

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

SERMON COLLECTION

AR 638



R. G. Lee at the 1948 SBC

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Updated February, 2022

Southern Baptist Convention Sermon Collection

AR 638

Summary

Main Entry: Southern Baptist Convention Sermon Collection

Date Span: 1845 – 2018

Abstract: Collection consists of files on each convention. More recent years include a manuscript of the sermon and a biographical sketch, in addition to the sermon title, a synopsis of the sermon, and a description of the proceedings of the convention.

Size: 2 linear ft. (5 boxes)

Collection #: AR 638

Historical Sketch

In 1949, Dr. Porter Routh, Executive Secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, conducted a study of Southern Baptist preaching as reflected in the Convention Sermons. The collection, from 1846 to the present, contains sermon manuscripts and scattered biographical data that he acquired for the study. Several photographs of convention sermon preachers were removed and filed in the Archives Photograph Collection. In addition to Dr. Routh's material, the collection contains information on convention sermons and proceedings from various newspaper accounts beginning in 1845. Some files are more complete than others. With the exception of 1882, 1884, and 1889, manuscripts of the early sermons are not available.

Scope and Content Note

When the Baptists in the South split from those in the North to form their own convention in 1845, the issue was slave ownership, but the purpose was missions. From the beginning, according to records of the proceedings, the Annual or Convention Sermon was an important part of the meeting. It was preached on the first night by a preacher or an alternate appointed the previous year, and its emphasis was foreign missions. (A home, or domestic mission, sermon was preached the second night.)

The organizational proceedings in 1845 record that "brethren T .W. Snyder, W. Curtis, and I. T. Hinson were appointed by a committee to nominate a Brother and an alternate to preach the Annual Sermon at the meeting the next year. After consultation, they proposed Bro. B. Manley as the preacher and Bro. R. Fuller as the alternate, and the brethren were appointed to perform the service." Proceedings in 1846 record that Bro. R. Fuller delivered the sermon "according to appointment" and "to a large and attentive audience."

In 1849, there were two Convention Sermons. The Convention met at the appointed time in Nashville, but attendance was so small, due to a cholera epidemic, that it adjourned and reconvened later in the month in Charleston, SC. Neither the appointed preacher (Rev. W. B. Johnson) nor the alternate (Rev. B. Manley) were present in Nashville, so Rev. J. S. Baker was selected and preached the first evening. When they reconvened in Charleston, Rev. Johnson delivered his Convention Sermon on Foreign Mission Enterprise.

During the Civil War and Reconstruction years (1860s and 1870s), the emphasis of the Convention Sermons shifted from foreign missions to the spiritual needs of the day. In 1868, for example, the topic of the sermon by T. E. Skinner was “Forgiveness and Brotherly Love.”

The collection is arranged chronologically and contains 2 linear feet of material. The first folder contains some of Dr. Routh’s correspondence related to his study. Of special interest is a copy of the Religious Freedom Declaration in 1866.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by convention year

Provenance

Preferred Citation

Southern Baptist Convention Sermon Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Baptists – Sermons
Sermons, American
Preaching

Related Materials

Southern Baptist Convention Press Kit Collection, AR 375. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archive

See recordings of the annual proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention in the SBHLA archives

Container List

Box 1

- 1.1 Routh, Porter – Correspondence on acquisition of sermons.
- 1.2 1846 – President William B. Johnson, synopsis of his closing remarks.
- 1.3 1849 – Johnson, William B. “Foreign Missionary Enterprise.” Includes synopsis of proceedings from Charleston Courier, May 22, 1849; synopsis of sermon; references to proceedings.
- 1.4 1851 – Description of proceedings.
- 1.5 1853 – Brief synopsis of proceedings from Tennessee Baptist, May 13, 1853.
- 1.6 1857 – Brief account of proceedings from True Union.
- 1.7 1859 – Howell, R. B. C. Speech declining nomination for president after serving five years.
- 1.8 1861 – Brief account of proceedings from The Tennessee Baptist and synopsis of speech by President Richard Fuller.
- 1.9 1863 – Brief account of proceedings from Christian Index, May 26, 1863.
- 1.10 1866 – Brief account of proceedings from Christian Index, June 7, 1866. Includes copy of “Religious Freedom” declaration.
- 1.11 1867 – Brief account of proceedings from Tennessee Baptist, April 27, 1867. Includes synopsis of speech by Richard Fuller.
- 1.12 1868 – Skinner, T. E. “Forgiveness and Brotherly Love.” Includes brief account of proceedings from The Baptist, July 4, 1868.
- 1.13 1869 – Brief account of proceedings.
- 1.14 1870 – Brief account of proceedings from The Baptist, May 31, 1870.
- 1.15 1871 – Brief account of proceedings from The Baptist, May 20, 1871.
- 1.16 1872 – Brief account of proceedings from The Baptist.
- 1.17 1873 – Brief account of proceedings.
- 1.18 1874 – Brief account of proceedings.
- 1.19 1875 – Brief account of proceedings.
- 1.20 1876 – Lorimar, G. C. “Charity of the Times.” Brief synopsis of sermon from Western Recorder via The Baptist, June 3, 1876.
- 1.21 1877 – Brief account of proceedings from The Baptist, May 19, 1877.
- 1.22 1878 – Brief synopsis of proceedings.
- 1.23 1879 – Brief account from The Baptist.
- 1.24 1880 – Comments on situation at Southern Seminary related to Broaddus, Whitsett, and Toy from The Baptist.
- 1.25 1881 – Landrum, Sylvanus. “The Development of the Truth of God.” Includes synopsis of sermon from the Baptist Courier, May 12, 1881.
- 1.26 1882 – Mel1, P. H. “Faith As Opposed to Doubt.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 1.27 1883 – Broaddus, John A. Includes synopsis of sermon from Waco Examiner via The Tennessee Courier, May 24, 1883.
- 1.28 1884 – Burrows, Lansing. “The Knowledge of God.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 1.29 1885 – Curry, J. L. M. “Christ the Lawgiver and the Law Fulfiller.” Includes brief synopsis of sermon from Baptist Courier, May 14, 1885.
- 1.30 1886. Hawthorne, J. B. “Where is the God of Elijah?” Includes synopsis of sermon.
- 1.31 1887 – Cooper, George. “The Atonement of Christ – Motivation for Missionary Enterprise.” Includes brief synopsis of sermon.
- 1.32 1888 – Ellis, F. M. “Christian Giving.” Includes brief synopsis of sermon.

- 1.33 1889 – Greene, J. P. “We Preach Christ Crucified.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 1.34 1890 – Carter, J. W. “Christ Liveth in Me.” Includes synopsis of sermon from Fort Worth Gazette via Baptist Courier, May 22, 1890.
- 1.35 1891 – Jones, Carter Helm. “The Representatives of Christ.” Includes brief synopsis of sermon from the Baptist Courier, May 14, 1891.
- 1.36 1892 – Gambrell, J. B. “Call to Universal Conquest of the World.” Includes synopsis of sermon from the Baptist Courier.
- 1.37 1893 – Hatcher, William E. “Experience Worketh Hope.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 1.38 1894 – Kerfoot, F. H. “Ministry of the Holy Spirit.” Includes copy of sermon as printed in the Baptist Courier, May 24, 1894.
- 1.39 1895 – Eager, George B. “Religious Liberty.” Includes synopsis of sermon from the Baptist Courier, May 16, 1895.
- 1.40 1896 – Stakely, Charles A. Includes manuscript of sermon and synopsis of sermon from the Baptist Courier, May 15, 1896.
- 1.41 1897 – Venable, R. A. “The Enthronement of Christ.” Includes biographical sketch and sermon as printed in The Wilmington Messenger, May 9, 1897.
- 1.42 1898 – Whitman, B. L. “The Foundations.” Includes sermon as reported in Baptist Courier, May 12, 1898, and in the Norfolk Landmark, May 7, 1898.
- 1.43 1899 – Truett, George W. “The Subject and Object of the Gospel.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 1.44 1900 – Taylor, Joseph Judson. “Jesus Savior and King.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.

Box 2

- 2.1 1901 – Mullins, Edgar Young. “Kings and Priests Unto God.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.2 1902 – McConnell, Fernando Coello. “The Doctrine of Missions.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.3 1903 – Williamson, William James. “Proclaiming the Truth in Love.” Includes report of sermon from the Christian Index, May 14, 1903.
- 2.4 1904 – Landrum, William Warren. “The True Light That Lighteth Every Man.” Includes manuscript of sermon, biographical sketch, and correspondence.
- 2.5 1905 – Felix, William H. “Our Indebtedness to the World.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.6 1906 – Smith, W. R. L. “The Christian’s Reward.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.7 1907 – Dickinson, Alfred James. “The Religion of the Risen Lord.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.8 1908 – Battle, Henry Wilson. “God’s Everlasting Love.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.9 1909 – Dargan, Edwin Charles. “The Changeless Christ.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.10 1910 – Pickard, William Lowndes. “The Transfigured and Transfiguring Christ.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.11 1911 – Gardner, Charles Spurgeon. “Thy Kingdom Come.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.

- 2.12 1912 – Cody, Z. T. “The Call of the Cross.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.13 1913 – O’Kelley, Thomas Washington. “Equality.” Includes manuscript and copy of newspaper account of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.14 1914 – McDaniel, George White. “Southern Baptists at Kadesh Barnea.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.15 1915 – Porter, John William. “The Baptist Debt to the World.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.16 1916 – Daniel, Charles William. “A Growing Soul.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.17 1917 – Duke, Claude Walter. “The Risen Lord and His Struggling Church.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.18 1918 – Geistweit, W. H. “Thy Will Be Done.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.19 1919 – Dodd, Monroe Elmon. “The Baptist Hour.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 2.20 1920 – White, John E. “Achievements and Rewards.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.

Box 3

- 3.1 1921 – Winburn, H. L. “We Walk by Faith.” Includes report of sermon from Baptist Courier, May 19, 1921.
- 3.2 1922 – Porter, J. S. “The Witnessing of the Holy Spirit to the Mission of the Messiah.” Includes report of sermon.
- 3.3 1923 – Bowers, R. G. Includes comments on sermon from Baptist and Reflector, May 31, 1923.
- 3.4 1924 – Gibson, F. F. “The Vision of the Redeemed an Inspiration for Service.” Report of sermon from Baptist Courier, May 14, 1924.
- 3.5 1925 – Broughton, Len G. “Ye Have Not Passed This Way Heretofore.” Report of sermon from Baptist and Reflector, May 21, 1925, and manuscript of sermon.
- 3.6 1926 – Brown, F. F. “Material Prosperity and Soul Prosperity.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 3.7 1927 – Bassett, Wallace. “The Lure of a Lost World.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 3.8 1928 – Hobbs, J. R. “Building the Walls of Jerusalem.” Includes manuscript of sermon as printed in The Alabama Baptist, May 17, 1928.
- 3.9 1929 – Ball, William L. “The Gospel of Hope.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 3.10 1930 – Lee, Robert Greene. “God’s Gospel.” Includes correspondence, manuscript of sermon, and biographical sketch.
- 3.11 1931 – Phillips, John W. “The Kingdom.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 3.12 1932 – Craig, W. Marshall. “The Primacy of the Spiritual.” Includes correspondence and manuscript of sermon.
- 3.13 1933 – Turner, J. Clyde. “Our Best Heritage.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 3.13a 1933 – White, J. L. “The Slain Lamb Prevailing.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 3.14 1934 – Holcomb, T. L. “Heaven’s Interest in Our Earthly Pilgrimage.” Includes manuscript of sermon.

- 3.15 1935 – Weatherspoon, J. B. “The Mortality of Christianity.” Includes correspondence and manuscript of sermon.
- 3.16 1936 – Huff, John A. “The Risen Christ.” Includes manuscript of sermon and historical table of the Southern Baptist Convention.
- 3.17 1937 – Cousins, Solon B. “How Far Will We Permit Our Religion to Carry Us.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 3.18 1938 – Garrott, E. P. T. “The Place of Christian Character in Spiritual Awakening.” Includes manuscript as printed in Arkansas Baptist, May 12, 1938.
- 3.19 1939 – Webb, Perry F. “Sources of Strength.” Includes correspondence and manuscript of sermon.
- 3.20 1940 – White I W. R. “Apostolic Distinctiveness.” Includes manuscript as printed in Baptist Messenger, June 13, 1940.
- 3.21 1941 – Turner, J. Clyde. “The Gospel of the Grace of God.” Includes correspondence and manuscript of sermon.
- 3.22 1942 – Fuller, Ellis A. “All Things Must Needs Be Fulfilled.” Includes manuscript as printed in Western Recorder, May 28, 1942.
- 3.23 1943 – Convention sessions deferred due to World War II.
- 3.24 1944 – Buchanan, John H. “The Debt We Still Owe.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 3.25 1945 – Centennial Convention sessions deferred due to World War II.
- 3.26 1946 – Storer, James Wilson. “Christ’s Clamant Call.” Includes manuscript of sermon and biographical sketch.
- 3.27 1947 – Criswell, W. A. “Our All-Sufficient Saviour.” Includes manuscript of sermon, correspondence, and copy of sermon as printed in Baptist Review, May, 1947.
- 3.28 1948 – Pettigrew, W. R. “The Rending of the Veil.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 3.29 1949 – Cox, Norman W. “A Seat in the Balcony.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 3.30 1949 – President’s Address. Lee, Robert Greene. Includes manuscript of address.
- 3.31 1950 – Campbell, R. C. “The Glory of the Cross.” Includes copy of sermon in published book.
- 3.32 1951 – Angell, C. Roy. “The Glorious Gospel.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 3.31 1952 – Pollard, William Ramsey. “The Undivided Heart.” Includes manuscript of sermon, correspondence, biographical sketch, and copy of Baptist Hour Messages, January, 1954.

Box 4

- 4.1 1953 – Landes, James H. “The Upward Look.” Includes manuscript of sermon, correspondence, and manuscript of sermon entitled “A Labor Given.”
- 4.2 1954 – Murphy, Slater. “Advancing With Christ as Lord.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 4.3 1955 – Swilley, Monroe. “The Taming of the Cross.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 4.4 1956 – Stagg, Harry P. “Man’s Weakness Against Evil.” Includes manuscript of sermon, correspondence, and copy of New Mexican Baptist, June 14, 1956.
- 4.5 1957 – Hobbs, H. H. “Glory of God Manifested.” Includes copy of sermon from The Christian Index. May 30, 1957.
- 4.6 1958 – Naylor, Robert E. “The New Horizon.” Includes copy of sermon and correspondence.
- 4.7 1959 – Caudill, R. Paul. “Behold His Glory.” Includes manuscript and correspondence.

- 4.8 1960 – Herring, Ralph A. “Lifting Life’s Limitations.” Includes copy of sermon from Christian Index, May 19, 1960.
- 4.9 1961 – Van Arsdale, A. B. “The Everlasting Gospel.” Includes manuscript of sermon, correspondence, and reprint of sermon from The Alabama Baptist, May 25, 1961.
- 4.10 1962 – Paschall, Franklin. “The Gospel for Our Time.” Includes reprint of sermon from The Christian Index, June 7, 1962.
- 4.11 1963 – Bates, Carl. “Trouble Makers in a Troubled World.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 4.12 1964 – Brown, Enoch. “The Church Fulfilling Her Mission in World Crisis.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 4.13 1965 – Haldeman, John. “The Essentials for our Proclamations.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 4.14 1966 – Roberts, Ray E. “The Unpaid Debt of Southern Baptists.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 4.15 1967 – Leavell, Landrum P. III. “The Church With a Future.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 4.16 1968 – Hudgins, W. Douglas. “Christ Our Hope.” Includes manuscript and printout of sermon and correspondence.
- 4.17 1969 – Tatum, Scott L. “Our Autonomy and Christ’s Authority.” Includes brief biography and printout of sermon from Baptist Message, June 19, 1969.
- 4.18 1970 – Cothen, Grady C. “Baptists in the Lunar Age.” Includes biographical information and printout of sermon.
- 4.19 1971 – Claypool, John R. “The Challenge of this Hour.” Includes printout of sermon from Western Recorder, June 12, 1971.
- 4.20 1972 – Westmoreland, E. Hermond. “Freedom Under the Yoke.” Includes biographical information and printout of sermon.
- 4.21 1973 – Nelson, Dotson M. Jr. “For God’s Sake.” Includes brief biographical sketch and printout of sermon.
- 4.22 1974 – Robinson, R. J. “Hope From That Dawn.” Includes brief biographical sketch and printout of sermon.
- 4.23 1975 – Allen, Jimmy R. “Mighty Deeds With Meager Resources.” Includes brief biographical sketch and printout of sermon.
- 4.24 1976 – Hultgren, Warren C. “Reaffirmation of Faith.” Includes brief biographical sketch and printout of sermon.
- 4.25 1977 – Self, William L. “For Such a Time as This.” Includes lengthy biographical sketch, Wieuca Road Baptist Church statistics (1964 and 1977), manuscript of sermon, and printout of sermon.
- 4.26 1977 – President’s Address. Sullivan, James L. “Let the Church Reach Out.” Includes manuscript of address.
- 4.27 1978 – Fletcher, Jess. “The City of God. The Hope of His Calling.” Includes brief biographical sketch and printout of sermon.
- 4.28 1979 – Hinson, William M. “Accept God’s Great Glad Day.” Includes brief biographical sketch and printout of sermon.
- 4.29 1980 – Young, H. Edwin. “Side Streets.” Includes manuscript of sermon and printout with brief biographical sketch.
- 4.30 1981 – Monroe, James L. “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” Includes brief biographical sketch and copy of printout of sermon.

- 4.31 1982 – Hull, William E. “Who Are Southern Baptists?” Includes printout of sermon.
- 4.32 1983 – Pleitz, James L. “A New Commandment.” Includes brief biographical information and printout of sermon.
- 4.33 1984. Dilday, Russell H. “On Higher Ground.” Includes brief biographical sketch and printout of sermon.
- 4.34 1985 – Fuller, Charles G. “Too Much to Lose.” Includes brief biographical sketch and printout of sermon.
- 4.35 1986 – Rogers, Adrian. “The Church Triumphant.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 4.36 1987 – Vines, Jerry. “A Baptist and His Bible.” Includes correspondence and sermon in booklet printed by First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida.
- 4.37 1988 – Gregory, Joel. “The Castle and the Wall.” Includes manuscript of sermon.
- 4.38 1989 – Chapman, Morris. “Search the scriptures.” Typescript.
- 4.39 1990 – Wolfe, Fred. “Here’s hope, Southern Baptists.” Typescript.
- 4.40 1991 – Elliff, Tom D. “Jabbok!” Typescript.
- 4.41 1992 – Drummond, Lewis. “The Quest for the balanced life.” Typescript.
- 4.42 1993 – Graham, Jack. Convention Sermon. Typescript.
- 4.43 1994 – Boyles, Bobby – Convention Sermon – Press Story
- 4.44 1995 – Mohler, Albert. “What mean these stone.” Typescript.
- 4.45 1996 – Floyd, Ronnie “The Midnight crisis before the coming millennium.” Typescript.
- 4.46 1997 – Land, Richard. Untitled. Typescript.
- 4.47 1998 – Merritt, James. “Here we stand, now and forever.” SBC Life.
- 4.48 1999 – Smith, Ralph. “The Invisible Church.” Typescript.
- 4.49 2000 – Smith, Bailey E. “Wasted Sacrifices.” Typescript.
- 4.50 2001 – Luter, Fred. “The Master’s call for laborers.” SBC Annual.
- 4.51 2002 – Thomas, Claude. “When the kingdom is in our heart.” SBC Annual.
- 4.52 2003 – Hawkins, O.S. “Who do you say that I am.” SBC Annual.
- 4.53 2004 – Gaines, Steve. “Don’t Come Down!” SBC Annual.
- 4.54 2005 – Whitten, Ken. “The preservation of a denomination.” SBC Annual.
- 4.55 2006 – Wilton, Donald. “The people of God.” SBC Annual.
- 4.56 2007 – Zinn, Rob. “The task of the church.” SBC Annual.
- 4.57 2008 – Gilbert, Al. “A Death Check: Taking a serious look at our stewardship, I Corinthians 4.” SBC Annual.
- 4.58 2009 – Marshall, John E. “Splintering Splinters, Gluing Glue.” SBC Annual.
- 4.59 2010 – Brunson, Mac. “The preeminence of Christ in our ministry.” SBC Annual.
- 4.60 2011 – Platt, David. “The Privilege and Responsibility of the missionary problem.” SBC Annual.

Box 5

- 5.1 2012 – Uth, David. “Forgiven Much.” SBC Annual.
- 5.2 2013 – Akin, Daniel L. “Will Southern Baptists be Great Commission Baptists?” SBC Annual.
- 5.3 2014 – Meador, John. “The Impossible Quest.” SBC Annual.
- 5.4. 2015 – Bumpers, Eddie. “The Fire of Revival.” SBC Annual.
- 5.5 2016 – Traylor, Ted. Convention Sermon. SBC Annual.
- 5.6 2017 – Spradlin, Roger. Convention Sermon. SBC Annual.
- 5.7 2018 – Bowman, Kie. “Can these bones live?” SBC Annual.

5.8 2019 – Rummage, Stephen. “Because of the Cross” SBC Annual.