

## RESOLUTION ON THE DANGEROUS ABUSES OF BIBLE PROPHECY

**WHEREAS** there are currently many conflicting voices claiming to teach Bible prophecy and many of these teachers use questionable hermeneutical principles and sensationalistic presentation. There is a tendency to dilute the plain message of God's Word by allegorizing it or spiritualizing it to fit into a specific agenda advanced by the teacher; and,

Some Bible teachers cannot avoid the temptation to set a particular date for the rapture to occur. Edgar Whisenant predicted with great certainty that Christ would return in 1988, then in 1989, but Christ did not come; and now Harold Camping is predicting with great certainty that Christ will return on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011; and

Our Lord clearly told His disciples that, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Matthew 24:36). Later, when his disciples asked Him again about restoring His kingdom, He replied that, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority" (Acts 1:7). The Apostle Paul reminded the faithful believers that, "Concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night" (I Thessalonians 5:1-2).

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the Nebraska Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Conference at Karen Street Baptist Church in Omaha, Nebraska, April 8-10, 2010, commit ourselves to teach Bible prophecy in a way that avoids these common and dangerous abuses.

We re-affirm our commitment to the literal (or normal) interpretation of God's Word. The literal understanding of Scripture is the grammatical-historical understanding of Scripture. We recognize that prophecy includes many poetic metaphors and some vivid imagery of future events. These, however, should not be overly spiritualized. God's prophetic Word should be interpreted in light of the writer's original intended meaning. We reject the tendency to allegorize or sensationalize Biblical prophecy.

We reject the sensationalistic teachers that set a specific date for the return of our Savior. Instead, like James, we encourage patience and endurance as we work for Christ and wait for His return (James 5:7-8).

We re-affirm the Biblical teaching of the imminent return of the church. Every generation of Christians (including the apostles' generation) has lived with the expectation that Christ could return at any moment, and that we should live faithfully in light of His imminent return. That is precisely what the Bible teaches and what we long for (Titus 2:12-13).