



Chalmette Church of Christ

October 19, 2008

“Questions and Bible Answers— What About Abortion?”

“Dear brother Thurman: Could you please comment on abortion. What does the scripture say? This is not merely a political issue, but a moral one. -D.C., TX”

The Bible does not use the term “abortion.” That is a modern term we use for ending a pregnancy prematurely. But the bible does speak of birth, unborn children and the value of life. Most arguments concerning abortion deal with a woman's right to choose. That is, the person carrying the baby has the right to decide what to do with her body. What that misses is the right of the child within her. Is the fetus a person? If so, abortion is killing an innocent life. If not, then removing the fetus is like cutting your fingernails. What does the Bible say about babies in the womb?

First, it tells us God is behind the process of creating life. *“For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Thy works, and my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from Thee, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth. Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them”* (Psalm 139: 13-16). God is the One who puts babies together in the womb. He knows them long before they are born and recognizes them. He even knows their futures, all while not yet born. Obviously, God looks at the unborn child as a person, not just tissue to be removed from a body.

God says something similar to Jeremiah. *“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to*

the nations” (Jer. 1:5). God knew His servant even before He formed him in the womb. So, obviously, Jeremiah was seen by God as a person, long before his actual birth.

The Bible tells us that babies feel and react, just like people who have been born. When Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin, Elizabeth who was also pregnant, noticed what happened. *“And it came about that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. And she cried out with a loud voice, and said, ‘Blessed among women are you, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy’* (Luke 1: 41-44). The unborn John the baptizer reacted to Mary's arrival. In fact, he leaped within his mother and she describes it as an act of joy. Clearly, John was a living person, even though not yet born.

Finally, just apply some common sense to this issue. If you went to your doctor and asked him or her to remove your healthy leg, do you think he or she would just amputate your leg? No! In fact, the doctor would do all that is possible to save your leg, even it were unhealthy for some reason. That is, no reputable physician would remove healthy tissue just because you asked. Yet, that is exactly what abortion does. It removes healthy, living tissue (that I believe is a living human being) for no reason except “birth control.”

Although the Bible doesn't speak directly about abortion, it certainly describes babies as humans, known by and created by God. Human life is sacred, that is, set apart by God, and only God has the right to give and take life.

Abortion takes a life that God has created. For these reasons, I believe abortion to be wrong.
-David Thurman

Is It All the Will of God?

"Dear brother Clem: Are man's days numbered? A friend of mine says that everything that happens is the will of God, even our deaths.
-F.K., KY"

The Scripture says, *"The days of our years are threescore years and ten, Or even by reason of strength fourscore years; Yet is their pride but labor and sorrow; For it is soon gone, and we fly away"* (Psa. 90:10). But then in verse 12, *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."* In other words, realizing the brevity of life, let us learn to use every day.

Is everything that happens God's will? Is it God who determines that an innocent child suffer at the hands of a dope-addicted adult? Is it God who is responsible for a pure young girl being raped and killed? Is it God who causes the heart and the body of a wife to be broken at the hands of a drunken husband? No! God is not responsible for the evils in this world. Thus, "everything that happens" is not the will of God. Satan is at work in this world.

The apostle Paul recognized the above truth when he wrote: *"And by reason of the exceeding greatness of the revelations, that I should not be exalted overmuch, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, that I should not be exalted overmuch. Concerning this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me"* (2 Cor. 12: 7-8). Paul did not say that the Lord had given him this "thorn in the flesh." He attributed it to Satan, not to God. His prayer shows that he felt God could over rule Satan, but it was still Satan's doing that he had this "thorn in the flesh."

We must recognize that Satan is still active in this world, *"Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"* (1 Pet. 5:8). Several years ago I was called to preach the funeral of a fine Christian lady who had been killed by a drunken driver. The old saying came forth, "It was just God's will." But I deny that. God didn't put the liquor in that driver. That was the devil!

Satan's power is circumscribed by God, but he is still allowed to wield some power in our world. While we recognize the sovereignty of God, let us also recognize that He allows Satan some power. God is the giver of all life. But it is Satan who "has the power of death" (Heb. 2:14). So, let us not blame God for everything bad that happens. And let us never despair of striving to improve ourselves and our world. Instead, let us learn to "number our days" in order to "live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:3), and then to use all of them to glorify the Lord.

-Clem Thurman

Our third Sunday Singing
And Potluck is tonight. Please
plan to come and fellowship
with Christians as well as
help stuff pamphlets for the
Door knocking campaign.
Also Daylight Savings Time
starts November 2nd, make
sure to turn your clocks
back!



WORKS WE SUPPORT

Gospel Broadcast Network
House to House Heart to Heart
Two students at the Memphis School of
Preaching
Curry Montague— Budapest
Morrne Stephanus

Kid's Korner

See if you can answer the following questions:

Answers from last week:

1. Zedekiah
2. A potter's vessel
3. Donkey
4. John Mark
5. Agabus

The Book of Revelation

1. Who wrote the book of Revelation?
2. He wrote the book of Revelation while in exile on what island?
3. What did Jesus have in his right hand when he first appeared in Revelation?
4. How many elders will be seated around the throne in heaven?
5. How many beasts will be around the throne?

Tune in next week to see if you got all the answers correct!



Cleaning Schedule

Month of October— Nell, Crystal, and Sarah

Upcoming Events

October 19 Singing and Potluck

October 24 Ladies Game Night

November 14 Ladies Night Out at Steak and
Ale

NOVEMBER 2-6 Door Knocking Campaign
and Gospel Meeting with the Memphis
School of Preaching

NOVEMBER 14-16 Light From the Past
Seminar with Dewayne Bryant

Prayer List

Mary Jo Lance
Malcolm Vasquez
Muriel Jones
Joe Riley
Alice Riley
Maggie Fletcher
Bill Burchett
Buck Hall



Sherry Towle
Bob Spurlin
Catherine Grant
Kathleen Grant Dunn
Earl Grant
Alice Grant
Sonny Adams
Betty Grisham
Paul Roberts
Barnabas Tibbs

*All of our brethren scattered
across the United States

* Our men and women who are serv-
ing in the military:

- Ryan Neal
- Wayne Schulz

Chalmette Church of Christ
200 De La Ronde
Chalmette, LA 70043
504-279-9438

Services of The Church
Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 am
AM Worship 10:00 am
PM Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 pm

Elders

Mark Lance 504-250-8492

J. V. Russell 504-277-0251

Charles Whitley 504-277-4717

Evangelist

Mark Lance 504- 250-8492

gospelpr@cox.net

Deacons

Scott Russell 504-232-4120

Wayne Schulz 504-392-3999

Butch Snyder 504-682-0051

Mike Swanner 504-271-2465

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Grass Cutting

Schedule

Charlie Whitley– October 20-25

Robert Gillard– October 27–Nov. 1

