Convention Message

Steve Gaines' Convention Message 2004 Southern Baptist Convention June 16, 2004, Indianapolis, Indiana

DON'T COME DOWN

Introduction:

America is in a state of crisis.

We face the ominous threat of <u>international terrorism</u>. Our cowardly foe murders innocent people in the name of religion. Recently, radical Muslims used a butcher knife to behead Nick Berg, an American civilian, as they shouted, "Allah be praised!"

Jesus said in John 16:2 - "But an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that' he is offering service to God."

We are living in that "hour."

We also face a crisis in our uncertain <u>national economy</u>. Social Security is no longer "secure." Americans borrow more and save less than ever. Our <u>national deficit</u> is at <u>\$7 trillion!</u> (1 trillion is <u>1 million X 1 million!</u>) We are a "debtor nation," and we will soon see that, "The borrower becomes the lender's slave" (Proverbs 22:7).

But as important as these two matters are, they pale compared to two other issues that will determine the future of America.

These other two issues are <u>not</u>: Finding a cure for AIDS, building houses for the homeless, global warming, nuclear disarmament, the war in Iraq, racism or Civil Rights.

The two moral issues that will determine what God does with and to America are: (1) abortion, and (2) homosexuality.

Our country is not only in a state of <u>crisis</u>; it is also at a moral <u>crossroad</u>. America will decide in the next 12-18 months what kind of country she wants to be for at least the next 100 years, if not beyond.

America's walls of spiritual protection have crumbled because we have turned our backs on Jesus Christ.

Well-organized, liberal, militant groups in America have as their sole purpose the removal of all references to Jesus Christ in public life. They have removed <u>prayer and Bible reading</u> from our schools. They have stopped <u>public prayers</u> at high school athletic events. They are removing the cross from the <u>city seal of Los Angeles</u>. They would remove the words "under God" from our <u>Pledge</u>.

They despised and ridiculed <u>Mel Gibson's movie</u>, "The Passion," complaining that it is too "violent" and "anti-Semitic." Since when did Hollywood become concerned about "violence"? If "The Passion of the Christ" is anti-Semitic and will make viewers hate modern-day Jews, then we had better censure "Schindler's List" in order to protect modern-day Germans!

America is a divided nation; the elections in 2000 showed us that! Jesus said in <u>Luke 11:17</u> – "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and a house divided against itself falls."

America's walls have fallen down because, "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city the watchman keeps awake in vain!" (Psalm 127:1).

America is in desperate need of "spiritual wall-builders"!

Nehemiah was a "wall-builder." He lived when God's enemies had destroyed the walls of Jerusalem. God used him to rebuild those ancient walls. Nehemiah faced major opposition, particularly from three local leaders named Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem. When these enemies tried to lure him down from his work on the wall, Nehemiah refused! He and his workers "stayed with the stuff" and completed their great work.

Southern Baptists must do the same thing!

The title of my message today is...

"Don't Come Down!"

Nehemiah 6:1-9 - "Now when it was reported to Sanballat, Tobiah, to Geshem the Arab and to the rest of our enemies that I had rebuilt the wall, and that no breach remained in it, although at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates, then Sanballat and Geshem sent a message to me, saying, 'Come, let us meet together at Chephirim in the plain of Ono.' But they were planning to harm me. So I sent messengers to them, saying, 'I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?' They sent messages to me four times in this manner, and I answered them in the same way. Then Sanballat sent his servant to me in the same manner a fifth time with an open letter in his hand. In it was written, 'It is reported among the nations, and Gashmu says, that you and the Jews are planning to rebel; therefore you are rebuilding the wall. And you are to be their king, according to these reports. You have also appointed prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, "A king is in Judah!" And now it will be reported to the king according to these reports. So come now, let us take counsel together.3 Then I sent a message to him saying, 'Such things as you are saying have not been done, but you are inventing them in your own mind.' For all of them were trying to frighten us, thinking, 'They will become discouraged with the work and it will not be done.' But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

"I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"

God is calling us to be "spiritual wall-builders." There are several significant principles for Southern Baptists in Neh. 6:3:

1. We Are Called to a Great Work (v. 3).

"So I sent to the messengers saying to them, 'I am doing a great work...."

A. Explanation

Nehemiah was <u>called</u> to "a great work." He lived during "post-exilic days," or <u>after Judah</u> had been <u>exiled</u>. In 959 B.C., Solomon built his Temple in Jerusalem. For four centuries it was the epicenter of Jewish worship. But God's people began to worship Canaanite idols. They even sacrificed their children in fires to demon gods.

God sent prophets to warn them, but they refused to listen. Consequently, in 722 B.C., the LORD sent the Assyrian armies and destroyed the 10 tribes of Israel in the north.

The people of Judah in the south did not believe the same thing could happen to them! After all, they had Jerusalem, the Temple, the Ark of the Covenant, the Ten Commandments, the priests, the rituals and sacrifices, and great fortified walls.

They thought that they were too important and God was too loving to ever punish them (sounds familiar doesn't it?). So for the next 150 years they, too, worshipped idols.

Convention Message

Like Israel, they rejected God's warnings through the prophets. In 587 B.C., the Babylonian army came and decimated Jerusalem. The Jews who survived were sent into Babylonian exile. There the people of God remained for several decades.

In due time God mercifully brought some of His people back.

The Persians conquered the Babylonians in 539 B.C. One year later the Persian ruler, <u>Cyrus</u>, commissioned a group of Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. They were led by a man named <u>Zerubabbel</u> (Zech. 4:6). As a result of Zerubabbel's leadership, and the preaching of Haggai and Zechariah, the Temple was rebuilt in 515 B.C.

God had restored WORSHIP to His people!

fifty-eight years after the Temple was rebuilt, God sent a "preaching machine" named Ezra to Jerusalem (quote Ezra 7:10). Just as God had used Zerubabbel to restore WORSHIP, God used Ezra to restore THE WORD. Now the Jews had PRAISE & WORSHIP as well as the PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD.

Thirteen years after Ezra began his ministry, God called Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall.

Notice:

When Praise and Worship are followed by, the Preaching of the Word, God provides His people with the Protection of the Wall. God's people could have His <u>wall</u> of protection only if they <u>worshiped</u> Him and honored His <u>Word!</u>

Nehemiah refused to come down from his work on the wall because **He had been** called to a great work!

B. Application

Just as Nehemiah was called to a great work, so are Southern Baptists. We are called to be "spiritual wall-builders"! And it is the greatest work on earth!

Vance Havner — "The pastor of the smallest Baptist church in Mississippi would have to take a giant 'step down' in order to become the President of the United States!" (AMEN!)

How can Southern Baptists help rebuild America's walls of protection?

(1) We Are Called to Rebuild America's Spiritual Walls through the Great Work of Prayer. God wants our churches, our homes and our physical bodies to be "houses of prayer."

My good friend, Don Miller, says, "The best place for a Christian and especially for a pastor is down on his knees."

Pastor, you must make prayer the priority of your life, and preaching the priority of your ministry. You must not stand up and speak for God until you have first knelt down and spoken with God!

"Where prayer focuses, God's power falls!"

(2) We Are Also Called to Rebuild America's Spiritual Walls through the Great Work of Preaching. Our Pastor's Conference reminded us to "preach the Word!"

Like Ezra of old, we must "prepare our hearts to <u>Seek/Study</u> God's Word, <u>Obey</u> God's Word, and Share God's Word with a lost world!

We must, "Study to show (ourselves) approved unto God..." We are called to rebuild America's walls through the great work of preaching the Word of God!

(3) We Are Called to Rebuild America's Spiritual Walls through the Great Work of Evangelism & Missions.

Southern Baptists, we are called to make disciples, baptize disciples, and teach disciples all that Lesus has commanded. Every person without Jesus in this world is lost and going to hell. We must take the Gospel to them at home and around the world! We must tell everyone that Jesus is "The Way, the truth, the life...:

Indeed, Southern Baptists, we are <u>called</u> to the Great work of personal evangelism & soul-winning, as well as home and foreign missions!

(4) We Are Called to Rebuild America's Spiritual Walls through the Great Work of <u>Being Salt and Light</u>.

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth...the light of the world!" God has not called Hollywood to set the moral tone of this nation. Rather, He has called Christians to be the conscience of America! Southern Baptists, we must lead out in this calling! It is our responsibility to warn our nation when it is going astray.

We must address the issue of...

(A) Abortion

Forty-two million babies have died since 1973 (pop. of 15 of our states). In God's eyes, abortion is nothing short of child sacrifice. There is little difference between what abortion-doctors do every day and what those Muslims did when they beheaded Nick Berg! We must call to account the unelected, unaccountable, out-of-control, federal judges who are ruining our nation.

Psalm 11:3 - "If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?"

Regardless of what the American Medical Association says, regardless of what the National Organization of Women says, regardless of what Planned Parenthood says, regardless of what the ACLU says, regardless of what federal judges say, abortion is murder, abortion is sin, and abortion is an abomination in the eyes of God!

Southern Baptists must also speak out concerning...

(B) Gay Marriage and the Homosexual Agenda.

Radical gays denote the greatest moral threat America has ever faced! America's economy and national security are affected more by what happens in Massachusetts than by what happens on Wall Street or in Iraq! God will not prosper/protect a nation that embraces homosexuality. If we allow gay activists to win the war for marriage, we are signing the death warrant of this nation.

Southern Baptists must <u>condemn</u> the appointment of the homosexual Episcopalian priest, Gene Robinson, as the Bishop of New Hampshire. *WE* must also <u>commend</u> the Episcopalians who opposed him.

Southern Baptists should congratulate our United Methodist brethren for reaffirming their opposition to homosexuality at their recent General Conference in Pittsburg. Although the liberal media barely mentioned it, Methodists described homosexuality as being "incompatible with Christian teaching." They also said, "We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman." God bless you, United Methodists; you did John and Charles Wesley, Frances Asbury, Thomas Coke, and all God's family proud!

Southern Baptists must denounce pro-homosexual television programming such as *Will and Grace, L.A. Law, Roseanne, Queer Eye for a Straight Guy,* and Ellen Degeneres' talk show. We must demand that our local cable companies refuse to carry MTV's new homosexual channel, "LOGO."

WE must help curb the epidemic spread of lesbianism by telling our daughters that the passionate kisses shared by Madonna, Brittany Spears, and Christina Aguilera at MTV's Video Music Awards last August were an abomination to a holy God!

And Southern Baptists must lead the way over the next 12-18 months to help pass The Federal Marriage Amendment, which says, "Marriage in the United States shall consists only of the union of a man and a woman!"

Just as WE began the process of "taking back" our beloved SBC 25 years ago, WE must now lead the way for God's people to "take back our nation" from the militant gay activists!

We are called to be salt and light to our nation!

"WE ARE CALLED TO THE GREAT WORK OF REBUILDING AMERICA'S SPIRITUAL WALLS!"

Not Only Are Southern Baptists Called to a Great Work...

2. We Must Also Be Committed to that Great Work (v. 3).

"So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down...."

A. Explanation

Notice: Nehemiah did not say, "I will not come down." Rather, he said, "I cannot come down!" (big difference!)

Nehemiah knew how crucial the wall and its gates were. They would help protect the Jews from their enemies, and help sustain their struggling economy. Most of all, the wall and its gates represented God's mercy! They were reminders that although God had disciplined His people in the past, He had now had forgiven them! That wall and its gates meant far too much for Nehemiah to even consider "coming down." He was <u>committed</u> to the great work of rebuilding them.

B. Illustration

David Livingstone was a renowned Scottish missionary, physician, and explorer in the 19th Century. At age 27, he received his medical degree. But instead of staying in Scotland and establishing his medical practice, he became a missionary and went to Africa. For 33 years, he "brought the Light of the Gospel to the Dark continent of Africa." He did all he could to help abolish the trading of slaves, He passionately shared the gospel of Christ with the natives. He was committed to his work in Africa.

Livingstone died on May 1, 1873 at the age of 60. His friends found him at 4:00 a.m. kneeling by his bedside, having died in prayer. They mummified his body and carried it for 1,000 miles from the heart of Africa to the coast. After almost a year, his body arrived in London. He was buried in Westminster Abbey on April 18, 1874 as England observed a "national day of mourning" in his honor.

If you travel to Zambia today, you will find a memorial to him. You will also see a special tree. **Beneath it lies the <u>heart</u> of David Livingstone.** His heart was buried where his heart had been throughout his adult life – in Africa! He was <u>committed</u> to "a great work; he could not come down!"

C. Application

Like Livingstone, Southern Baptists must be <u>committed</u> to the "great work" to which God has called us!

(1) We Must Be Committed to Prayer.

Colossians 4:2 - "Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving."

We are in a spiritual battle that requires frequent and fervent prayer.

Samuel Chadwick said, "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. Satan laughs at our toil and mocks at our wisdom; but he *trembles* when we pray!"

(2) We Must Be Committed to Preaching.

America's spiritual walls would soon be rebuilt if all of our Southern Baptist pulpits would be ablaze with biblical preaching!

America has had its fill of drama skits, coffee talks, interpretive dances, operatic cantatas, high-church "Frankenstein music," and pop-psychology sessions from the pulpit! America needs some men of God who will study the Word of God, pour out their hearts in prayer before God, then stand at the sacred desk of God, full of the Spirit of God, holding the blessed Book of God, and boldly proclaim a message from heaven for the glory of God!

Southern Baptists, we must be committed to Preaching God's Word!

(3) We Must Be Committed to Evangelism and Missions.

Each of us must ask the Lord to help us be <u>personal soul-winners</u>, as well as being <u>mission-minded</u>. Don't tell me you are "mission-minded" unless you are also a personal soul-winner! We must share the gospel with our neighbor across the street, and then go to the ends of the earth!

(4) We Must Be Committed to Being Salt and Light.

We must be more committed than the gay activists!

In February 1972 the National Coalition of Gay Organizations met at the Armitage Avenue United Methodist Church in Chicago, Illinois. An invitation had been sent out to 495 homosexual organizations across the U.S. to come and prepare a "gay stance for the 1972 elections." Conference participants adopted the 1972 Gay Rights Platform, which included 17 federal and state "demands."

For over 30 years it has been the beacon of the homosexual movement in America. In THE 1972 GAY RIGHTS PLATFORM (Formulated in Chicago, Illinois.), gays demanded:

- (1) The end to discrimination against gays in employment, housing, and public services.
- (2) The end of prohibiting gays from being in the military.
- (3) The elimination of tax inequities "victimizing" same-sex couples.
- (4) Federal support for sex education courses, prepared and taught by gay women and men, presenting homosexuality as a valid lifestyle, and a viable alternative to heterosexuality.
- (5) Repeal of all laws prohibiting prostitution, both male and female.
- (6) Enactment of legislation so that child custody, adoption, visitation rights, and foster parenting cannot be denied because of sexual orientation.
- (7) Repeal of all state laws prohibiting transvestism and cross-dressing.
- (8) Repeal of all laws governing the age of sexual consent.
- (9) Repeal of all laws restricting the sex or number of persons entering into a marriage unit (i.e. same sex marriage, and more than two partners per marriage).

They have achieved most of their goals in only 32 years, and they are quickly gaining ground on the others! Indeed, the homosexual and lesbian activists are committed to their cause.

Southern Baptists must be more committed to the work God has given to us.

I want to strongly encourage every preacher in this room and across America to preach a biblical sermon on Sunday morning about "What the Bible Says About Homosexuality"!

Convention Message

We must inform our society that the Word of God still says...

- (1) God never created anyone to be homosexual. The Old Testament and Jesus both say that, "God created (us) male and female" (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19).
- (2) God does not approve of Same-Sex Marriages. Again, both the Old Testmend and Jesus say, "For this cause a man shall leave..." (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19).
- (3) God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because homosexuality which God called, "a sin (that is) exceedingly grave," (Genesis 18-19), "gross immorality," and "going after strange flesh" (Jude 1:7).
- (4) In the Old Testament., God categorized homosexuality along with the sins of adultery, child-sacrifice, and bestiality, calling it "an abomination" (Leviticus 18:20-23).
- (5) In the New Testament. (Romans 1), God called homosexuality, "Degrading, unnatural (it's not in the barn yard), indecent, error, deprayed, and not proper."
- (6) God says that those who practice it without remorse and repentance "will not inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:9-10).
- (7) The good news is that homosexuals can be saved and set free by the power of Jesus Christ! (1 Cor. 6:11 "And such were some of you....").

If the preachers in America would rise up in unison and tell this nation what the Bible says, we could easily pass *The Federal Marriage Amendment* and stop the "homosexualization" of our society!

We must be committed to be salt & light.

Southern Baptists...

- 1. We are called to a great work,
- 2. We must be committed to that great work, and
- 3. We must complete that great work (v. 3).

"So I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"

A. Explanation

God wanted Nehemiah to *complete* the work he had started. How could he fail the Lord by quitting? He refused to come down at Sanballat's and Geshem's request because he knew that if he did the work would stop!

And indeed, he and the people did finish the work!

Nehemiah 6:15-16 - "So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations surrounding us saw it, they lost their confidence; for they recognized that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God."

The great work was <u>completed</u> in only 52 days (a miracle!). And the Jews enjoyed the fruit of his labors for years to come!

R Illustration

You might say, "But Bro. Steve, the place where I serve is horrible. I need to go somewhere else before I can do 'a great work."

Friend, that's where you're wrong! Any work for Jesus is "a great work!"

When Nehemiah and the people repaired the gates on the wall, some were working at the...

- (1) "Sheep Gate" (3:1).
- (6) "Fountain Gate" (3:14).
- (2) "Fish Gate" (3:3).
- (7) "Water Gate" (3:26).
- (3) "Old Gate" (3:6).
- (8) "Horse Gate" (3:28).
- (4) "Valley Gate" (3:13). (5) "Dung Gate" (3:13).
- (9) "East Gate" (3:29).

Don't you know they got discouraged sometimes and said, "I wish I was at another gate instead of this gate!"

Does that sound familiar to you? Sounds to me like a bunch of preachers complaining at lunch on Monday! (I'll never take Mondays off...)

Dear Brother, you may be serving the Lord at...

"Sheep Gate Baptist Church" - with a large, growing flock!

"Fish Gate B.C." - with soul-winners in your church!

"Old Gate B.C." - members are living in the past!

"Valley Gate B.C." - where everybody is depressed; half the congregation is on Prozac!

"Fountain Gate B.C." - people are filled with the Spirit of God!

"Horse Gate B.C." - a strong, working congregation!

"East Gate B.C." - everybody's looking for Christ's return!

"Dung Gate B.C." - it stinks!

No matter where you are, remember, it's a privilege to be anywhere working on God's wall! Finish what He called you to do!

C. Application

The Bible says in, Colossians 4:17 - "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

Southern Baptists, we have not yet completed the work to which we have been called.

(1) We Must Complete the Work of Prayer.

I still believe 2 Chronicles 7:14 - "If My people..."

Prayer changes things! Some things will happen only if we pray! (If that goes against your theology, GOOD!)

(2) We Must Complete the Work of Preaching.

We must never water down our message to attract a crowd!

We are to tell the world that: Man is a sinner, Jesus died for the sins of all people, and man must repent and believe on Christ. Only then can he be saved!

May we be like Apollos of old – "mighty in the Scriptures!"

May we strive to be: <u>Savior</u>-friendly, <u>Scripture</u>-friendly, <u>Spirit</u>-friendly, and <u>soul</u>-friendly, as well as being <u>seeker</u>-friendly!

(3) We Must Complete the Work of Evangelism & Missions.

We will never <u>finish</u> this work until we die or Jesus returns. Until God calls us home, we must organize, strategize, and evangelize our local communities and the world, telling them that Jesus saves!

(4) We Must Complete the Work of Being Salt & Light.

The determination and depth of perversion of the most radical fringe of the Gay Movement is obvious in an essay written in 1987 by a homosexual named Michael Swift.

The essay is entitled "The Homosexual Manifesto." It was printed in a popular gay newspaper called *Gay Community News* on February 15, 1987, and was reprinted in the February 15-21 1987 Congressional Record.

THIS ESSAY is madness, a tragic, cruel fantasy, an eruption of inner rage, on how the oppressed desperately dream of being the oppressor.

We shall sodomize your sons. We shall seduce them in your schools, dormitories, gymnasiums, locker rooms, sports arenas, seminaries, youth groups, movie theater bathrooms, bunkhouses, truck stops, all-male clubs, houses of Congress, wherever men are with men together. Your sons shall become our minions and do our bidding. They will be recast in our image. They will come to crave and adore us. Women, you cry for freedom. You say you are no longer satisfied with men; they make you unhappy. We, connoisseurs of the masculine face, the masculine physique, shall take your men from you then. We will amuse them, we will instruct them, we will embrace them when they weep. We shall give your men pleasures they have never known because we are foremost men too and only man knows how to truly please another man.

All laws banning homosexual activity will be revoked.

We will unmask the powerful homosexuals who masquerade as heterosexuals. You will be shocked and frightened when you find that your presidents, their sons, your industrialists, senators, mayors, generals, athletes, film stars, television personalities, civic leaders, and priests are not the safe, familiar, heterosexual figures you assumed them to be. We are everywhere; we have infiltrated your ranks. Be careful when you speak of homosexuals because we are always among you; we may be sleeping in the same bed with you.

The family unit will be abolished. The family unit, which only dampens imagination and curbs free will, must be eliminated.

We shall rewrite history, history filled and debased with your heterosexual lies and distortions. We shall portray the homosexuality of the great leaders and thinkers who have shaped the world.

We shall be victorious because we are fueled with the ferocious bitterness of the oppressed who have been forced to play seemingly bit parts in your dumb, heterosexual shows throughout the ages. We too are capable of firing guns and manning the barricades of the ultimate revolution. Tremble, hetero swine, when we appear before you without our masks!

What can we do, Southern Baptists, as "salt & light" to stop the advancement of the radical homosexual agenda in America?

- (a) Educate our people concerning the issues we face (esp. homosexuality and abortion)
- (b) Register people to vote. www.ivotevalues.com (Richard Land, ERLC)
- (c) Encourage our people to vote only for candidates who uphold Christian values! www.formarriage.com (Shannon Royce) We must not allow Democrats, Republicans, or even Labor Unions, to tell us how to vote!

If you are a Christian, you must not vote for anyone who favors abortion or homosexuality. God will hold us accountable for the way we vote! No longer can we afford to "vote our pocketbooks". We must "vote our principles"!

(d) Contact your representatives in the House and Senate and tell them that you expect them to support the Federal Marriage Amendment! Capitol Switchboard - 202.224.3121

We must act now, while there is still time!

Conclusion:

Come with me to a hill called Calvary...There hangs Jesus, the sacrificial Son of God!

"All of us like sheep had gone astray..." (Isa. 53:6).

Yonder in the distance hangs <u>Judas</u> at the end of a rope in the Field of Blood. There in the shadows lurks <u>Peter</u>, weeping because he has denied His Lord. At the cross stands <u>Mary</u>, Jesus' mother, pondering these things in her heart! Beside her <u>the soldiers</u> gamble for His garments. <u>One of the thieves</u> next to Jesus calls on His name and is saved. <u>The other thief</u> is about to enter hell cursing Him.

Suddenly a passer-by shouts something; It is repeated by a scribe, then by a Pharisee, then by one of the Sadducees. In a moment even the belligerent thief shouts the exact same words!

What were they all saying? They were saying this:

"If you are the Christ, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!"

But I can hear my Savior say, "I am doing a great work...!"

Weary pastor, your work is "not in vain." <u>Don't come down</u>. <u>praying mother, precious missionary denominational servant, godly teenager!</u>

Don't come down.

Adrian Rogers - God's love is still worth finding!

D. James Kennedy - God's truths are still transforming lives!

James Dobson - We still need to focus on our families!

Al Mohler and Jerry Falwell - we still need you to be our "media missionaries"!

Rick Warren - People still need God's purpose for their lives!

Tim LaHaye - There are still those who will be "Left Behind" if Jesus returns.

Mel Gibson – There are still people out there who need to know the saving passion of the Christ!

Southern Baptists, don't you dare come down...

Our missionaries are winning more souls than ever! Our churches are still shining the Light of Jesus into a dark world! This world needs us to keep on praying, preaching, evangelizing and doing missions—being the salt & light.

America still needs us whether they know it or not; whether they want us or not!

Christians are all that stands between America and the judgment of God! We're all that is hindering the advancements of the gay activists.

Southern Baptists... "Fight the good fight, finish the course, keep the faith!"

Together, while there is still time, "Let Us Rise and Move the Gates of Hell!"

"We're doing a great work; we cannot come down. Why should the work stop while we leave it and come down to lesser things?"