

# SOUTHEASTERN NEWS

Office of Communications  
Southeastern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

Wake Forest  
North Carolina 27587  
(919) 556-3101

Assistant to the President  
Rodney V. Byard

Home Phone  
(919) 556-1485

August 28, 1985

## LOLLEY SAYS COVENANT, NOT CONTRACT IS BASIS FOR MINISTRY

Wake Forest, N. C. - Covenant, not contract, is at the heart of God's dealing with his people, whether they be seminary students specifically or Southern Baptists generally, according to Southeastern Seminary President W. Randall Lolley.

Speaking at the opening convocation of the seminary's 35th year, Lolley had words of encouragement for seminarians worried about their future ministry, and suggested a theological norm on which "Southern Baptists can cut a fresh covenant."

The questions most asked him recently by students and alumni, he said, were "What of me and my ministry in times like these? What if I choose the wrong school, the wrong side, the wrong rhetoric? Will there be a ministering place for me?"

In his convocation sermon, based on Matthew 19:27-20:16, Lolley said that Jesus' story about the landowner carries clues to a solution. "Both the work and the workplace are the Lord's," he explained. Continuing, Lolley reminded his audience that "the workers are sent to their duty by the owner of the workplace," even though others may never understand their particular part of the work. "Your covenant, after all, is with the owner. Keep faith with him!"

Now in his 12th year as president of the Southern Baptist Convention seminary, Lolley took note that the newly created Peace Committee of the Convention has targeted theology for its initial focus.

"Theology is a fine place to begin," he said, because "Christian theology - Baptist theology - begins, continues, and ends with one fundamental conviction: JESUS CHRIST IS LORD." Because God deals with his people on the basis of covenant, Lolley said this conviction could become the starting point for Southern Baptists to "cut a fresh covenant."

Not content to leave his audience, both in the seminary's Binkley Chapel and beyond, hanging, Lolley shared a proposed covenant:

"JESUS CHRIST IS LORD! Believing that, while looking to the Scriptures for guidance and to the Holy Spirit for power, we covenant to worship God together and to join him in his work in the world."

