

THE DEATH OF AMERICA
Psalm 139:1-16
Sermon by James T. Draper, Jr
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Last year 1½ million unborn children were killed by abortion in the USA. That is 4,000 daily, one every 20 seconds. One in four pregnancies now ends in abortion – 25%! We cannot escape the dreadful consequences of killing 4,000 unborn babies every day.

We can blame the Supreme Court, the secular humanists or the radical feminists, but the blame must be laid at our feet. We who claim to know the saving power of Jesus Christ have failed to be a saving influence in our society. If we were few in number we could escape guilt. But we are not few. There are at least 40 million evangelical Christians in America today and at least 50 million more Roman Catholics who would oppose abortion. We could make a difference. The tragedy today may not be that the church is suffering for the sins of the world, but that our world is suffering for the sins of the church!

We have demonstrated a tragic cowardice and silence in the midst of abortion, pornography and the erosion of our religious liberties. Because of our acceptance of compromise within the church, the salt has lost its savor, the light has gone out! Each of us is guilty. We've been afraid to speak out because we don't want to appear bigoted. By our cowardice and silence we have consented to the death of more than 15 million unborn babies in the last 13 years.

In New York when large numbers of abortions were first performed, the objections did not come from the political philosophers who demanded equal protection under law for the prostitutes and homosexuals. The opposition came from the garbage collectors who refused to dispose of the carcasses.

Proponents of legalized abortions in the 1960's used arguments that were deliberately false and misleading. This is now admitted by Dr. Bernard Nathanson, once known as "the abortion king" having performed 1,500 abortions and supervising another 60,000. They claimed that 5,000 to 10,000 women died per year from illegal abortions. The truth is that in 1967 there were 160 deaths reported from illegal abortion and in 1972, just prior to the Supreme Court ruling, there were 39. We've traded 1.5 million abortion deaths and still had 33 maternal deaths from abortions in

1977. In every abortion, legal or illegal, one person always dies! The argument for legalizing abortion so no one gets injured in an illegal abortion is like arguing to legalize bank robbery so no one gets injured during the robbery.

Why have we remained silent! (1) We reject anything that requires sacrificial commitment on our part. As long as we can live well and expect a comfortable retirement, we don't care much about anything else. Our own personal comfort and affluence is the number one interest for us. (2) We have accepted the world's system of values and success. We have lost our ability to challenge our culture. We have become so much like the world that the world has no real example of righteousness to follow.

One of the ironic things about abortion in the USA today is that the unborn child has legal protection of his "right to die" but none for his "right to life." If an abortion is attempted and fails, the mother, for the infant after birth, can sue the doctor for malpractice. The crime: failure to kill the baby. The unborn baby is recognized as having the right to die, but not the right to live!

Our logic is strangely twisted. If the baby can be destroyed within the mother's body, there is no consistent argument against the same mother destroying the same baby after birth in the mother's home, for both the body and the home are the mother's property. If life is precious, it must have value in both places. Anyone who supports abortion has no legal, moral, or practical defense against the deliberate killing of the newborn.

The emotional appeal of rape was falsely used to legalize abortion. The truth is that pregnancy after rape is very rare. One study of 3,500 rapes over a 10 year period revealed no cases of pregnancy. This is hardly justification for 1.5 million abortions a year performed on non-rape victims. The truth is that abortion has become a cruel form of birth-control. *China - 53 million abortions in the last 5 years.

In 1973 the Supreme Court legalized abortion. Some medical reasons were given. For instance, "Mental and physical health may be taxed by child care." What a reason! The care of a child made quadriplegic by an accident would certainly tax the parents. If we consistently apply this logic we can justify all sorts of killing.

The court further stated, "There is also the distress for all concerned, associated with the unwanted child, and there is the problem of bringing a child into a family already unable psychologically and otherwise to care for it." In other words, if it's inconvenient, kill it.

We must recapture the truth of God's Word regarding the sanctity of human life. As a society we have rejected God's truth. In July of 1983, the lead editorial in PEDIATRICS, the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, stated, "We can no longer base our ethics on the idea that human beings are a special form of creation, made in the image of God, singled out from all other animals, and alone possessing an immortal soul." Clearly the sanctity of human life is under attack today. The Word of God teaches us, and history confirms, that the only thing that stands between the individual and the brutal tyrant is a society's commitment to the sanctity of human life!

God's Word speaks plainly to this matter:

I. GOD'S PLAN: vs. 1-6

1. God knows all about me: vs. 1
2. God knows my thoughts and actions: vs. 2-3
3. God hears every word: vs. 4
4. God surrounds me with His care: vs. 5
5. His plan for me is beyond comprehension: vs. 6

II. GOD'S PRESENCE: vs. 7-12

1. Everywhere: vs. 7-10. The teaching is not just that God is everywhere, but that He is everywhere I am!
2. Every circumstance: vs. 11-12

III. GOD'S PROVIDENCE: vs. 13-16

1. God formed you in love: vs. 13-14. God's love for you began before your birth. Gen. 29:31 *Leah*; Job 31:15 *God made us*; Isa. 44:2, 24 *Lord made you*; Isa. 49:1, 5 *Lord called me before birth. Within womb He called me by name.*

In 1967 the first International Conference on Abortion met in Washington, DC. Twenty scientists with various backgrounds concluded, "The change occurring between implantation, a six-week embryo, a six-month fetus, a one-week child or a mature adult are merely stages of development and maturation."

The Greek word for babe is BREPHOS - Lk. 1:41 *Elizabeth's child leapt within her womb*. It is used interchangeably in the NT for baby (Lk. 2:12, 16), an infant (Lk. 18:15), and a child (2 Tim. 3:15). No distinction is made between born and unborn children.

2. God formed you in secret: vs. 15-16. No one else saw what God saw: "my substance yet being imperfect" - He saw me as I grew!

No one else did what God did: "In thy book - - - when as yet there was none of them."

God's purpose for each person is operative before birth: Jer. 1:5, Isa. 49:1, Luke 1:15 *Filled with H.S. in womb*, Gal. 1:15 *Separated from womb*. Clearly the unborn child is a person. Abortion is murder. Until the last 20 years the Christian church has declared since the time of the NT that abortion is the taking of an innocent life.

IV. GOD'S PROVISION

1. Forgiveness! 1 John 1:9, Rom. 6:1-2, Gal. 6:1, Heb. 10:16-18, Rom. 8:1-4, Ps. 32:1-2, 5, Ps. 103:10-12.

CONCLUSION

Doris Gordon is an atheist and leads a group called Libertarians for Life. She declares:

"The right to choose does not include the choice to harm innocent people. As a libertarian, I am strongly pro-choice, but never where there is a victim. We affect children without their assent when we choose to have sex and they are conceived in a state of dependency. Being in the womb and needing parental care is a situation parents impose upon their children; children do not impose it upon their parents. If we are responsible for causing those needs and if we negligently or intentionally fail to provide care and then harm results, we are accountable. The right of children to parental care is fundamental.

Caring for someone else's children should be voluntary, for we have no choice about causing their existence and thus their dependency. This does not mean we may choose to kill them. Pro-abortionists grant that someone else's children have at least one right against us. Yet, according to their thinking, our own children have none. This means that a child next door or half-way around the world has more rights against us than our own child. Does this make sense to you?

Abortion is a wrong, not a right. Legalizing abortion is not "neutral" as some say, but incredibly dangerous. For it creates a class of victims -

innocent persons whose killing is permitted and protected by law. Both sides of the abortion debate should see such an idea as absolutely incompatible with liberty. If mothers may kill their own children, then whom can we trust? If the womb is unsafe, then where can we be safe? Abortion not only violates children's rights, it endangers us all."

Our only hope is God. The only hope for America is the church. The body of Christ still wields awesome power. If we are brought to our knees, God may begin to give us spiritual victories and supernatural blessings.