

New Evangelicalism

WHEREAS one of the most significant movements of our times, one which is exercising large influence in the life of American churches, is new evangelicalism; and

WHEREAS this theological movement is enamored of a desire to interpret Scripture in the light of science rather than to interpret science in the light of Scripture, is committed to the inclusive or stay-in policy, characterized by an antagonism towards fundamentalism and pre-tribulation dispensationalism, is given to dialogue which means conference with the liberals to assist in social action and evangelism projects and with the Pentecostals to learn more about their teaching regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and has a corresponding willingness to confer with non-fundamentalists for possible religious benefits; and

WHEREAS evidence of this is seen in Dr. Bernard Ramm's editorial in the March, 1974, issue of *Eternity* concerning the "new breed" of evangelicals which he called "green grass evangelicals" who are not interested in "doctrinal questions like eternal security" and "who think the whole Christianity and science bit including the controversy over evolution is not where the action is," who "believe that debates over Scripture (infallibility, inerrancy) pay no great dividends," who want a "Christian experience which puts a high premium on psychological wholeness—more so than on doctrinal correctness," and "are more experience-centered and rest their case for Christianity in the character of their encounter with Christ"; and

WHEREAS new evangelicalism is a very present threat to the Biblical position historically held by the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches throughout its 43-year history, and

WHEREAS across our nation some Christian colleges, Bible institutes, theological seminaries, and churches have been permeated with the leaven of New Evangelical compromise;

WHEREAS the Word of God clearly teaches complete separation from heresy and those who hold it (Rom. 16:17, 18; 2 John 10, 11); and

WHEREAS light and darkness are always separated in Scripture and the believer is commanded to "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Eph. 5:11);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in annual session in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, June 24–28, 1974, unreservedly repudiate the unbiblical position and practices of the new evangelicals and we further urge our pastors and our leaders in our GARBC-approved schools to continue to expose the subtle dangers of the new evangelical movement and to forthrightly teach our Biblical position of personal and ecclesiastical separation which involves the declaration and the defense of the faith.

*Ocean Grove, New Jersey
June 24–28, 1974*