



Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on Pray the Lord of the Harvest

Passed August 13-16, 2018

In Matthew 9:37 Jesus states, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;" The "harvest" refers to the fact that people will get saved. The picture given to us in this passage is that of a farmer's field, filled with crops and ready for harvest. This picture is rightly understood as the world and the people in our world that need to be saved.

Jesus, in Matthew 9:38, clearly identifies the need for "labourers" for His harvest. This instruction agrees with the instruction in Romans 10:14-17, which reminds us that "faith cometh by hearing" and people will not hear "without a preacher."

Jesus goes on in Matthew 9:38 to command us to "Pray . . . the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

We acknowledge that Matthew 9:37, 38 does not diminish or conflict with the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), where we are challenged to go into all the world to teach the gospel, baptize, and disciple. This is the responsibility of individual believers and the church today.

THEREFORE, we, the Pastor's and delegates attending the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches Annual Conference, August 13-16, 2018, strongly encourage the individuals and churches in this Fellowship to faithfully follow this unique command from Christ Himself and "Pray . . . the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." More time in prayer is the starting point for the spiritual needs of mankind and for the lack of "labourers" in our nation and world.



Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on To God Be the Glory— Let Your Light Shine

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We are concerned by the current Christian trend of purposeful conformity to the world. The majority of professing believers intentionally minimize the message of the cross in an effort to avoid offending unbelievers. In an effort to lead others to the narrow way, many seek to live lives characterized by the broad way. We observe that it has become standard for American Christians to prize an appearance relevance and tolerance above a life of obvious holiness and consecration.

THEREFORE, as a fellowship of New Testament believers who are humbly seeking to live like Christ:

1. ***We affirm*** that the Scripture nowhere indicates that Christians must be like the world in order to win the world to Christ. A Christian who is like the world “preaches” another Christ and another gospel (2 Corinthians 11:4; Galatians 1:6-7).
2. ***We affirm*** that the pure gospel has never ceased to be relevant even when Christ’s gospel-bearers live counter-culturally. Forgiveness through the blood of Christ is always available to any repentant sinner (Luke 5:32; 2 Corinthians 7:10; 1 John 1:9).
3. ***We affirm*** that Christ always showed tolerance to being in the company of unbelievers (Matthew 11:19), while simultaneously repudiating their sin and living a life of perfect, holy obedience (John 8:11). We must maintain a firm “no tolerance” stance towards evil, living righteously (Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17), while lovingly reaching out to the people of this world, entrapped in iniquity (Colossians 4:5-6).
4. ***We affirm*** that Christians who want to effectively influence others for Christ must be different from their culture. We must seek to be like salt, delaying and disinfecting the moral decay of our society by our strikingly virtuous lives; and we must seek to be like bright lights, exposing the error of our age by our purity, good works, and emphasis on the Truth (Matthew 5:13-16).
5. ***We agree*** to stand as “strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11) together against the tides of immorality and perversion.
6. ***We are prepared*** to boldly endure persecution for our faith, should God so ordain, while “having [our] conversation honest among the gentiles,” following the example of Christ (1 Peter 2:12, 20; 3:16-18; 4:16).
7. ***We agree*** to actively kindle our passion for Christ and for winning the lost around us, to bear the image of Christ in bold and compassionate truth, and to carry the banner of the cross with honor for the glory of God.

Just as the full moon reflects the light of the sun upon our darkened globe, so may we, the followers of Jesus Christ, brightly shine the light of God’s Son on this sin-darkened world. May “[our] light so shine before men that they may see [our] good works and glorify [our] Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).



Resolution of the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches on Commending the U.S. Supreme Court

Passed August 13-16, 2018

The main functions of the Supreme Court are to 1) Settle disputes between States, 2) Hear appeals from state and federal courts, and 3) Judicial review, to determine the constitutionality of federal laws. The court recently decided several cases in favor of religious freedom. Below is a short synopsis of three of these cases.

1) No 17-742 *Sause v. Bauer* (June 2018)

In this case the petitioner asserted a violation of First Amendment rights to the free exercise of religion. In this particular case the petitioner claimed that she was refused the opportunity to pray. The Court's opinion stated specifically, "There can be no doubt that the First Amendment protects the rights to pray. Prayer unquestionably constitutes the 'exercise' of religion."

2) No 16-111 *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* (June 2018)

In this case the petitioner contended that requiring him to create cakes for same-sex weddings would violate his right to the free exercise of religion protected by the First Amendment. The Court agreed stating, "The Colorado Civil Rights Commission violated the State's duty under the First Amendment not to base laws or regulations on hostility to a religion or religious viewpoint. The government, consistent with the Constitution's guarantee of free exercise, cannot impose regulations that are hostile to the religious beliefs of affected citizens and cannot act in a manner that passes judgment upon or presupposes the illegitimacy of religious beliefs and practices."

3) No 16-1140 *National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra* (June 2018)

In this case the State of California enacted the California Reproductive Freedom Accountability, Comprehensive Care and Transparency Act (FACT ACT). This Act required a posting of State provisions for free and low cost prenatal care and abortions for eligible women. This posting was required on all pregnancy centers including faith-based crisis pregnancy centers. In a 5-4 decision the court stated that the California FACT ACT was a state-mandated disclosure and that such disclosures were compelled speech which violated the First Amendment. Therefore, faith-based crisis pregnancy centers did not have to post state provisions which would include abortions.

It is refreshing to see the United States Supreme court, the highest court in our land, making recent decisions in favor of religious freedom. Our country was founded on religious principles and as a Republic put forth a constitution protecting the rights of all individuals. "In 1776, America's Founders gathered in Philadelphia to draft the Declaration of Independence, which dissolved the political ties that had bound the American people to Great Britain. Eleven years later, in 1787, after American Patriots had won our independence on the battlefield, many of the men who had met earlier in Philadelphia, plus others, met there again to draft a plan for governing the new nation, the Constitution of the United States. In 1789, after the plan had been ratified, the new government was established." (Pocket Constitution 2004, Cato Institute, page 1)

Articles II and III of the Constitution authorized the Supreme Court. The Court met for the first time in 1790. Of its many characteristics, the court's authority with regards to constitutionality of legislation was declared in 1804 through *Marbury v. Madison*.

THEREFORE, the Fellowship of Fundamental Bible Churches, meeting at our annual conference in Montague, New Jersey, on August 13-16, 2018, commends the Supreme Court for its most recent decisions. These decisions maintain the integrity of the Constitution by applying its truths to the cases that came before it. The First Amendment is very clear in regards to the free exercise of religion. The present seated members of the Court have shown their resolve that the First Amendment means what it says and have adjudicated accordingly.

FURTHERMORE, we would like to commend President Trump for his Supreme Court nominees who strengthen the resolve to apply and uphold the Constitution correctly.