

THE



HARVESTER

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

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ON ABORTION

Once again abortion is making news in Alabama. In June our governor signed a new law which will take effect Sept. 23. The law requires "an unemancipated minor -- one who has never been married and still is in her parents' custody -- to get a parent's written permission before having an abortion." Perhaps this new law will discourage the unholy killing of our unborn babies.

The subject of abortion has long been a contested one, especially since Jan. 22, 1973 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that unborn human beings are not legal "persons". In other words, the unborn baby is considered as a piece of property and the owner (mother) can do whatever she pleases with it. She can have the

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child killed at her request (abortion) if she can find a willing doctor.

We must realize that this issue will never be decided by parents or court rulings or science or concepts of men. Only the Word of God can provide the solution. And that is where we must turn today.

There has been much debate whether the unborn human is alive or just a blob of tissue in the womb. Common sense tells us anything that is growing is ALIVE! And the very purpose of having an abortion is to avoid giving birth! This is proof enough that the unborn child is alive and has a spirit and is a living soul like you and me. *"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."*(Jas. 2:26)

To illustrate the existence of life in the womb, we point out Luke 1:41-44, *"And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, ... For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy."* It is normal for an unborn baby to have some movement in the mother's womb but this one (John the Baptist) "leaped" for joy when he heard Mary's voice. What a display of LIFE!!

In his Psalms, David acknowledges that it is God who forms us. *"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my*

substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." (Psa. 139:13-16) Since God has created each one of us, it is only right that we belong to Him. "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." (Psa. 100:3) Truly we belong to the Lord; we are His property, His people while still in the womb.

"Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psa. 127:3) Would you like to be responsible for removing the Lord's reward, "the fruit of the womb"? That is what abortionists are doing today!

The Bible plainly tells us that it is God who formed us. "Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;" (Isa. 44:24) Therefore we belong to Him. No one else but our Creator can decide whether we should live or die, today or tomorrow, in the womb or outside the womb. To purposely destroy any life formed by God is wrong! That is why abortion is sin in the eyes of God. Murderers have taken over these vital decisions of life and death, trying to diminish the authority and superiority of God.

Among the things that God hates, abortion is guilty of shedding innocent blood. "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 ..." (Prov. 6:16-17). Who would have aborted in the case of Jeremiah? Before his actual birth, Jeremiah was sanctified (made holy or sacred) by God and ordained (appointed) to be a pro-

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phet. *"Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, 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."*(Jer. 1:4,5) Today the Lord desires that all be sanctified and all men become Christians. Only the devil would see to it that the unborn are killed before they can fulfill this goal.

Isaiah was another prophet whom God called to service while still in the womb. *"Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The Lord hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name."*(Isa. 49:1) Now let us turn to one more example of unborn babies -- this one of twins! *"And Isaac entreated the Lord for his wife, because she was barren: and the Lord was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the Lord. And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger. And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb."*(Gen. 25:21-24) Notice that already in the womb there existed "two nations". This was God's decision and plan and it was not up to Man to change any part of it.

The following story shows what could happen when man thinks abortion is the most logical solution to a problem. One doctor asked a second doctor for his opinion about the termination of a pregnancy. "In this case," said the first doctor, "the father was a syphilitic. The mother was tuberculous. Of four children born of this couple, the first was blind, the second died, the third was deaf and dumb, the fourth also tubercular. What would you have done?" "I would have ended the pregnancy," said the second doctor. "Then you would have deprived the world of Beethoven," replied the first doctor.

We may not fully understand the development of a baby, the miraculous growth of a human being. We may not even know how life begins. But the choice of life for a growing unborn baby is not in our hands to decide. Let's leave it to the Almighty Creator to Whom it all belongs. *"As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all."*(Eccl. 11:5) God does have a plan at work. We may not always agree with it but His way is always best. At least we do know we can never go wrong with Him.

RAY McMANUS

FROM THE SCRIPTURES ...

ABOUT THE EQUALITY OF MAN

The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works.(Psa. 33:13-15)

The rich and poor meet together: the Lord is the maker of them all. (Prov. 22:2)

But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. (Matt. 23:8)

And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. (Acts 10:28)

And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; (Acts 17:26)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. (Gal. 3:28)

AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS

(A Series to Promote Church Attendance)

"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth." (Rev. 3:14-16) The principle stated in this passage is one we should use in all facets of our life. Christ wants us to be hot or cold in everything we do, just like He exhorted the church at Laodicea.

To be hot means to go all out. *"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." (Eccl. 9:10)* To be cold means to do absolutely nothing at all. Cold, therefore, is the exact opposite of "hot". And between these two

extremes we find the definition of lukewarm. Someone who is half-hearted in his efforts, a little hot and a little cold is said to be lukewarm.

Naturally Jesus prefers us to be "hot" rather than lukewarm. But is it better to be lukewarm than cold? No! Notice the wording of our text carefully. *"I would thou wert cold or hot."* Christ prefers us not only to be hot but to be cold instead of lukewarm! According to Him, it is better to do nothing at all than to do a job half-way!!!

Let us now apply this principle to our attendance of the church services. Christ wants us to be "hot", of course. That means we should go to church every single time the doors open and we are physically able. It does not matter if it is Sunday morning, night, or Wednesday evening, the "hot" person will be there! On the other hand, a "cold" person won't show up for any of the services. But the fact still stands: Christ prefers a hot or cold "attender" rather than a lukewarm one. Imagine that! A member who goes to church once in a while may as well not go at all! Christ said He would "spew" out the lukewarm person. Why? It is because such a person will straddle the fence and walk the line. He is not 100% for or against the Lord. He cannot be trusted because he will not take a decisive stand. Therefore, he is become of such a foul taste to the Lord that he will be vomited out!

Naturally, Christ wishes us to be "hot" and to go all out in everything we do: even going to church. That is a trait among God's people. But for those of us who only go occasionally or whenever we want, may we remember how we stand in the sight of our Lord. It is not too late to change.

RAY

GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place & Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
Aug. 3-9	Hokes Bluff Church Gadsden, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
Aug. 9-14	Rainsville, AL	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
Aug. 9-14 (Su-F)	Brushy Creek Church Lucedale, MS 7:00pm	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Aug. 9-15 (Su-Sa)	Sun Hill Road Birmingham, AL 7:30pm	Lindeal Greer (Bogue Chitto, MS)
Aug. 14-16	Mt. Olive Church Morgan City, AL	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
Aug. 16-23	Sylacauga, AL 7:00pm	Rufus Williams (Montgomery, AL)
Aug. 31 - Sep. 6	Ashlock Church near Celina, TN	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 6-11	Rich Hill Church near Liberty, KY	V.W. Boland (Gadsden, AL)
Sept. 11-13	Freefield Church State Line, MS	Zack Michini (Lucedale, MS)
Sept. 11-13 (F-Su)	Godby Road Atlanta, GA	Chris Melton Dana Chandler Marty Livinston Greg Moore

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."(Rom. 1:16) The power of God was witnessed at the Moffat Road church on July 12. During the meeting held by James McDonald two responses were received: one for baptism and the other for prayer. To our congregation the Lord has added the names of Rick and Paula Gibson. God bless these two and may we continue the work of the Lord in the area of Mobile, Alabama.