

“God’s Power Made Manifest Through Unity”
(Romans 12:1)
SABA Global Mission Summit
Introduction
(October 19, 2018)

Surely the Lord is good and He is worthy to be praised.

We do thank the Lord for all that He has done.

We represent tonight the Presence of Christ to the world...

As members of the Baptist Faith we can all agree that “we have come this far by faith.”

We know that we are here because the “Lord Says So!”

Not by our power...not by our might...but by His Spirit!

Paul Declares in Acts 17:27-28...

God is...not far from...us: ²⁸ For in him we live, and move, and have our being...

God has Chosen us, Every one of us:

1 Corinthians 12:18 (KJV)

(He) hath set the members every one of (us) in the body, as it hath pleased him.

Philippians 2:13 (ESV)

¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

We have a mission...a mandate and a call...from our Lord Jesus the Christ... the Son of the living God. ...who said in **Matt.16:18b:**

...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

That is a declaration that we gather together in this place in this era embolden by that promise:

Not only that, but let us be reminded that we are on the winning team:

My Fellow Baptists...Let us be reminded tonight of our purpose as followers of Christ:

Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Convention Purpose

- To awaken & stimulate among churches the greatest possible activity in evangelism, missions, Christian education, & benevolent work;
- To cultivate a closer cooperation among the churches & promote harmony of feeling & concert of action in advancing all the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom. (Constitution 1886)

We are called to Go!

Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV)

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world.

We are called to Go!

Luke 14:21b, 23b

Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind....Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* (men and women) to come in, that my(God's) house may be filled.

II. We Can Save The World Together...(Unity is the Key!)

A. How Much Can We Accomplish Alone?

1. **We do not** succeed in this task **alone**...
2. **We cannot** be satisfied with **our** ministerial work in **our** local church communities **alone**.
3. **We cannot** relish in our personal so called successful efforts **alone**...
4. **We cannot** save the city, save the state, save the nation, save the world **alone!**

B. We Are Members of The Baptist Family...

1. We are an “**Affiliation of Like Minded, Blood Bought, Born Again Believers...with a Shared Hope of Saving The Lost!**”
2. We Are Diverse and Must Refuse to Be Divided:
 - a. You are one of 300 identifiable ethnic groups in the state of Texas alone.
 - b. 100 plus languages are spoken in our state on a daily basis.
 - c. Over 200 dialects...**that's who we are:**

Let us rebuke and reject the **spirit of division** that has invaded our nation:

Romans 12:2

Be not conformed to this world, let us be transformed by the renewing of our minds!

1 Peter 4:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

2 Corinthians 4:3–4 (ESV)

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Let us not be divided...but unified in our cause:
The adversary knows that division is a distraction

Jesus has made it clear in Matthew 12:25 (ESV)

²⁵ Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, **“Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.**

3. The Baptist Family is Rich in Diversity...

- | | |
|---|--|
| a. We are Anglo and African | f. BSM, BUA, BGCT, SBC |
| b. We are Asian and African Am. | g. Logston, Wayland, Southwestern |
| c. We are Haitian and Hispanic | h. TBM, WMU, NAMB, BC New England |
| d. We are Indian, Indonesian and Iranian | i. Medical Clinics, Hunger Funds/Offerings |
| e. We are the face of the state, the nation, the world! | J. Rich in Diversity |

III. The Letter to the Romans

A. Church Founded in the Early Days of Christianity

1. More than likely by Proselytes from The Pentecost
2. Courageous Converts from Peter’s First Sermon (Acts 2)
 - a. Acts 2:5-12 tells you who was in the crowd...(Arabs, Libyans, Egyptians...Cyrenians)
 - b. Jews, Proselytes, Gentiles and “visitors from Rome.”

B. Paul’s Letter of Introduction

1. He had plans to visit them in order to meet them.
2. He had plans to teach and preach there...

“It had been revealed in his spirit that He would get there!”

C. God Sent Him There...**Not Like He Thought**, But He Got There:

1. He never thought that He would go there in chains...(Acts 19,23)
2. He never thought that He would have to defend himself all by himself (2 Tim. 4:16).
 - a. That’s a lesson for somebody...God won’t always do it like you want Him to.
 - b. God might reveal to you the plan...but He won’t always immediately prescribe the path...
 - c. God might show you the way to your breakthrough...but you’ll have to trust Him in order to get through it!

Paul Preaches Unity to this Church...Even to the Christians in Rome

IV. Overcome an Internal Matter:

- A. They Had to Deal with **Internal Matters** of Prejudice and **Ecclesial Placement**
1. The Church at Rome was dealing with a “Big I” and “Little You” Complex
 - a. The emperor Claudius had expelled the **Jews in 49. A.D.** over constant fighting...
 - b. They fought over the **identity of Christ**... There were riots in the synagogues.
 - c. Fighting in the streets... Jews fighting Jews until all of the Jews were expelled.
 2. Jews were excluded from the city for at least 6yrs.
 - a. **The church culture and complexion changed in their absence.**
 - b. The church officers changed
 - c. The church choir members changed
 - d. The ushers at the door changed
 - e. The new members **outnumbered** the old members...

(They couldn't get along...)
(Claudius reigned from 49 to 54A.D.)
(Nero came to power in 54 A.D.)

(The Jews were allowed back in the city but the landscape had changed.)

3. Does this not sound familiar?
 - a. 1,250 new people move to Texas on a daily basis... **the landscape has changed.**
 - b. The majority of our school districts are majority-minority... **the landscape has changed.**
 - c. Millennials have replaced Baby Boomers as the largest generational group... **the landscape has changed.**

We are being called to leverage our diverse gifts and resources to meet the challenges of the day!

Romans 12:4-6 (ESV)

⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them:

V. Romans (addresses) The Believers Ethics (Behavior):

- A. Ethics is...our system of moral principles.
- B. Ethics is... our behavior and method of ministry or service
1. Ministry ...if we are not careful we can become cold and impersonal.
 2. Church projects and programs can become disjointed and misdirected...
 - a. Servants can lose sight of the big picture.
 - b. Our service can become self-serving and self-satisfying.

Romans 14:16 (KJV 1900)

¹⁶ Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

Philippians 2:3 (ESV)

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

VI. Paul Begs For The Believer's Attention? (Vs.1)

A. What will you do for the sake of the Gospel? ("Will You Beg???)

1. "I beseech you"
 - a. He makes an earnest plea...
 - b. A heartfelt appeal...
 - c. A genuine request of utmost importance...
2. Let Me "Beg You Tonight..."
 - a. Look beyond the divisive issues of the past...
 - b. Look beyond political parties...
 - c. Look beyond the socio-economic condition of your neighbor... **and unite to do God's Will!**

I Beg You!!! Have You Not Noticed The Times???

Isaiah 53:6 (ESV)

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

3. Look at our The Time
 - a. We've got thievery on Wall Street...
 - b. Treachery on Main Street...
 - c. Chaos on your street...
 - d. Now gender confusion on Sesame Street... we are living in crazy times...
4. When Amorality is the social norm...
5. When Immorality is being winked at...
6. When Alternative Lifestyles are being affirmed... these are strange times!

This is the season for "Itching Ears!" (Tell me something to make me feel good!)

Proverbs 14:12 (NASB95)

¹² There is a way *which seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

B. By the mercies of God:

1. **Mercy is... compassion shown to an offender.. **God showed us mercy!****
2. **Mercy is...** a blessing that is an act of divine favor... **God showed us mercy!**
 - a. It's clemency when justice demands punishment...
 - b. It's leniency that is unearned and not deserved...

"Listen, we can't throw in the towel on this present age."

We have been kept alive for this moment...

No retreat in us...

This is the time for optimism...not pessimism...

Romans 8:31-32, 37 (ESV)

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

VI. The Church is Summoned to Serve (Not just by Matt.28, Mk.16)

- A. Voluntarily Present Our Bodies: (Romans 6:12-23)
- B. Your Body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit... (1 Corinthians 6:19) (NLT)
- C. Our Service must be a Tangible Demonstration of our Love For God: "It is "Spiritual!"
 - 1. Not lip service...
 - 2. Not mere praise through shouts of adulation and singing...not that alone.
 - 3. Not just Sunday morning attendance...**but Tangible!**
 - a. **It's mission/ministry that begins at home** and spreads abroad!
 - b. Attending to the needs in your local community...
 - c. Efforts of feeding the hungry...
 - d. Mentoring our children and youth...
 - e. It's putting into action your body, the industry of your mind and the charitable distribution of your treasure!

(The Cooperative Program Still Works!)

VII. Conclusion:

- A. Together...
 - 1. Churches can plant more churches...
 - 2. Send and support more missionaries...
 - 3. Feed the hungry... give shelter to the homeless
 - 4. Aid the victims of disaster
 - 5. Rebuild broken lives...rescue our children and save the unbelievers...
 - 6. Train our leaders...
 - 7. Overcome the opioid crisis
 - 8. Stop suicides
 - 9. Confront Mental Illness
 - 10. Provide Hope to the Hopeless
 - 11. Cease Sex Trafficking
 - 12. Liberate the captives...

"We can do all things through Christ Jesus"

Together!!!"

Ephesians 4:4-6 (KJV)

⁴ *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;* ⁵ *One Lord, one faith, one baptism,* ⁶ *One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

Through our Risen Savior...We Will Save This World Together!