

Trends

Twenty abortion facts you need to know, here are the second five:

- ☞ Poverty, rape & “unwantedness” do not morally justify abortion.
- ☞ The differences between embryos and adults are differences of degree not of kind.
- ☞ <1% of abortions are performed to save the mother's life.
- ☞ To be “personally pro-life” is not to be pro-life at all.
- ☞ If there is any uncertainty when life begins there should be no abortions.

—Abortionfacts.com

Psalms 139:14: “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;”

Sentence Sermons

“The right to control your body does not include the right to destroy somebody else's.” —Unknown

Proverbs 6:16-17: “These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood . . .”

News & Notes

Pray for the brethren in the Philippines & Africa. They are being devastated from typhoons, rioting, loss of property, covid, etc. Please consider donating if you're able! 1 Jn. 3:17

Pray for sister Wilma Cardwell. She's a great encouragement to all!

Please pray for Lana May. She is really suffering due to her health issues.

Pray for all our members who do not attend regularly. Try to give them words of encouragement!

Pray for the all our young people. They too face many trials and temptations.

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Words of Life

Westside
church of Christ

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

John 6:68



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Where Do You Look for Help?

Craig Thomas

In this psalm the author expresses a great truth: God helps those who seek Him. In verse 1 the psalmist is looking for help, looking for assistance to overcome the difficulties in his life. Thus, he asks the question: “From whence comes my help?” We all experience times when life presents hurdles, we, by ourselves, are entirely incapable of surmounting. A natural response to such situations is to look for assistance. Where do we turn for succor in such times? In such circumstances most turn to carnal and worldly sources for help. Many handle times of stress with drugs and alcohol. Many handle relationship problems with anger, sexual immorality, and divorce. Many seek happiness in material things. They throw caution to the wind and run up the credit cards to the max. Seeking carnal solutions for spiritual problems will never work! The psalmist is wise as he realizes carnal solutions may initially seem plausible and offer happiness. However, that happiness is fleeting and temporary (cf. Heb. 11:25). In the end it leaves one with an “empty sack.”

The psalmist looks for help in the only place that will provide true fulfillment and satisfaction: “My help comes from the LORD” (v. 2). It is no accident the psalmist follows up that first phrase with “Who made heaven and earth.” Consider that the observable Universe extends ~46.5 billion light years in every direction with over a billion trillion stars. There are more stars in the observable Universe than grains of sand on the entire Earth! God spoke the Universe into existence from nothing! (cf. Gen. 1; Jn. 1:1-3; Heb. 11:3). If He was able to accomplish that glorious act, surely, He can help me deal with my relatively miniscule difficulties. As Paul writes (Eph. 3:20):

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”

What is “the power that works in us” to which Paul refers? I believe the answer to that question is found in Ephesians 1:19-20:

“¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,”

When we faithfully call on the LORD for His aid in overcoming our difficulties in life we have at our beck and call the power that: (1) summoned the Universe into existence from nothing, (2) raised Christ from the dead, and (3) elevated Christ to God's right hand in heaven. Why would we ever doubt God's ability to help us successfully navigate the problems of life?!

That "mighty power" serves as an airtight guarantee God will help the faithful. The psalmist puts that guarantee in these words (vv. 3-8):

³ He will not allow your foot to be moved;

He who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel

Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD is your keeper;

The LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,

Nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;

He shall preserve your soul.

⁸ The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in

From this time forth, and even forevermore."

Thus, we can "count it all joy when [we] fall into various trials" (Jas. 1:2) because the LORD will bring the most powerful resources imaginable to our aid. Those resources are at our beck and call if we ask in faith (Jas. 1:5-8):

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

Jesus Believed in Hell, Do You?

SWORD TIPS #2113

Joe R. Price

⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰ and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 13:49-50, NKJV)

Hell is real, and hell is horrible. Jesus often spoke about hell and warned of "everlasting fire" into which those cursed by sin will "depart" (Matt. 18:8-9; 25:41). This sorrowful scene of "wailing and gnashing of teeth" will not be God's doing. Some who do not believe in hell try to convince us God does not punish people, and if He does, then He is a horrible God. Their attempt fails miserably. The eternal punishment of hell's corruption results from sowings seeds of sin in our lives (Gal. 6:7-8; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 2:1-11). God sent His Son Jesus to save us from sin's eternal death. We do not rely on poets' imaginative journeys to explain hell (i.e., Dante's *Divine Comedy*). We listen to Jesus. Denying hell's existence and its eternal punishment of sin denies Jesus (Matt. 25:46). It is that simple. We believe the Son of God and the truth He taught about hell (Jno. 1:14; 14:6). Those

who accept the Bible as God's word believe in eternal hell (and eternal heaven) because we trust His word as truth (Jno. 17:17). If you deny hell is real, you do not believe Jesus ("Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire," Matt. 25:41); you believe the devil ("You will not surely die," Gen. 3:4). We urge you not to believe the liar and father of lies (Jno. 8:44). Believe and obey Jesus, who warns us to escape the condemnation of hell (Matt. 23:33).

Fighting Without, Fears Within

Larry Hafley

Paul faced the internal trouble and infernal trauma of fightings without and fears within (2 Cor. 7:5). We all have. We all do. We all will. Therefore, the next time you are tempted to feel as though you are the "only one" who suffers in this way, remember, you are not alone. Though it will not help solve your problems, others suffer, too.

Consider Lot. His soul was grieved by the ungodliness that enveloped him (2 Pet. 2:8). Consider Joseph. Oh, what tortures of mind and torments of heart did that young man endure. Injustice, indeed! Not until we consider Job do we see such agony and undeserved suffering (Gen. 39, 40). Whatever your pain, your curse, does it exceed that of those beloved brethren? Then, consider Jesus (Heb. 12:2; 1 Pet. 2:22-24; 4:1).

This is not to deny nor diminish your ills. They are real. Whether self inflicted or not, they hurt; they frighten; they intimidate; they make you hesitant, indecisive, ashamed. They are 21st century demons that often defy exorcism. We know. We care. We want to bear and to share your burdens, but we cannot do so, at least, not fully, not completely.

Know this, though, the Lord knows, he cares, and he can bear and share your weight of woe. Remember the old song, "Does Jesus Care?" "O, yes, He cares, I know he cares. His heart is touched with my grief; When the days are weary, The long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares." What we must do, then, is to cast all our care upon him, "for he careth for you" (1 Pet. 5:7).

This is perhaps our greatest failing. We fail to cast our fears upon him. He will not lift them without our consent. He stands at the door and knocks, but he does not open (Rev. 3:20). That is our duty. He has knocked oft before, but a lack of faith and self pity may have dulled our ears to his approach and appeal. Let us cast off the doubts that threaten to drown us in mental misery and simply open the door. He stands there, and, "if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." That is the divine promise.

Yes, there are fightings without, but there is also a faithful Father without--"I stand at the door and knock." Yes, there are fears within, but there is also a loving, living Lord within those who keep his word (Jn. 14:21-23). The question is not, "Hast thou fightings and fears?" The question is, "Hast thou faith?" Without that faith, the fightings rage, the fears increase. With that faith, the door is opened, the world is overcome, and the music of faith vanquishes our foes and soothes our fears (1 Jn. 5:4, 5).