

Resolution on a Literal Hell

Whereas, there is a growing movement in Evangelicalism popularized by well-known authors, that denies the reality of a biblical hell, in favor of a universal salvation, whereby all souls are saved in due time, and/or a theory of annihilationism whereby lost people cease all conscious existence, after a period of judgment and punishment, and

Whereas, people in our own churches reading these theories are beginning to question the theological teachings that are part of our heritage; doubting the realities of heaven and hell as literal places and yielding to these liberal and humanistic concepts, recently popularized by the emerging church, that have crept into fundamental congregations through music and worship styles, and

Whereas, the Bible when interpreted in the normal, literal use of language makes it clear that hell and heaven are literal places in the scriptures and that the Bible describes the literal suffering of hell as well as the joys of heaven, as expressed by Jesus' own words in a literal context, and

Whereas the love of God is derived from His holiness, His love must be balanced so that His eternal love, holiness and justice also require an eternal punishment. Therefore scripture condemns all other false views about hell, regardless of the popularity,

Be it therefore resolved, that we, the members of the Independent Baptist Fellowship of North America, meeting in Lancaster, PA, June 21-23, 2011, reaffirm our commitment to an authoritative, inerrant scripture that teaches a literal heaven and a literal hell with a literal fire.

Be it further resolved that we clearly identify the movements and individuals who are teaching these erroneous views of heaven and hell and that particular attention be given to teaching the correct biblical view in our churches, as well as providing trustworthy literature on these issues for fellow believers.

Be it finally resolved that we pay special attention to the lyrics of songs and hymns that address these concepts, since biblical lyrics must confirm biblical truths as a source of comfort and confidence for every true believer and as a warning to the lost.