

Words of Life

Westside church of Christ

July 1, 2018

Vol. 10, No. 20

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



The Sin of Abortion

David Padfield

In the first chapter of Romans the apostle Paul listed the sins of the Gentiles. In this heinous list of crimes we find the phrase "without natural affection" (Rom. 1:31, KJV). This refers to those who do not possess the love and attachment which nature teaches all mothers to have for their young.

"This expression denotes the want of affectionate regard towards their children. The attachment of parents to children is one of the strongest in nature, and nothing can overcome it but the most confirmed and established wickedness. And yet the apostle charges on the heathen generally the want of this affection. He doubtless refers here to the practice so common among heathens of exposing their children, or putting them to death. This crime, so abhorrent to all the feelings of humanity, was common among the heathen, and is still. The Canaanites, we are told, (Psa. cvi. 37, 38) 'sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils, and shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan.' Manasseh, among the Jews, imitated their example, and introduced the horrid custom of sacrificing children to Moloch, and set the example by offering his own, 2 Chron. xxxiii. 6. Among the ancient Persians it was a common custom to bury children alive. In most of the Grecian states, infanticide was not merely permitted, but actually enforced by law" (Barnes' Notes on The New Testament).

Abortion is sinful because it is the willful taking of human life. Under the Mosaic Law, God said, "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no lasting harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. But if any lasting harm follows, then you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe" (Exodus 21:22-25). If the accidental interruption of a preg-

Trends

Number of abortions performed in the United States:

- ☛ Since 1973 'Roe v. Wade' U.S. Supreme Court decision: 60,500,000
- ☛ Year to date 2018 total: 440,500
- ☛ Year to date due to rape/incest: 4,275

- via AbortionCounters.com

Proverbs 6:16-19: "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

Sentence Sermons

"After napping [after the abortion] I was raring to get back out to the bar scene. There was not enough whiskey in DC to satisfy me that night, or any night for many months following. When I woke up the morning after my abortion, Brian asked how I slept. I said, 'Like a baby.' He said, 'You mean like a baby KILLER?!' [...] For months after that, I knew nothing except that I wanted to die. Death was the only certain escape from the horrific pit that had formed in my soul. I begged for therapy. I screamed for help. But only inside. How could I admit what I had done?"

—Brice Griffin, Founder, Charlotte Center for Women

News & Notes

Pray for one another: "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please consider donating funds to Zach & Taya Martin. Zach is a medical student and he and his wife Taya are planning to assist Ron Halbrook on one of his preaching trips to the Philippines. The Martins are worthy of our support. You can contact Zach at: zcmartin30@gmail.com.

Please pray for one another! "comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Please pray for Ryan & Jennifer and the brethren of the Northern Michigan church of Christ. They are now meeting in their newly purchased building in Roscommon, Michigan.

Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets a great example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).

Pray for all the lost souls, especially those in the greater Bloomington area. Pray that

Words of Life is published by the Westside Church of Christ meeting at 1301 N. Enterprise, Bloomington, IN 47404

Times of Service: Bible Study, Sunday 9:30 AM and Wednesday 7:00 PM; Worship, Sunday 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

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Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

nancy was to be punished, what about the one who deliberately murders the unborn?

My Favorite Place of Prayer

Bill H. Reeves

Dear reader:

Islam tells the Muslim where to pray, on Fridays: in a mosque, but Jehovah God does not specify any particular place to pray on any particular day.

Islam tells the Muslim the positions or postures to take, but Jehovah God does not. The Muslim ends up sitting on a pad on the floor. We read in the Scriptures of prayer done while standing (Lk. 18:11); kneeling (Acts 9:40); falling upon one's face (Ezek. 11:13), sitting (1 Kgs. 19:4), with head bowed (Exod. 34:8,9), with hands raised (1 Tim. 2:8), prostrate on the ground (Jos. 7:6-9), and even speaking in one's heart, silently (Gen. 24:45; 1 Sam. 1:13).

Islam tells the Muslim that he must pray five time daily (children under ten years of age are exempt), and at prescribed times, but Jehovah God tells Christians to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17).

The Muslim for prayer must direct himself to Mecca, but Jehovah God does not command that his Christians face Jerusalem, or any other city, when they pray. Jehovah God is in heaven, and not limited to anywhere on earth!

The Muslim prays directly to the god of the moon, to Allah (note the crescent moon emblem on national flags of Muslim nations, and on national edifices), but the Christian may not speak directly to Jehovah God, but through the divine and only Mediator, Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2:5). All prayers must be offered to Jehovah God through, or in the name of, Jesus Christ. (Some try to pray through Mary or the names of so-called "saints," but their prayers reach no higher than the ceiling).

Prayer for the Muslim is a man-made mandate of a ritual, not a personal, individual petition or thanksgiving to his Maker whenever, however and wherever the Christian chooses. Man-made religions make up their own rules, but the Christian submits only to God's Word in the Bible.

You, dear reader, may have a particular or favorite place for the final prayer of the day, if you are at home. Or, you may not seek any such place to close your day before pillowing your head in bed. The following is a poem I have composed to express to others what my favorite place is for the last prayer of the day, and why I have chosen it. The poem may inspire you to have such a place, but it has no other purpose nor forms any particular directives.

My Favorite Place of Prayer

Bill Reeves

One should pray incessantly
Throughout each day of care
It matters not just where he prays
God sets no place for prayer.
But a favorite place when day is done
I always seek with cares to bear
In Jesus' name to God above.
It's my favorite place of prayer.
Not that it is fancy or special itself;
No altar with trappings fair.
It's actually a door frame near my bed
Yes, that's my favorite place of prayer.
The things that finally need to be done
To memory commit I do not dare,
It's check my list, do them and then
To my favorite place of prayer.
Prayer is the last word on my list
So to that steady door-frame fair.
Securely posed there now to pray
I've found my favorite place of prayer.
That door-frame steadies me there in prayer
But its sturdiness can't compare
with God's great power to make me stand
approved at my favorite place of prayer.
A door-frame in and of itself
Has no specialty or flair
I don't expect such in general be
One's favorite place of prayer.
But that one door-frame twixt bed and bath
(With you the thought I share):
For day's last Sweet Hour Of Prayer
Is my favorite place for prayer.
So at night before I pillow my head
I'll spoil the devil's snare
In my petitions to God above
At my favorite place of prayer.

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."

1 Timothy 2:1-2