for the most part fulfilled by now, as is attested by the existence of nearly 600,000 saloons, hundreds of thousands of broken homes, millions of juvenile delinquents, destruction of actual lives of many thousands of American people, the maiming for life of literally hundreds of thousands of other fellow Americans, the loading of our asylums for the mentally sick, the general breakdown of morals and of spiritual standards of our nation, so that today with crime waves skyrocketing in all age groups among both sexes, America is the rottenest nation in all her history, and seemingly with absolutely no thought of turning back to Christ and the Bible and to those good old-fashioned standards of human decency which formerly made her the talk of the entire world.

WE THEREFORE OFFER THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

FIRST, resolved that the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, assembled in the 24th meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, May 9–12, 1955, register our recognition of the greatest monster of moral corruption, authorized, subsidized, advertised, and protected by our national government, to the destruction of our own people, as being the traffic in alcoholic beverages of whatever type or name.

SECOND, that we deeply deplore the enslavement of millions of our people in this land of freedom, to the extent that in many states and municipalities, they are not even permitted to vote for the removal of this lecherous traffic which preys upon our homes, our children, our churches, and American society in general.

THIRD, that we protest the advertising of this great enemy of all that is dear to us, in the newspapers and magazines, on the radio, and now especially in these last few years on TV, making it appear to the little children and others in our homes that the drinking of poisonous liquors is quite the popular and social thing to do; and that no family refrigerator is properly stocked unless it holds a liberal supply of this beverage poison.

FOURTH, that we utterly repudiate the silly so-called "Yale approach" to the alcohol problem, as that alcoholism is a disease like tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, or possibly a light case of measles, rather than the appalling result of the vice of drinking alcohol in some form or another.

FIFTH, we recommend earnest consideration of the following suggestions:

- 1) That we put temperance information back into our pulpits, our Sunday School and Church literature, and into every instrument and means of moral propaganda at our disposal.
- 2) That we lazy Christians quit misinterpreting and misapplying the Philippians passage which speaks of our citizenship being in heaven, and start making full

proof of our American citizenship while we are here; and begin serving as the salt and the light of a wicked and perverse generation.

- 3) That we propose as a substitute motion for "Alcoholics Anonymous" which claims success for but *five percent* of all who turn to it, "Alcoholics Personomous" salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, which is 100% effective unto all who will take the medicine and believe the Gospel.
- 4) That as the ambassadors for Christ in this distant land we become better representatives of the Kingdom of God and His Christ by boldly standing for the principles of holiness and purity, which characterize His kingdom in every sphere of our lives and influence.
- 5) That we appreciate the presence on our platform this evening as our guest speaker, of a humble Baptist preacher who is without a doubt the greatest crusader for Christ against this appalling evil not only in the United Sates but perhaps also in the world, and we wish him Godspeed and pledge to him our moral and prayerful support.
- 6) And finally that we reaffirm our strong conviction that the greatest roadblock to the brewers' big horses is the on-fire churches of Jesus Christ, filled with truly born-again Christians, preaching Jesus Christ in the temple and in every house, and living Jesus Christ in everyday life.

May 12, 1955
Kansas City, Missouri