

ive preachers'
n sermon

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By Chip Alford

BP)--Christians are losing the battle for
"passive preachers" bear much of the
by Boyles told messengers to the 137th meeting of
t Convention in Orlando.

upposed to be lighting the world, changing the
t it is falling through the cracks into the pits
s, pastor of Eagle Heights Church in Oklahoma
annual convention sermon June 15.

America's moral plunge, he cited recent Suprem
ch restrict prayer and other forms of religious
nment offices and public schools and the growing
l lifestyles such as homosexuality.

ermon was interrupted several times with applause,
sions are in direct conflict with the U.S.

states that anyone, anytime, anywhere, under any
ow their head and pray to God Almighty in the
erica.

tory do we have a record that Adolf Hitler ever
w their head and close their eyes in silent

"There is no record anywhere that even the bloody
n, Joseph Stalin, ever refused to allow anyone to
silent prayer. God help America."

istians who take a stand against sin are

protests from those who say, "You're trying to
or your religion or your lifestyle down our
hink it's time we woke up and realized we can't
unlocked anymore. Our children can't play outside
n't take a walk in the park because of fear of
looks like they have crammed their immorality down
ired of it."

lem? According to Boyles, the answer is "passive

this nation is not with the prostitutes, the
ne pushers, but it's with puny, pampered, passive
pulpits of America. ... Nobody it seems is
ing that the Word of God is the Word of God and
ven is high and sin is wrong and God and marriag
me to take a stand."

ed preachers to preach the Word of God "no matter

eacher, not a Baptist babysitter. Stand and
God."

such a challenge, Boyles said he frequently hears

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-- You can't preach on sin in today's society.

"You know what the Greek word for that is? 'Baloney.' Man, nobody wants to go to a doctor who won't tell him what's wrong with him," he said.

-- I just don't have the gifts.

"We don't lack the gifts, we lack the guts," Boyles said. "God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called."

-- You're going to get a lot of those young guys in trouble preaching like that.

"Well, bless God, if a bunch of you older boys would have stood your ground and not backed down and made peace with every institution in town, we wouldn't have to be fighting these kind of battles now."

-- They won't like me if I preach like that.

"You got it. Anytime you stand in the Spirit of God and preach the spiritually inspired Word of God ... anybody that is in the flesh is going to be bothered by it so you are going to be the target, so get ready."

Elijah, John the Baptist, the apostle Paul, Martin Luther and other religious leaders over the centuries have all endured suffering for preaching God's Word, Boyles said.

"And yes, you and I are going to have a few problems also, but welcome to wonderful company: Jesus was rejected and he is God himself."

Despite the problem of passivity, Boyles urged preachers to remember Christians also have "a powerful promise."

"Preacher, you may not be a hero now, but when we get home, time and eternity will reveal which men of God really took a mighty stand. And with the banners of heaven waving and the trumpet of God sounding, you will be honored with your right reward. And when general Jesus steps up, he will take you by the hand and say, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant, well done.'"

Boyles said he believes preachers "hold the keys to changing America."

"And so when you are asked what you do for a living, don't tell them that you're in communications, don't tell them that you are in public relations. Tell them, 'I'm a Baptist preacher and I'm proud of it.'"

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CORRECTION: In the story "SBC messengers elect Committee on Committees," dated 6/15/94, please change the word "Committees" in the headline to Nominations.

Thanks,
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