

Resolution on Being Intentional in Personal Evangelism

Whereas, the example of discipleship by our Lord Jesus Christ involved spending significant amounts of time with a small group of men who would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to take the message of Christ to the world (Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8; Rom. 1:1), and

Whereas, the discipleship of the twelve involved verbal instruction, personal modeling, and on-task opportunities for experience (Matt. 9:18-11:1), and

Whereas, this pattern was utilized by the Apostle Paul with Timothy (Acts 16:1-20:4; 1 Tim. 1; 4:12-16; 2 Tim. 2:1-2), and

Whereas, this pattern in making disciples was utilized by Paul repeatedly in numerous locations (Acts 18:11; 19:10; 20:18-38; 1 Thess. 2:5-20), and

Whereas, the Apostle Paul was consistently aware of his role as an example and mentor, exhorting his son in the faith to “endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” (1 Cor. 4:15-17; 1 Thess. 1:5-6; 2 Tim. 4:5), and

Whereas, all ministry must be personal for disciple-making to take place (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15), and

Whereas, the need for ongoing empowerment, boldness, wisdom, winsomeness, and persuasiveness was part of the Apostle Paul’s requests for prayer to the churches (Rom. 15:30-33; Eph. 6:18-20; Col. 4:2-6).

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the messengers of the Pennsylvania Association of Regular Baptist Churches, gathered together at Independent Baptist Church of Towanda, PA, on April 8-9, 2024, do hereby give thanks to the Lord Jesus for faithful saints who proclaimed the good news to us and disciplined us in the faith; and

Be it further resolved that as churches we must recommit to biblical principles of personal discipleship because all ministry is personal, and because biblical discipleship is more caught than taught, and because direct involvement in mentoring produces genuine reproducers who will reproduce others (2 Tim. 2:2); and

Be it further resolved that the mission of making disciples will never be outdated, but will always be the primary mission locally and around the world (Acts 1:8) of the local church. To God Be the Glory.