

8. TRUETT PREACHES ON CAPITOL STEPS

The Sunday afternoon session of the Southern Baptist Convention, May 16, 1920, was held on the East steps of the Capitol in Washington. Dr. George W. Truett, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, preached his great sermon on *Baptists and Religious Liberty*.

Dr. J. B. Gambrell, of Texas, was the president of the Convention, and is seated to the right of Dr. Truett. To the left is Robert H. Coleman, the director of music and assistant pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, who led the music at that afternoon meeting. Seated between Gambrell and Truett is Arch C. Cree of Georgia, who led the prayer at the service.

Dr. Truett later served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and president of the Baptist World Alliance. He was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, for forty-seven years.

The Artist says:

Not only Baptists, but thousands all over the world looked up to Dr. Truett, is it not fitting but proper here, then, to physically, but at the same time symbolically look up to this great Christian?

At the same time we look up to the flag behind his head, our Capitol, and finally and ultimately the Lord himself exemplified in the sky above.

The crowd behind in the background looking down on the occasion, yes, and many did that day, spiritually, also, but after the message many would walk away with souls uplifted after the mighty message delivered.

The little boy is emblematic of all children who have been lifted up to view a great Christian hero, also he will serve to help capture the attention of future children who look upon this picture and help them to remember the significance of the occasion.

Truly Dr. Truett could rest in the words of Christ at the end of his life journey *John 17:4*.

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.