

S.N. March - 28, 7/11 A.M. ✓
S.N. June 18, 75 A.M. ✓

THE MEN OF SECRET

Psalm 25:14

INTRODUCTION

This psalm has a great deal to do with the matter of prayer, as he somewhat reveals to us the secrets, circumstances, the desolations, the afflictions, distresses, travail. There are other kindred words, sobbing and sorrow, vibrant in pain, and yet the main message of this song is not despair, but is rather one of hope and confidence. It is singing and rising above, spreading his wings, rising to the point where his sob becomes a song.

The psalm opens with a prayer and closes with a prayer. The first seven ~~x~~ verses constitute a prayer. The last seven verses constitute a prayer. And the ~~xxxxx~~ entire section is one great prayer. Beginning with the eighth verse and ending with the fourteenth verse which is the central ~~xxxx~~ paragraph, it is occupied with the declaration of the goodness of God.

He declares that he has found the secret and in this verse we find the secret of this man's triumph over pain. And the secret of the Lord is with him. Now as we meditate upon the blessings of the secret of the Lord, we will continue to see something of the conditions of which he speaks. This secret belongs to the Lord.

Religion is really very simple and yet profound.

First, it is to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

2 Second, it is to do the will of God from the heart. It is to visit the widows and the fatherless in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

But religion is more than life. It is also a faith. It is to see the invisible. It is to trust in the wisdom and the power and the love of God.

Religion is more than life and more than faith. It is an experience. And this experience which a man dare not tell, he cannot tell it really to an outsider, it is something solemn, it is a knowledge of God and of God's ways and purposes and desires, which passeth all understanding. It is something that a man is not ashamed of and gives him joy unspeakable.

Now, the psalmist names this experience, (the secret) of the Lord. He spoke of the secret of the Lord, that it meant knowledge of God, the unseen eternal Jehovah.

No doubt he (recalled) Abraham coming out of the Ur of Caldees with a wisdom and a knowledge that other men did not have.

He thought of Jacob rising from his midnight dream at Bethel. Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not.

He thought of Moses at the burning bush putting off his shoes from his feet because the ground was holy ground.

He remembered Samuel coming out of the temple in the morning light having heard the voice of God, and he dare not tell this to Eli.

Now, each of these had entered into a solemn experience. They had come forth with a secret, a new and deeper understanding of God's way and thoughts and purposes.

Now, the psalmist marks the ~~xxxxxxx~~ experience with a law - the law of fear. The fear of God, which is an awe or a reverence to know and a willingness to submit and to obey. God made known the secret to them.

In a statement or two I can prove to you this. God made known his secret to Abraham) but not to Lot. He made known his secret to a Jacob) and not to Esau. He made known his secret to Moses) and not to just any passing caravan along the ~~xxxxx~~ mile. He made known his secret to Samuel,) but Eli did not receive that secret. God had shown them his covenant.

For us ~~not~~ today, the Lord is known by a sweeter and more human name, Jesus. For us, this is the secret which goes deeper, the secret of the Lord is that of one who has come very near to us. He was found in the likeness of man, made Himself known unto us, and what that secret is to each one of us depends on

what Jesus is and has become to us.

Now, he is (not) the same to the (youth) beginning his Christian life as he is to the (old man) who has put in ~~xxx~~ many years of service. He is not the same to (men and women) who keep only a light touch with him as he is to those who have surrendered to His will.

The (men) of secret. We discover in this text two or three things. The master's secret, the friends and the lover, plus the condition and the results of it.

I. The Master's Secret

First every master has his secret. The (craftsman) who engages an apprentice undertakes to teach him his trade. He watches the boy with critical eyes, he marks the clumsy, untrained hands, he is wise and patient in correction, and tries to give good counsel. He is alert for any sign of skill.

Then ultimately the day comes when the lad has caught his master's method. He understands his craftsmanship. He does the work with swift ease. His hands are very apt because he has learned his master's secret.

The (teacher) has his secret. The scholar has a receptive mind to whom he can reveal it. He notes his students. He studies the responsive glance and the significant word or the searching questions. These all reveal the student's promise. And it is with joy that the teacher reveals his secret ~~that~~ of his scholarship.

The painter has his secret in the studio. There are those who study, and he spends hours trying to teach skill to his students. And the student will spend hours copying his master's work, studying and aspiring after his spirit.

And finally the honest painter will say as Rossetti ^{said to} ~~when studying under~~ Bern Jones received the judgment upon his work: "You have nothing more to learn from me."

He had entered into the master's secret. But mark the law now. It was not a carping critic or a cynical scholar or one who was idle that the secret was revealed. The secret is for them that fear.

What is the secret of Jesus as master? It is the secret of service.

The men who have learned it & go forth to serve as Christ's servants. His methods are used, his compassion, his burning zeal. Every day men enter Christ's service with their gifts, their learning, their eloquence, but they may not do Christ's work. They may not have entered into the secret.

There is an experience which teaches a man more than the learning of the schools. Reverence and devotion to God's will. Then and not until then, can he do the master's work. John Wesley passed through his ~~night~~ nights and days of enlightenment and consecration with unshakable assurance going out with the master's message of life from the dead.

Thomas Chalmers rising from his sick bed spent a year with great joy going forth pouring his energy to evangelize Scotland.

Damien went to all communities and touched the leper laying his hands in Christ-like pity upon the outcasts, working with these humble folk. "Rescue the perishing, and the healing of the sick in Christ's own way." But they entered into Christ's secret because they feared.

If you are to be true and honorable, and you are going to dedicate your life to his service, you must let it be seen everywhere. "I am Christ's man. I am Christ's woman. I must act, I must live, I must walk, conduct my life." You may have joined church or received communion. Is that all the evidence you have of the secret of the new-born life? Have you nothing else to say for yourself? That you have attended church now and then or ~~xxxx~~ occasionally? I wonder if your wife knows that you know this secret. I wonder if your husband knows that you know this secret. When God touches the human life He transforms it from sin to grace. I do not care how bad a man is or how bad a woman may have lived. Deep down in her heart she will admire these beautiful things that God makes. When the leper came, Jesus, "Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." And Jesus said, "I will, be thou clean." And touched him. When he departed, he said to the man "Tell nobody. See that no man know it." Go thy way and show yourself to the priest." But I imagine that man said, "I'll just have to tell ~~xx~~ the first man I meet." He could not help himself. A leper cleansed and nobody know about it? It could not be. And if you are a new man and woman in Christ Jesus, I'll tell you, somebody is going to know about

it, and thank God for it. Let your life be in ~~harmony~~ harmony with your profession.
 It's more than just putting your name down somewhere in a club or an institution or
 a meeting house. It means living a life. The world may want more and more of you,
 but your old life is dead, and like Lazarus, you will come out of the grave. But
 you want to put the grave clothes off. If you are risen with Christ, your old life
 is dead.

II. The friend's secret

Now, let's go a little further with this text. We talked about the
 master having a secret, the master workman, craftsman. Now, the friend. Friends
 have a secret. This bond between two friends is always secret. There may be some
knowledge of the past days now holds you and your friend in an unbreakable
 fellowship. It may ~~xx~~ have been some intimacies of your boyhood, your childhood.
 The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David. Emmerson says, "My friends
have come to me unsought. The great God gave them to me." But whatever may be the
source and springs of our friendship, it is always marked by this fact, that we
reveal to the friend what we hide from others. Our joys, our hopes, our fears,
 our sorrows, the illness of our bodies, the troubles of our minds, our dreams.
 We pour all of these into our friend's ear.

Now, Psalm 111:1 says, "Praise ye Jehovah. I will give thanks unto Jehovah"

with my whole heart, in the counsel of the upright and in the congregation."

We may say in accuracy, the counsel of the Lord. The root idea then is that of any other of the verses that we have read or used, the idea is that of a company of persons sitting together of one mind, one heart, of a company unified, one heart, one purpose, in absolute agreement with each other. It's a beautiful idea. And it's rarely realized in the experience of any company of men and women.

Only once in history do we read about this. On the day of pentecost when the men and women were gathered of one mind, one spirit, one Lord, one prayer, and one obedience. There was no discord. The secret of the Lord is with them, and Jehovah sits in counsel, and that's a perfect union.

Now, this is a conscienceness of perfect friendship, though not a word be spoken. It may be absolute silence. The friendship can be silent. The simple things of love and friendship in their lives make this ~~xxxx~~ possible. You have not very many friends in the world. Just a few. You may have very many acquaintances. Thank God for them all. But not many people that you can be absolutely safe in being silent with. The last sign of xxx friendship is the ability to be quiet. Now the acquaintance you have

Now this idea of friendship may be explored further on Psalm 55:14. We took sweet counsel together. Here the silence is broken, here is speech, and the

speech of familiar conversation. Freedom in speech that comes when friends understand each other well enough to be silent, and when the friendship can afford to be silent. But you can express your delight with your friend. As

Mrs. Craik expressed it, the delight of being alone with a friend when you can pour out everything that is in ~~your~~ your soul, all you think, the wheat and the chaff together, knowing that the listening friend will with the breath of kindness blow away the chaff and keep only the grain. The secret of the Lord is with Him,

and God can speak freely with him. Can God really speak freely with you? Can

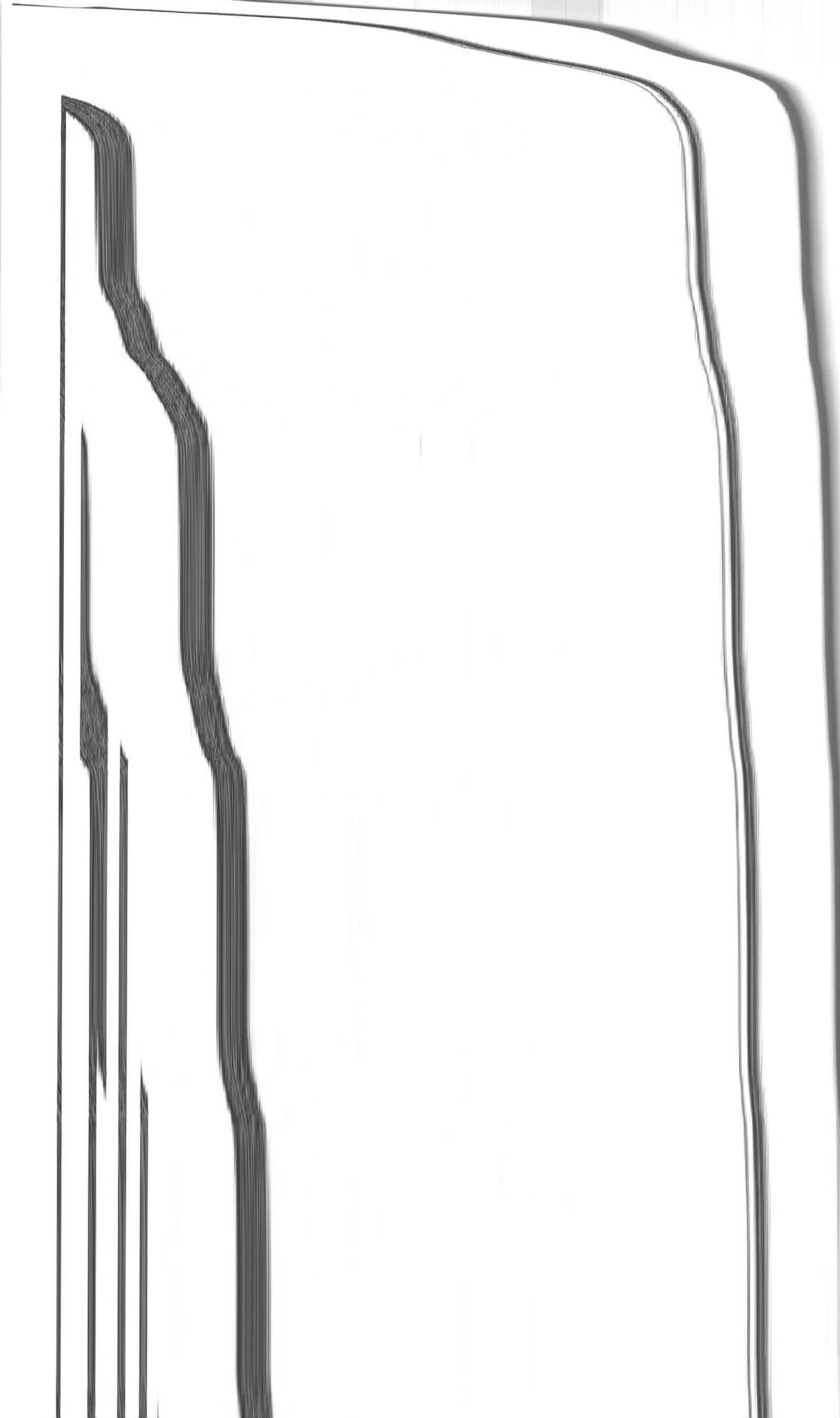
2 Men - Did your wife lose much weight on her diet of all those coconuts and Bananas? He speak freely with me? Baranah's? "only a couple of pounds - but you just ought to see the way she can climb a tree - only friends talk about secrets like that."

Now, Jesus proved his friendship to His ~~fix~~ friends when he came to the

upper room the dark betrayal night. He gathered around Him those men and one man in His company who does not fear. He is not the friend of Jesus. (When Judas) had gone out into the dark, Jesus unlocked His heart. Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him, Jesus cries and pours forth his secret confidences to the eleven at the feast. He tells them the meaning of the discourse. Henceforth I call ~~myself~~ ye not servants, (but) I have called you friends. For all things that I have learned of my Father.

What is the friend's secret? The (secret of knowledge) the way of purpose.

The hopes and fears.



RESOLUTIONS—(continued from page 3)

Be it further **Resolved**, that we, messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on June 15, 1978, register our opposition to all tuition tax credit legislation pending in congress; urge the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to continue to oppose such legislation; and express our concern over such legislation's threat to the First Amendment guarantees of non-establishment of religion and the free exercise of religion.

**Resolution No. 19—
On Religious Liberty in Israel**

WHEREAS we have confidence in the commitment of the state of Israel to religious liberty, and

WHEREAS a law passed by the government of that nation in December of 1977 may inhibit religious freedom,

Be it therefore **Resolved**, that we call upon the State Department, the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to communicate the concern of this convention to authorities in that nation, and

Be it therefore further **Resolved**, that we call upon the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Baptist World Alliance to assist in the implementation of this resolution.

Resolution No. 20—On Alcohol

WHEREAS, The Southern Baptist Convention adopted resolutions in 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, and 1976 calling attention to the problems involved in the use of alcohol as a beverage, such as its effect on the body, advertisement, and its drug-like effect,

Be it therefore **Resolved**, that we, the messengers of the 1978 session of the Southern Baptist Convention, reaffirm our historic position as opposing any use of alcohol as a beverage, and

Be it further **Resolved**, that we urge the Congress of the United States to pass laws prohibiting the advertising of any kind of alcoholic beverage on television and radio, and

Be it further **Resolved**, that we urge the surgeon-general of the United States to declare that alcoholic beverages are a hazard to health, and

Be it finally **Resolved**, that we request our recording secretary to send copies of this resolution to all state Baptist conventions of the Southern Baptist Convention, to all members of the United States Congress, to the surgeon-general of the United States, to the Food and Drug Administration of the United States and to the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

**Resolution No. 21—
Commendation of Anita Bryant**

Be it **Resolved**, that the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, reaffirm the commendation of Anita Bryant made during the 1976 and 1977 Southern Baptist Conventions for her firm stand on the issue of homosexuality.

Resolution No. 22—On the Bible

WHEREAS, Baptists have traditionally been "people of the Book," and

WHEREAS, Baptists have accepted the Bible as the sole authority for matters of faith and practice, and

WHEREAS, The "Baptist Faith and Message" statement adopted in 1963 expresses our belief in the Bible as the Word of God, and

WHEREAS, The statement has been adopted as a guideline for agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention,

Therefore be it **Resolved**, that we reaffirm our belief in the Bible as expressed in the "Baptist Faith and Message":

"The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ."

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Resolutions Committee recommends referrals of resolutions as follows:

ON SOIL CONSERVATION (Emmett Henderson, Georgia) to the SBC Denominational Calendar Committee.

ON CHRISTIAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES AND THE LOCAL CHURCHES (Herbert S. Whitten, Wyoming) to the executive director and the trustees of the Home Mission Board.

ON TEMPERANCE (Marvin W. Glenn, Texas) to the Sunday School Board.

ON FEDERAL BYPASS IN EDUCATION (Harold Hosler, Missouri) to Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

ON RELIGIOUS WORKERS IN THE CANAL ZONE (W. Allen Sanders, Virginia) to Baptist Joint Committee.

ON SENIOR ADULTS AND BOLD MISSION THRUST (Roberta J. Kittrell) to Home Mission Board.

The Resolutions Committee reports on other resolutions submitted as follows:

ON INFLATION (Alvin West, D.C.) incorporated in **Resolution 17 on Economic Responsibility**.

ON 27TH AMENDMENT (Billie Pendley, Virginia) and **ON OPPOSITION TO ERA** (Jack Fryer, Georgia) and **ON THE CONSTITUTION** (Charles Stanley, Georgia) were dealt with in **Resolution 14 on Equal Rights Amendment**.

ON UGANDA (Clifford Johnston, Texas) incorporated in **Resolution 16 on Terrorism**.

ON GEORGI VINS (Stephen Krysalca, Georgia). Both the Joint Committee on Public Affairs and the Baptist World Alliance have dealt with this problem. It appears that Mr. Vins will soon be released.

ON SOCIAL SECURITY (Robert Bailey, North Carolina) incorporated in **Resolution No. 17 on Economic Responsibility**.

ON NATIONAL SECURITY (David Matthews, South Carolina) incorporated in **Resolution No. 5 on Arms Control**.

ON ABORTION (Gary D. Tebbetts, Missouri) and **ON ABORTION** (Jerry D. Johnson, Georgia) were dealt with in **Resolution No. 15 on Abortion**.

ON CONSTITUENCY AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (Dick Onarecker, Texas) dealt with in **Resolution No. 22 on The Bible**.

ON WORLD HUNGER RELIEF (M. Clay Warf, North Carolina) incorporated in **Resolution No. 6 on World Hunger**.

ON J. P. STEVENS MANUFACTURING (James C. Peck, Jr., Georgia) incorporated into **Resolution No. 17 on Economic Security**.

ON PORNOGRAPHY (Larry Elliott, Florida) and **ON PORNOGRAPHY** (Larry Lorenz, California) were dealt with in **Resolution No. 12 on Pornography**.

ON WORKING POOR AND MINIMUM WAGE (H. Don Yancy and Daniel P. Stiles, both of North Carolina) dealt with in **Resolution No. 17 on Economic Responsibility**.

ON IDENTIFICATION OF CRIMINALS (R. H. Patterson Sr., South Carolina) considered by the Committee without recommendation or referral.

**RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED
TUESDAY AFTERNOON**

ON ABORTION: A resolution calling for disapproval of U.S. Constitution amendment designed to prohibit abortion (Jerry D. Johnson, Georgia).

ON FEDERAL BYPASS IN EDUCATION: A resolution expressing our opposition to Federal by-pass projects which threaten church-state separation (Harold C. Hosler, Missouri).

ON PORNOGRAPHY: A resolution condemning all forms of pornography (Larry E. Elliott, Florida).

ON THE WORKING POOR AND THE MINIMUM WAGE: A resolution asking the working poor to be paid an income adequate to insure that they would not be forced to seek government maintenance (H. Don Yancy and Daniel P. Stiles, both of North Carolina).

ON IDENTIFICATION OF CRIMINALS: A resolution asking for clearer identification as criminal of those who sell addictive products including alcohol (R. H. Patterson, Sr., South Carolina).

ON SENIOR ADULTS AND BOLD MISSION THRUST: A resolution urging recognition and utilization of senior adults in Bold Mission Thrust (Roberta J. Kittrell, Florida).

ON PORNOGRAPHY: A resolution calling for study and report on the influence of pornography on persons and homes (Larry Lorenz, California).

WEDNESDAY MORNING

ON RELIGIOUS WORKERS IN THE CANAL ZONE: A resolution petitioning the Congress to grant governmental schooling benefits to children of religious workers in the Canal Zone (W. Allen Sanders, Virginia).

ON TUITION TAX CREDIT: A resolution registering opposition to tuition tax credit legislation pending in the Congress (A. L. Palmer, Missouri).

ON ANITA BRYANT: A resolution of appreciation for Anita Bryant (A. L. Kendrick, Georgia, and Carl Lunsford, Georgia).

ON OPPOSITION TO ERA: A resolution opposing the 27th Amendment (Jack Fryer, Georgia).

ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION: A resolution opposing extension of the ratification period of the 27th Amendment (Charles Stanley, Georgia).

ON ENDORSING ANITA BRYANT'S STAND ON HOMOSEXUALITY: A resolution approving Anita Bryant's stand on homosexuality as consistent with the Bible. (Richard D. Price, Georgia).

Thank God to Baptist know their Secret! Over 20,000 Messengers Atlanta

121st annual meeting. —

Old River 18,600 Norfolk convention

Born - 1845 - 300 Baptist

Today More than 13 million membership.

Home Miss Board - 2500 missionaries (\$28 million to support

Foreign Miss Board 2700 " in 90 foreign countries. (\$162 million

Radio & T.V. - produce over 3,400 programs annually for distribution.

S.B. have a commitment to the great Commission - Gospel whole world.

outsiders find this incredible —

35,000 churches in all 50 states —

Anita Bryant - brought emphasis upon the need for morality & building family life upon the Bible plan.

Resolution on the Bible → Often hear some preacher or church

say "we preach the Bible, if you want to get
into a Bible Believing Church send your money to us! —

The inference is that other churches do not

Believe the Bible!

Read you what So. Bapt. Believe →

I'm proud to be part of Bible Believing church —

Further " " " " " Group with its goal of evangelizing the

world by the year 2,000 — Pop. expected top 7 Billion

by end of that period.

Resolution on the Bible

Low Little Football Coach at Georgetown University.

College President - Low do you know this fellow?
yet - man on squad 4 yrs. I never played him -
He is good enough but not motivated -

Pro - man taken dead - Break the news -
Low - arm around boy - Take the wh off - it's long
it was Tuesday -

Friday - Coach Little's locker room - Student Pres -
Journal yesterday - This is big game & I've got to

Play.
Wait a min - you know what was started you -
But you will start me tomorrow - moist eyed boy -
Coach - if was top up - put in on 1st Play - no Deming

On 1st return -
Georgetown was - diff in 2nd - he blocked, taunted

intensity with the game -

Coach Little - son what happened -

Coach, you never know my father - will see to was

Blind & today was the 1st time he ever saw me play!!

Man & secret your family will visit up to honor you!!

V. The results of this secret, and this wonderful blessing
of which the ~~psalmist~~ psalmist spoke

He will show them his (covenant). What is a covenant? It is an engagement
entered into. The prophets in tears foresaw that the gracious covenant would come,
 and would be placed not only on stones, tables of stone, but upon the hearts of
the people. Jesus entered into this engagement and into this covenant, and the
 terms of this covenant are very plain.

The fear of the Lord is to have his secret with what result? We can
 watch through the process, the trials, the sorrows of life, God's faithfulness to
His covenant with us.

There will be many days when by reason of our own frailty, our own
 fearful and trembling hearts, we shall wonder whether or not (God has forgotten).
 Many hours pass, and we shall not be ashamed.

Looking ~~back~~ over the days which have passed, in the midst of your
 struggle and ~~and~~ your strain, and the ~~times~~ mysterious times, ~~everything~~
 seemed to be failing. Like Jacob we have often been foolish to say, All these
things are against me.

And after we have moved forward with Jacob again, we say, The God of
the covenant has been with me all my days. Is it not so that this, the man who

knows these secrets is the one who has been delivered? He has shown us his covenant, and revealed it to us.

(Gypsy Smith) told an experience after his father's conversion in 1874. His father along with some other ~~type~~ gypsies was invited to go and give their testimony. People wanted to listen to them speak. He said that the children were left at home in the tent by themselves. There was not mother because she was gone, and they received word that his father was coming back after being gone for several days on this mission. And he said his boy's heart longed for love and sympathy, for something he said that he never got over following his mother's death. He said, "I longed for the touch of my father's hand." He said, "At times I did not feel I could stand it any longer. And so upon my father's return, we lined up, and the baby was first. She was very small." And he said he remembered how his father took her in his arms, and then it was his turn, but the baby said that she would not come out of her father's arms. Well, he said, "I cannot make you come out, but there is room for me, and I am coming in." And he said, "I crept in, and there was great joy in my boyish heart as I felt those dear arms about me."

(My) brethren, God's arms, your father's arms are about you. If you will but believe it, for if you have entered the secret, your life is hid with Christ in God.