

Resolution on Renewal of the Spiritual Mind

The messengers of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting together in regular conference June 24–28, 2013, in Dearborn, Michigan,

Confident that God has granted us blessings of truth revealed in Scripture and the ability by the Holy Spirit to comprehend His clear and logical revelation,

Aware that the ongoing battle against spiritual forces of wickedness at work in the world, as well as in our own hearts, has placed many believers in a spiritually weary condition, often without realization of being drawn away to deceitful lusts and perversions of the truth,

Affirming that the key battleground is the mind, as Scripture often enjoins: “gird up the loins of your mind” (1 Pet.1:13), “bringing every thought into captivity” (2 Cor. 10:5), “meditate on these things” (Phil. 4:8), “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2),

Noting that believers are called foolish for failing to direct their minds toward the plentiful, historical, evidential reasons for faith in the truth,

Concerned that many seek the goal of renewal to spiritual strength in quick fixes, methodological tricks, and exponential leaps, rather than through incremental, laborious advancement in the knowledge of Jesus Christ,

Regretting that the wisdom of this world is elevated as scholarship, even among many who profess adherence to the authority of the Bible,

Recognizing that spiritual leaders are asked to continually correct and convince those who are in opposition through discussion of sound doctrine and instruction in the words of faith, and that all saints are to be ready with rational answers in the defense of truth, we

Reaffirm our thankfulness for the inerrant, infallible, comprehensible Word of God and for the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit;

Awaken brothers and sisters to areas of inconsistency, unreasonableness, and worldly wisdom in thought and belief and to the danger to which they lead, for “a little leaven leavens the whole lump”;

Urge pastors to focus on doctrine, teaching, equipping, and prayer, avoiding the distraction of spreading themselves too thin in ministry endeavors that are to be the share of all members of the body; and

Direct each of our fellow believers to be steadfast, not terrified by our adversaries; but to confidently put on the whole armor of God in our wrestling match with the rulers of the darkness of this age, choosing to tie our hope for fullness of joy and flourishing endurance to our faithful God; and to confidently expect the fulfillment of His promises (Isa. 40:31).