



**BASIL MANLY, SR.**

*First President of the Board of Trustees  
1858–1867*

Basil Manly, Sr., perhaps more than any other person, convinced Southern Baptists to establish Southern Seminary. He was baptized at age eighteen in his native North Carolina. Within two months he was elected clerk of the renowned Sandy Creek Baptist Association and began publicly exhorting sinners to repentance. After studying under South Carolina's W.T. Brantly and assisting Georgia's Jesse Mercer, he entered the University of South Carolina in 1819, graduating two years later, first in his class.

Manly planted South Carolina's Edgefield Baptist Church, serving there until 1826, when he became pastor of Charleston First Baptist. In the next eleven years he baptized 816 persons, the church growing from 780 to 1400 members. Manly was an exemplary pastor and made a lasting impression on a young James P. Boyce. For nineteen years he was president of the University of Alabama, where he shaped the hearts of a generation of students. But he longed for the pastorate and accepted calls to Charleston Second Baptist in 1855 and Montgomery First Baptist in 1861.

Manly was the epitome of the "Charleston Tradition" as a stream in Southern Baptist history. A thorough Calvinist with a deep interest in evangelism and missions, Manly customarily took preaching tours to proclaim the gospel of salvation in areas destitute of preaching. His preaching had power—listeners often wept. He was elected the first president of the SBC's Home Mission Board but other duties forced him to resign. He was Alabama's general evangelist from 1859 to 1861.

Convinced of the need for well-educated preachers, Manly was the first to call for a southern seminary. In 1835 he invited Baptist leaders throughout the South to gather and plan a great theological school. He waited twenty years before the call was answered through the Educational Conventions that established The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His brethren recognized his leadership in the cause by electing him president of the 1856, 1857, and 1858 conventions. In 1858 Manly became the first president of the seminary's Board of Trustees, an office he held until his death in 1867.



## FOUNDERS' DAY CONVOCATION

January 31, 1995  
Ten O'Clock  
Alumni Memorial Chapel

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

January 31, 1995  
R. Albert Mohler, Jr., Presiding

PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL .....Boyd M. Jones, II, Organist  
Prelude and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 546 J. S. Bach  
(1685–1750)

*\*Processional*

Crown Imperial (Sir) William Walton  
(1902–1983)

\*INVOCATION .....Dennis E. Williams

\*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

*Rejoice in God's Saints* HANOVER  
(see insert)

RESPONSIVE READING .....R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

**Speaker:** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

**Congregation:** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

**Speaker:** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

**Congregation:** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

**Speaker:** What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

**Congregation:** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

**Speaker:** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**Congregation:** Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

**Speaker:** For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

**Congregation:** Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Romans 8: 14–16, 16–18, 28, 31, 35, 37–39 KJV*

INTRODUCTIONS .....R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

FOUNDERS' DAY ADDRESS .....Dr. Thomas Nettles  
Associate Professor of Church History  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

*Basil Manly, Sr.: Fire From Light  
The Transforming Power of Theological Preaching*

SEMINARY HYMN

*Soldiers of Christ, In Truth Arrayed* MENDON  
(Written for the first commencement of the Seminary in 1860, by Dr. Basil Manly, Jr., and sung at every commencement since.)  
(see insert)

\*BENEDICTION .....David S. Dockery

\*RECESSIONAL AND ORGAN POSTLUDE

Improvisation, Op. 150, No. 7 Camille Saint-Saëns  
(1835–1921)

*\*Congregation standing. The Congregation will please remain in the chapel until the Academic Recessional is completed.*