

## *ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES*

Village Parkway Baptist Church added the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's *Abstract of Principles* as an *addendum* (not an amendment) to our Constitution & Bylaws in November 1998. The *Abstract*, formalized in 1859 (by James Petigru Boyce, Basil Manly Sr., Basil Manly Jr., and John A. Broadus), was based on the Second London Confession which was in turn a Baptist revision of the Westminster Confession.

We have added the *Abstract* simply to identify that VPBC is aligned with the doctrine represented by the *Abstract*. The *Abstract of Principles* is not now, nor has ever been, intended to be regulatory. The purpose of the *Abstract* is perhaps best explained by SBTS President R. Albert Mohler, Jr., in his 1993 convocation address entitled, "Don't Just Do Something; Stand There".

Pres. Mohler: "The *Abstract* represents a clarion call to start with conviction rather than mere action. It cries out, 'Don't just do something, stand there!' This reverses the conventional wisdom of the world, but it puts the emphasis rightly. Southern Baptists are now more feverishly concerned with doing than with believing--and thus our denominational soul is in jeopardy. This people of God must reclaim a theological tradition which understands all of our denominational activity to be founded upon prior doctrinal commitments. This is true for the denomination at every level--and of local churches as well."

Village Parkway Baptist Church  
is firm in its conviction  
to be known as a church that  
**"stands there"**.