

Supreme Court Decision against Bob Jones University

WHEREAS the Supreme Court of the United States of America on May 24, 1983, has shocked the nation's religious leaders with its decision to deny Bob Jones University tax exemption; and

WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States guarantees that Congress shall not prohibit the free exercise of religion, the justices of the Supreme Court (with one exception) decided to do just that; they stated, "On occasion this Court has found certain governmental interests so compelling as to allow even regulations prohibiting religiously based conduct;" thus on the basis of so-called "established public policy" and "the common community conscience" the Court has removed religious liberty, and while we do not necessarily agree with the position of Bob Jones University on its racial policy nor do we appreciate its unbecoming attitudes publicly expressed when the Supreme Court decision was handed down, we do express our concern that the Internal Revenue Service ruled that the University was uncharitable, thus denying it tax exemption; which policy the University insisted was its doctrinal belief; and

WHEREAS this unprecedented action now establishes that government bureaucracy can and does sit in judgment of what is acceptable as "public policy" and so religious freedom and its exercise no longer exists in unlimited form;

BE IT THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches meeting in Niagara Falls on June 27-July 1, 1983, request prayer for these governmental leaders and alert our churches and agencies to this very real danger facing religious freedom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we assure the leaders and students of Bob Jones University of our prayers and sincere concern.

*Niagara Falls, New York
June 27-July 1, 1983*