

THEREFORE CHOOSE LIFE!

Text: Proverbs 24:10-12; Deuteronomy 30:19-20

It is estimated that between 64 and 65 million babies have died in abortion since the infamous 1973 Supreme Court ruling of the Roe versus Wade ruling. We are thankful for the reversal last year of that murderous decision. "Pew Research Center has conducted many surveys about abortion over the years, providing a lens into Americans' views on whether the procedure should be legal, among a host of other questions. In a Center survey conducted after the Supreme Court's June 2022 decision to end the constitutional right to abortion, 62% of U.S. adults said the practice should be legal in all or most cases, while 36% said it should be illegal in all or most cases. Another survey showed that relatively few Americans take an absolutist view on the issue" (Pew Research Center). Another study discovered that that 86% of all abortions done are for convenience. The parents did not want the baby to inconvenience their lives, so they killed the child!

As you can see, the Supreme Court's decision (although most appreciated) has not eradicated this American holocaust. Therefore, we still need the reminder why the Bible is against abortion and for life!

1. GOD IS THE GIVER OF LIFE.

The first chapter of the Bible says, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27). "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7). God spoke the creation into existence such as the sun, moon, stars, earth and animals, but when He made man, He placed His loving hand into His creation and formed him. The Hebrew word for "form" is *yatsar*, which means to mold into a form, especially as a potter molds, shapes and makes something out of the pliable clay. When God made man and woman, it was unique only in that they were the first to experience this creation. Listen to what Jeremiah said: "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations" (Jeremiah 1:5). Jeremiah was as intricately "formed" as Adam and it is to be noted this life giving formation took place in His mother's womb. The Psalmist cried, "I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly" (Psalm 22:10). David said, "For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13). The word "cover" in Hebrew is *sakak* and is defined as to fence in, cover over, hedge in, join together, and to weave. You may ask how can that which means to cover over also mean to weave? Here is the beauty of God's creative ability: it means that every man after Adam and Eve, created in their mother's womb, is a person before there is any shape or definable substance. Man, like his Creator is three in one. We are body, soul and spirit. We are not a body that has a soul; we are a soul and spirit that has a body. This is so very beautiful! God breathes life in the womb, weaving

together his soul and spirit, then He weaves together a baby's body covering the real person. This truth is illustrated in the oldest book in the Bible, Job 10: 8-12.

Understanding and believing life begins at conception brings us to the heart of the issue. Our final authority again is the precious Word of God: "So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son" (Ruth 4:13). Boaz and Ruth came together as husband and wife, but God gave conception. God gives life! Men and women do not "make babies" as modern slang usage suggests; God makes babies. The Bible records, "And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing..." (Genesis 16:2). Five chapters later we read, "For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him" (Genesis 21:2). We see this principle repeated in the Bible; God withholds life, then He grants life. Where? In the mother's womb. When? At the point of conception. We therefore concede with the Psalmist: "Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture" (Psalm 100: 3).

2. GOD CONSIDERS BABIES A GIFT AND A BLESSING.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward" (Psalm 127:3). When Rachel could not have children she cried out in desperation, "...Give me children, or else I die" (Genesis 30:1). Later in the chapter we read, "And God remembered Rachel, and God hearkened to her, and opened her womb. And she conceived, and bare a son; and said, God hath taken away my reproach" (Gen. 30:22, 23). An antonym of reproach is honor. Rachel considered it an honor to bare children. God is to be glorified and honored. It dishonors God to dare intrude in creation process. One woman said she considered a baby an invasion of her life and therefore had a right to remove it. That baby is a gift from God; no one has a right to discard it! Job said, "...Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21). It is God's prerogative alone to give or take life. "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee" (Isaiah 49:15).

3. THE PREMEDITATED TAKING OF A LIFE IS FORBIDDEN BY GOD.

One of the Ten Commandments is: "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13). The word "kill" in Hebrew is *ratsach*, which means to murder and, in some cases, more literally rendered, "to dash in pieces." What a terrorizing term! This is often what exactly happens in an abortion. It will do all of us well to remember this is a commandment, not suggestion. Our Declaration of Independence says this right is given by our Creator and no other person has the right to take that precious gift from another. It is believed that one of the most well-crafted and important sentences ever written in the English language comes to us from the Declaration of Independence. Conservatives as well as liberals, Bible-believers as well as

unbelievers appreciate it. The sentence to which we refer says, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

In a children's dictionary, the definition of "unalienable" is: impossible to take away or give up. I came across this lawyer's definition: it is called un-a-lien-a-ble where 'lien' is pronounced 'leen'...meaning you cannot place a lien on it, so it can never be taken away, as opposed to un- alien-able which refers to an alien which has nothing to do with the meaning." In our legal documentation, we not only have the right to Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, but also to Life! No person in this country has the right to pre-meditatively take the life of another person.

To assure you that God means for us to consider the unborn as life He says, "If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life" (Exodus 21:22, 23). To what measure the baby is harmed, the man who caused the harm must reciprocate. If the unborn baby dies, the one who caused the harm dies. This is following the command found in Genesis 9:6: "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."

4. THERE ARE NO UNWANTED BABIES.

You may not want the child, but if God wants the baby to live, for heaven's sake, let it live! God loves babies! Jesus said, "...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14). The terminology for little children can just as easily be translated "infants." A few years ago I talked to a couple that would gladly spend upwards of \$30,000 to obtain an adoption. God and somebody else want that baby! God is pro-life. If there is any doubt in your mind about that stated fact, I close with this Bible verse to meditate on: "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

What if the baby is deformed or going to be born with Downs Syndrome, etc.? Exodus 4:11: "And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?"

The abortionist adheres to the misjudged belief that because the baby is not wanted, the crime is justified.

Many just flippantly write off the baby's life because they don't believe they can afford or desire the responsibility of rearing a child. There is one argument that so-called "right-to-lifers" will sometimes cave in on and it is in the case of rape or incest. These are crimes of the deepest dye; no argument there. But we must not punish the innocent baby for the crime of the parent! Would you believe it would be okay for a mother to bring her second grader into a hospital and request that the life of that second grader be terminated because it is the child of

a rape or incest? You would cry out that this is ludicrous and I would agree; however, you are only talking about the difference of seven years. If at seven years age the life of that child is precious, it was no less precious in the sight of God seven years earlier. When good King Amaziah was confronted with possible punishment inflicted upon children of murderers, he held true to the teaching of Deuteronomy 24:16: "But he slew not their children, but did as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, where the LORD commanded, saying, The fathers shall not die for the children, neither shall the children die for the fathers, but every man shall die for his own sin" (II Chronicles 25:4). Two wrongs don't make a right. "...therefore choose life... (Deuteronomy 30:19b).

-Pastor Pope-