*Resolution – “The Essential Gospel”*

GARBC Annual Conference, June 23–27, 2014, St. Petersburg, Florida

The messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting together in regular conference, June 23–27, 2014, in St. Petersburg, Florida,

**Believing** the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation for sinners (Rom. 1:16),

**Affirming** that the gospel is the good news that God saves sinners by the death and resurrection of His incarnate Son, Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2:6),

**Knowing** that every sinner’s exclusive hope is in the hearing and believing of the gospel of Christ (2 Cor. 4:3, 4),

**Remembering** that our Regular Baptist movement and association were formed based upon the Biblical clarity of the gospel of Christ,

**Recognizing** that some have turned away from faith in the gospel of Christ, preaching a different gospel (Gal. 1:6),

**Seeing** that others have marginalized the gospel from its appropriate, central place in the life of the local church,

**Realizing** that some evangelicals now inordinately emphasize the “public and transforming effect of the gospel”[[1]](#footnote-1) upon the societal maladies of poverty, hunger, disease, and political oppression to the detriment of the gospel’s primary purpose, to bring sinners to personal, transforming, faith in Christ,

**Teaching** that the gospel brings not only our salvation from eternal judgment but also our growth in maturity as disciples of Jesus Christ,

**Enjoying** fellowship together in the gospel as individual believers, as members within our local congregations, and among our autonomous churches (Phil. 1:5), we

**Repent** over our lack of urgency in personal and corporate witness of this gospel to our families, acquaintances, and communities that live in such desperate need,

**Gladly embrace** the gospel of Jesus Christ as our only hope of salvation (Rom. 1:16),

**Reaffirm** the centrality of the gospel as God’s means to reach lost neighbors and the nations for Jesus Christ,

**Reject** all attempts to dilute, compromise, or alter this gospel as Biblically defined by our creeds and confessions of faith (1 Tim. 1:11),

**Preach** this gospel as the sinner’s only hope for eternal life and the believer’s only hope for true growth in spiritual maturity,

**Return** to the truth that the preaching and teaching of the gospel of Jesus is essential for the life, health, maturity, and ministry of each local church (Acts 20:32),

**Commend** servants of Christ of previous generations who gave their lives to be faithful to the ministry received from God, this gospel believed, obeyed, and preached (Heb. 13:7),

**Declare** this glorious gospel of our blessed God, reveling only in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (Gal. 6:14), and

**Remember** we are but fools for Christ’s sake, preaching not ourselves, but Christ Jesus our Lord (1 Cor. 4:10; 2 Cor. 4:5).

1. Richard Stearns, *The Hole in Our Gospel Special Edition: What Does God Expect of Us?* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2014). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)