

“Sanctity of Human Life Sunday: Choose Life”
Deut. 30:19 and Selected Texts
January 21, 2018

Turn in your Bibles to Deuteronomy 30:19-20a. The title of the message is “Choose Life.” Deuteronomy 30:19 says: “This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days...” Prayer.

Introduction: Just like Israel of old, we as a nation and as individuals, we must come to grips with the option and opportunity in Deuteronomy 30:19. God has set before us the option of life and death and the opportunity to choose life. Tragically, as a culture, we have chosen death. Mark down January 22, 1973 as a date that will also live in infamy. For on that date, the United States Supreme Court made it legal¹ for our nation to murder human beings by what doctors call an “abortion.”² That’s when the floodgates of death were opened, now 45 years ago this week.

We can predict these horrible deaths from abortion with chilling accuracy. One human life will be destroyed every 20 seconds in America’s abortion clinics and in hospitals. Nearly 3,000 innocent people will be murdered in America tomorrow. When added up, that’s around one million Americans a year. Over the past 45 years, nearly 60 million have been murdered without mercy in these United States.³ These individuals have had no trial, no legal representation, and no opportunity to defend themselves. Yet, they have been executed in a cruel, inhumane way.

Let the weight of that hit you: Nearly 60 million lives...gone. Just think of a catastrophic disaster where the entire populations of California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington are wiped out. Gone! That is what we are talking about. Abortion is the American Holocaust, and it is a moral outrage that ought to make every Christian in this nation rise up in righteous indignation.

There was a Women’s March in January 2017 in D.C. with an estimated 500,000 participants, with other cities around the world. And they were expressing their indignation. The organizer claimed that the purpose of the march was mainly as a protest against President Trump for his indefensible locker room remarks and immoral behavior, but it was mostly about defending abortion and Planned Parenthood. In fact, Cecile Richards, Director of Planned Parenthood was one of the main speakers.

Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in America and receives a half-billion in taxpayer dollars and performs one third of the abortions.⁴ In the past, the U.S. House and Senate voted not only to defund Obamacare but also 80 percent of federal funding to Planned Parenthood. So the pro-abortion crowd is worried sick that President Trump and the Republican Congress are going to restrict what they believe is every woman’s right, but is in fact an ungodly wrong.

That’s why they are so unhinged. That’s why they talk about a “War on Women.” That’s why Cecile Richards, head of PP, Gloria Steinem, Madonna, Scarlett Johansson, Ashley Judd, etc. donned their “pink hats” and screamed at Trump and Congress and conservatives in general. Remember, lewd and vulgar signs were the rule of the day? Remember that Madonna even said: “I have thought a lot about blowing up the White House.” Anyway, the big message was: “Don’t mess with *Roe v. Wade*! We want abortion!”

So what I plan to do is to expose the deceptive arguments of the pro-abortion crowd, and then show you the declared truth of the word of God regarding preborn human life, and finally give you some definite things you can do about this immoral madness called abortion, this war on human life.

I. DECEPTIVE ARGUMENTS OF THE PRO-ABORTION ACTIVISTS

First of all, let's talk about the deceptive arguments used by the pro-abortion crowd. Let's be honest, the abortion activists, who like to be called "pro-choice" and now defenders of "reproductive health" have a lot of persuasive-sounding arguments they use to shout down their opponents. Maybe some of you have been deceived by these arguments, but I want you to listen closely to some of them, and see if they really are all that sound when we subject them to scrutiny.

A. "A fetus is not a baby": For example, there are some who say: "That's not really a baby while its in the womb." Folks, there's a Hebrew word for that, and it is "Hogwash." No seriously, that's foolishness. A number of years ago, a group of 60 prominent physicians, which included former presidents of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the American Academy of Neurology, met in Cambridge, Mass. and presented a declaration that said: "The fetus is not a sub-human species...the embryo is alive, human, and unique in the special environmental support required for that stage of human development."⁵ The bottom line: The biological facts are absolutely conclusive that the fetus is a living human being.

Yet many are deceived by the terminology used by the abortion activists to refer to the baby in the mother's womb. They talk about embryos, products of conception, and fetuses. Take the word "fetus" for example. That's a perfectly good Latin word meaning "preborn baby." But it is a Latin word, which most people do not understand these days. The abortion activists know this, which is why they like to use these terms so that you won't know what is going on. It's all a part of their great deception.

And then there are those who would agree that what is growing in the womb may be a living human being, but claim that it hasn't yet obtained "personhood" and therefore does not have human rights until the birth takes place. In other words, if it is in the womb, it is not a person. That hair-splitting argument brings up some interesting parallels in history. It reminds me of the Dred Scott case of 1857, when the Supreme Court said that the black man was not protected by the Constitution because a slave was not a person.⁶ It reminds me of Nazi Germany where Hitler and his regime said that the Jew was not a person. The Nazis were shrewd enough to know that before you can enslave and exterminate human beings, the first thing you have to do is depersonalize and dehumanize them—*semantically* destroy them before you *physically* destroy them. Make them into something less than human.

So that's a dangerous argument to say that the preborn creature in the womb is not human. It leads down a slippery slope where virtually all human life becomes worthless—we're speeding down that slope right now. Since we have allowed abortion, now the door is open to physician-assisted suicide, which a number of state legislatures have passed and others are considering. We need to stop this slide and stand for life!

B. "What about rape and incest and saving the life of the mother?": When you add up abortions due to rape and incest, and those to save the life of the mother, all three account for less than four percent of all abortions—that's right, four percent.⁷ Fine, let's drop the other 96 percent of the abortions for now and we'll talk about these instances, Amen? When a pregnant woman's life is in danger, and she requires a medical procedure to save her life which could simultaneously harm her unborn child, there is nothing wrong with going ahead with this procedure as long as no direct harmful action is taken against the child. Abortion is wrong because it involves the intentional killing of a child; a life-saving surgery for a pregnant woman does not involve this intentional action, and therefore cannot be considered an "abortion" even if the unborn child dies as an indirect result of the medical procedure.

There is a great deal of emotion attached to victims of rape and incest, and rightly so. But are you going to play God in a matter like this? Are you going to say that a baby conceived by rape or incest should not live? Wouldn't that be following a wrong with another wrong? Let's say a white man raped a 13-year-old African-American girl, impregnating her. Should her parents force her to abort that child? If they had, we

would not have been blessed by the Gospel singer Ethel Waters, conceived by rape. And what about Ruth, a woman who has a book of the Bible named after her, and who is named in the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ? She descended from a man named Moab, who was born out of an incestuous relationship. Who wants to play God?

C. “What about handicaps and birth defects?”: When a doctor tells you there is a bad problem with the baby and says that abortion might be the best option, it causes some to pause. Pat and I heard a doctor tell us the same thing, and we were concerned, but we said we would accept what God gave us, and by God’s grace both of our children are healthy and whole, though Kristen spent 10 days in NICU when she was born.

Let’s say that there’s a mother who has tuberculosis. She has already given birth to four children—one died, one is blind, one is deaf, and a fourth contracted tuberculosis from the mother. Now she’s pregnant again—should she abort? Well if she had, then the world would have been robbed of the music of Ludwig von Beethoven. Are you going to play God? Follow the abortionist’s argument to its logical conclusion. Do you believe that defective people should be put to death? Then a lot of us here ought not be alive, including the one who is speaking. All of us have defects. Just how perfect do you have to be in order to live? Where do we start when we eliminate those who are defective? Where do we end? In Nazi Germany, abortion preceded the killing of handicapped, then the elderly, and finally the Jews and other so-called “undesirables.” We’ve started, where do we end?

D. What about poor unwed teens? This is another argument they use. Well let me throw out this scenario: What about the poor pregnant unwed teen who was engaged to a man who is not the biological father who wants to break it off when he first finds out? Should she get an abortion? If she had, Mary would have aborted Jesus. Apparently, there are devilish people who wish she had. But again, who wants to play God? Here are some stubborn statistics:

- Over 60% of women who abort their babies are over 20 years old (most are NOT unwed teens)
- Over 40% of all abortions are performed on patients for the second, third, or fourth time
- 76% of women who abort their babies are unmarried
- 53% of women who abort their babies have no other children
- Fully 22 percent of all pregnancies are terminated by abortion, not counting miscarriages.

That makes the womb the most dangerous place for an American—more dangerous than a citizen in the streets of Chicago or for one of our Special Forces personnel in an ISIS-held territory in the Middle East.⁸

And if you can believe it, the womb is even more dangerous if you are African American. Table 12 of the CDC’s report for 2012 showed a breakdown of abortions by ethnicity, showing that 37.6 percent of abortions in 26 states were to white, non-Hispanic women, 36.7 percent to non-Hispanic black women, 7 percent to “other” non-Hispanic women and 18.7 percent to Hispanic women. Other tables place the percentage of abortions to black women as high as 40.5 percent and the percentage to Hispanics as low as 17.4 percent. It is clear by any counting that minorities are over-represented in the statistics relative to their population.⁹ Why is that?

It all goes back to Planned Parenthood’s founder, Margaret Sanger.¹⁰ Remember, Hillary spoke well of her at a Planned Parenthood rally back in 2015: “I admire Margaret Sanger enormously,” Clinton told the event’s attendees. “Her courage, her tenacity, her vision.”¹¹ Clinton is not alone. Several years ago, Margaret Sanger was named one of *TIME*’s “20 Most Influential Americans of All Time.”

What was Sanger’s vision? To “improve” the American population by controlled breeding, which is called

eugenics. In the 1930s and 1940s, her views and those of her peers in the birth control/population control movement contributed to compulsory sterilization laws in 30 states that resulted in more than 60,000 sterilizations of vulnerable people, including people she considered “feeble-minded,” “idiots,” and “morons.” One of the groups she considered “undesirable” were African Americans. She even presented at a Ku Klux Klan women’s rally in 1926 in Silver Lake, N.J. which led to other speaking engagements with white supremacist groups.¹² In a letter to Dr. Clarence Gamble in 1939, Sanger wrote: “We do not want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members” (Margaret Sanger commenting on the ‘Negro Project’ December 10, 1939).

So Sanger was a racist and Planned Parenthood is committing black genocide. The overwhelming majority of Planned Parenthood businesses, almost nine out of ten (88%), are in urban areas as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. FRC researchers found that a mere 12% of Planned Parenthood businesses in the U.S. (73 of the total 615 Planned Parenthood businesses) are in rural locations as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.¹³ According to another study, 79 percent of Planned Parenthood’s surgical abortion facilities are located within walking distance of predominantly African American or Hispanic communities.¹⁴ In 2012, there were more African American babies killed by abortion (31,328) in New York City than were born there (24,758), and the black children killed comprised 42.4 percent of the total number of abortions according to a report by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.¹⁵ If a foreign enemy had done this, we would call it genocide. In fact, undercover pro-life operatives from Lila Rose’s Live Action ministry recorded a Planned Parenthood official saying they would accept donations to “lower the number of blacks in America.”¹⁶ It is an outrageous evil in America that needs to stop now!

And yes, don’t forget those undercover videos with Planned Parenthood officials casually sipping wine and eating salad and coolly discussing how to conduct abortions in such a way that they can pull out the organs and sell them.¹⁷ So not only are they targeting minorities and killing babies, they are selling human parts for profit! Again, this is an unspeakable evil! We should not let a dime of our tax money fund them. In fact, we ought to shut every Planned Parenthood down and lock up their leaders!

E. “Doesn’t a woman have the right to choose?”: Doesn’t a woman have the right to do what she pleases with her own body? That is what many women in their pink hats were proclaiming at the women’s march last year. “It’s my body, I have a right to choose.” No, not according to the law. In most states, it is illegal for a woman to be a prostitute, it is illegal to fill her body with illicit drugs, it is illegal to get intoxicated with alcohol and drive. No, a woman can’t do entirely as she chooses. But the argument to end all arguments from the pro-abortion crowd is this: A woman has the right to choose. Choose what? Choose to steal? Choose to kidnap? Choose to murder? No. In a civilized society, a person does not have the right to do as they please in every case.

And that’s especially true with regard to the preborn child in the mother’s womb, because we’re not talking about her body, but a distinctly different person that should be granted full human rights, beginning with life. The same 60 physicians quoted earlier had this to say:

“A human ovum together with a human sperm produces a biologically identifiable human embryo. It has separate and unique genetic information and biological material. Every cell in a woman’s body has exactly the same 46 chromosomes, and exactly the same genes. Every cell is identical in that way, except for the cells in that baby. The baby has a different set of chromosomes and a different set of genes.”¹⁸

Listen, the baby even provides its own nest, the placenta and the umbilical cord. The baby has its own blood stream, maybe even a different blood type than the mother. In half of the cases, the baby has a different gender.¹⁹ So we’re talking about a guest, a baby, living inside the host, the mother. Run that line of reasoning on out. Let’s say a cult member comes into my home to share his heretical propaganda. He

is an unwanted guest from the standpoint of his religion. Do I have the right to murder an unwanted guest? Same faulty reasoning with abortion.

II. DECLARED TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE

Well, we've heard their deceptive arguments and they don't hold water. But what is the declared truth of Scripture? We claim to accept the Bible as the word of God and therefore the final word. Do you agree? If you are a Christian it ought to be. And there are over 100 texts that deal with the preborn.

A. Preborn Human Life in the Old Testament: Look with me at Psalm 139:13-16. These verses tell us that God forms that child in a mother's womb, and that child is the subject and object of God's love and concern. Look at the pronouns. This is not an "it" or a "thing" that can be removed like a tumor and destroyed. This is a person made in the image of God. And the Bible doesn't distinguish between prenatal and postnatal life. Look at Jeremiah 1:5. Jeremiah was a prophet and God told him: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I set you apart" (KJV - consecrated). You don't consecrate a gall bladder to become a prophet, you consecrate a person.

B. Preborn Human Life in the New Testament: In Luke's Gospel, we read that Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus, went to visit her relative Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist. Listen to verse 41: "When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit." I mean, you never heard an expectant mother say: "A fetus leaped inside me or a product of conception kicked me." No. In fact, the Greek word *brephos* is used when it says that the baby leaped in her womb. That word can mean: "a preborn child, embryo, fetus, a new born child, an infant, a babe." It is the same term that is used to describe Jesus, the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger (Luke 2:12, 16).

In other words, there is no distinction made in the Greek NT between a preborn baby and a new born child. No distinction. And Greek is an expressive and precise language—there are four words that are used to describe love! But when it comes to describing a preborn child or a newborn child—there is only one term used. A preborn child is therefore not an "it," a preborn child is a person.

Let me ask you, if a mother delivered the child and then decided to kill the baby, would that be OK? What about the Lincoln Memorial University student who received national attention several years ago because she delivered her baby, ripped the umbilical cord loose, wrapped the child in a sweatshirt, and threw the unwanted child in the trash? She went to jail. But she wouldn't have if she had simply gotten an abortion. There's no difference between what she did and an abortion, because terminating a pregnancy is, in fact, taking a human life.

Do you know how an abortion is performed? It is ironic that the media will never allow you to see one. They will show us some of the 6 million victims of the Nazi Holocaust, they will show us abuses in war torn countries around the world, but none of the 60 million victims of the American Holocaust. They will bring the evils of human trafficking and the horrors of war into your home night after night, but not the preborn being aborted or the body parts of aborted babies. Why? Because as supporters of abortion rights, they know that if the light ever shined in that darkness, there would likely be such a righteous outcry that abortion would be stopped.

Well what happens in an abortion? Some abortion doctors inject the womb with a saline solution that burns and scalds the baby. Others stick a needle through the womb and into the baby's beating heart and inject it with poison that kills. Other abortion doctors use a vacuum device that dismembers and sucks the preborn baby's body parts out of the womb. Others use forceps, which the baby struggles to avoid, according to the sonograms. They rip off the limbs, crush the baby's head, pull the body out of the womb,

and throw it in the trash! Or they harvest valuable organs before doing so...Thank God partial-birth abortion has been banned (though Hillary defended it in the third presidential debate), but the other methods are no less inhumane and grisly. I mean, we would expect that in the death camps of Auschwitz, not the health clinics of America. Consequently....

C. Preborn Human Life Must Be Protected: Prov. 24:11-12 says: "Rescue those being led away to death, hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say: "We knew nothing about this." Does not He who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not He who guards your life know it? Will He not repay each person according to what he has done?" Folks, we need to stand up and speak out. Why? Because abortion is wrong! It is pre-meditated murder! It violates the 6th Commandment in Exodus 20:13: "You shall not murder."²⁰ And I want you to know that God hates it. According to Proverbs 6:16-17: "There are six things that the Lord hates, seven are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood." God hates the shedding of innocent blood! And His ears are filled with the cries of the innocent being slain in this nation, and there will be a day of reckoning! And we will answer for what we do and for what we don't do!

III. DEFINITE ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE

We've talked about the deceptive arguments made by abortion activists and the declared truth of Scripture. Lastly, let's explore some definite actions we can take. What should we do, what can we do, and what must we do about this great evil of our day?

A. Stay Informed: First, we need to be informed, and that's why I preached this message. But stay informed. Keep up with what is happening in our government by visiting frc.org and signing up for the Washington Update. The daily update only takes a few minutes to read, but it has clear, concise analysis of the threats to human life, natural marriage, religious freedom, and other issues that Bible-believing Americans should be concerned about.

We need to inform others. We need to teach and preach and practice sexual purity at home and in the church so that our young people don't even get in a position to have to make such a choice between life and death. But if they do get it that position, encourage your kids and your grandkids to choose life. Choose life, even when there is a moral failure, especially among our own. That leads me secondly to say we need to...

B. Show Compassion: We need to show compassion toward the unwed mother and the women who have had an abortion, not condoning the sin, but caring for the sinner, leading all to a place of repentance and restoration. Listen, there is forgiveness in Jesus Christ. That is why he went to the cross! If you have gone through an abortion, it is not the unforgivable sin. The Bible says in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Come to Christ and confess this grievous sin and you will have forgiveness and cleansing.

I have been moved by the testimonies of the women of the *Silent No More Awareness* campaign, who had abortions, but who now regret them. Consider Wendy from Pennsylvania, who had an abortion when she was 19 years old: "It took 35 years of my life to reconcile that one foolish mistake," Wendy wrote. "Remember the abortion lie that promised to help me 'forget about my baby and go on with my life like nothing happened?' Now, after 35 gut wrenching years, I can go on only because I found forgiveness and peace in the truth – not the lie." Church, there are a lot of broken and hurting women in our pews and in our communities who are longing to be set free from their guilt and pain. Only Jesus can do that, but he wants to use us to be his messengers of mercy. So church, show compassion.

Here's my firm conviction: Christians should be just as concerned and compassionate before the

pregnancy and after the pregnancy as we are during the pregnancy. We need to support the creation and operation of Pregnancy Resource Centers as they help these young women choose life and then seek to give their children a life. We need to support adoption and foster care in our church because every child deserves a loving home with a dad and a mom. We need to get behind ethical stem cell research, which is leading to positive treatments and giving hope. We need to be compassionate in caring for human life, not only in the womb, but in every age and stage of life.

C. Start Engaging: Third, we need to start engaging on this issue in the public arena. Jesus said we are the Salt and the Light (Matt. 5:13-14) and he commanded us: “Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (Matt. 22:21). So a practical application for a Christian who is a citizen of America is to participate in the public debate and seek to have a positive “Salt and Light” influence on the direction of our government and its policies and laws. Here are five practical ways we can be active and make an impact:

1. Pray that the dignity of every human life will be respected and protected from conception to natural death (Prov. 24:11-12).
2. Affirm President Trump for appointing pro-life Justices and Judges to the Courts:
whitehouse.gov/contact
3. Contact your Representative and Senators by calling the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or visit FRC.org and click on “More” tab, then “Contact Officials.” Urge them to support pro-life legislation:
 - A budget reconciliation bill that defunds Planned Parenthood with only 51 votes needed in the Senate!
 - The Conscience Protection Act in any FY2018 “Omnibus” spending bill to stop government punishment of pro-life healthcare providers.
 - The Born Alive Survivors Protection Act to add enforcement powers to the Born Alive Protection Act which defines a baby born alive after an attempted abortion to be a “person.” This is especially important given the videos in which Planned Parenthood employees suggest they aborted babies born alive.
 - The Unborn Child Pain Capable Protection Act that would ban abortion at 20 weeks, when unborn babies can experience severe pain. The House already passed this bill and the Senate needs to act.
4. Educate yourself on pro-life arguments. Read the best arguments from science, the law, and women’s rights to advance the pro-life case against abortion to your friends, family, and neighbors. To find out more about how to promote the pro-life cause in your daily life, check out FRC.org/life.
5. Support a Pregnancy Care Center in our area. To find a life-affirming ministry for women in our area who are expecting a child, check out heartbeatinternational.org/worldwide-directory.

Our efforts are making a difference. Be encouraged by the fact that the pro-life movement has made significant progress since January 22, 1973 when the Supreme Court legalized abortion. Congress overwhelmingly voted to do away with partial-birth abortions, and President Bush signed the ban into law. Even when liberal judges blocked it as “unconstitutional,” the Supreme Court upheld the ban against partial-birth abortion as constitutional by a 5-4 vote. Since then we’ve seen scores of pro-life laws passed in state legislatures.²¹ Unfortunately, some of those laws have been over-turned by the courts, but definite progress is being made. And public opinion on abortion has shifted. Young people ages 18-29 are the most pro-life in our population.²² So at least the culture of death is being rolled back bit by bit, and that is

encouraging.

But we still have a long way to go. Remember, 2018 is an election year and your vote matters! President Bush nominated Samuel Alito and John Roberts to the Supreme Court and they made a difference. Unfortunately, President Obama placed Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan on the Court, and they have ruled the wrong way on abortion and other life-science issues. Last year, President Trump nominated pro-life Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Court to replace Justice Scalia who died. President Trump is making good on his promise to place pro-life Justices and judges on the courts.

In fact, the pro-life group Operation Rescue has given President Trump an award, claiming he has already accomplished more for the pro-life agenda than any other president. Other than the nomination of Justice Gorsuch, they offer the following examples of Trump's pro-life actions:

- President Trump has effectively denied public money to those who commit and promote abortions around the world through restoring the Mexico City Policy.
- Trump's Department of Justice has launched a formal investigation into Planned Parenthood's illegal baby parts trafficking scheme.
- He has actively supported pro-life legislation, such as the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which passed the House but is currently held up in the U.S. Senate.
- He supports legislation to defund Planned Parenthood in the U.S., and removed an Obama-era mandate that forced states to continue funding Planned Parenthood.
- He has worked to fill his administration with pro-life people and put them in places where they can do the most good.
- Trump's administration has taken active steps within the Health and Human Services and other agencies to establish pro-life policies that protect the pre-born.
- He has provided protections for those of religious and moral convictions from paying for abortifacient drugs through Obamacare, and continues to work to repeal and replace it.²³

So we should thank President Trump for his pro-life actions and remember that elections have consequences! But President Trump cannot put more pro-life judges on the courts or sign pro-life legislation into law unless he has a conservative, pro-life majority in Congress, and especially in the Senate. So your vote matters this fall—not only on a federal level, but on the state level. Most of the pro-life advances have been made in state legislatures, so we need more pro-life governors and state legislators.

Bible-believing Christians need to be engaged because we can make a difference in who is making those life and death decisions by the way we vote and by our activism. Thomas Jefferson declared: “The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government.”²⁴ Let's vote for public servants who agree and remind those currently serving of this great truth of the need for government to protect the dignity of every human being, born and preborn.

Listen, God's people need to rise up and stand up and speak up for the defenseless! In fact, the Bible gives us our marching orders in Isaiah 58:1: “Shout it aloud! Don't hold back! Raise your voice like a trumpet! Declare to my people their rebellion, and to the house of Jacob their sins.” We need to be that voice for those who have no voice.

Again, we need to fall on our knees in humble repentance and fervently pray to Almighty God that He will change the direction of this nation that has launched out into a sea of innocent blood. We once held to the God-given right to life in this nation, but that day passed and night descended. And yet, I believe a new day for life may be on the horizon. Our nation is not yet past saving. Nothing is impossible with God. Pray

that even as slavery ended in America, even as the Jewish Holocaust ended, that the American Holocaust might end, that the murder of the innocent preborns might end, and that by the grace of God and our repentance, that this dark night on the soul of our nation might end and that the light of the Gospel might once again shine brightly in our land once again.

Prayer: Oh God, we pray for your mercy. Our nation deserves to be destroyed because of abortion alone, even if we had no other sins. Have mercy on us as a people. We pray for those who have had abortions and for all those who have had a hand in them. We pray that you would lead them to the Cross and help them look up to Him whose hands and feet were pierced that their sins might be paid for. Thank you for the forgiveness and the new beginning that Jesus offers. Give us the courage to have a voice for those who have no voice, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Invitation: When the Bible says to choose life, that not only applies to preborn children, it also applies mainly to those who need to be born again. The Holy Spirit may be speaking to some and you can choose life this morning by choosing to trust Jesus as Savior and follow Him as Lord. Others may be deeply troubled about what you've just heard, and I hope that it troubles you into taking action. Some might say: "I want to take a stand with a church that stands for life. I want to be a part of a church that preaches and practices the truth of Scripture." Maybe God wants you to make this your church home, to join hands with us to reach people for Jesus, to stand for what's right, and to stand up for these innocent babies who can't stand for themselves. Maybe that's what God wants you to do this morning. Others may want to come and pray for our nation that God would continue to show us mercy and that He would enable us to turn the tide against this great evil of our time. Come as God leads you, while we sing.

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Dr. Kenyn Cureton, a former pastor and Vice President for Convention Relations for the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, currently serves as Vice President for Church Ministries with Family Research Council.

¹ Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S.; 113, 163-164 (1973).

² "Abortion in the United States: Statistics and Trends," National Right to Life, Internet, <http://nrlc.org/abortion/facts/abortionstats.html>.

³ <https://www.nationalrighttolifeneews.org/news/2018/01/45th-anniversary-approaches-roe-v-wade-losing-steam-support/>

⁴ <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/01/11/report-biggest-source-of-planned-parenthood-revenue-is-u-s-taxpayers/>

⁵ See http://www.forerunner.com/forerunner/X0717_Abortion__Evolution.html.

⁶ Dred Scott v. Sandford, 60 U.S. 393 (1857)

⁷ See the stats provided by the Alan Guttmacher Institute: http://www.agi-usa.org/presentations/abort_slides.pdf

⁸ See the stats provided by the Alan Guttmacher Institute: http://www.agi-usa.org/presentations/abort_slides.pdf

⁹ <http://www.lifeneews.com/2016/01/14/58586256-abortions-in-america-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973/>

¹⁰ <http://www.frcblog.com/2016/10/real-margaret-sanger/>

¹¹ <http://thefederalist.com/2015/07/14/watch-hillary-praise-planned-parenthoods-eugenicist-founder-margaret-sanger/>

¹² <http://www.lifeneews.com/2015/02/23/7-shocking-quotes-from-planned-parenthood-founder-margaret-sanger/>

¹³ <https://townhall.com/columnists/arina-grossu/2017/11/11/sen-cassidy-was-right-most-planned-parenthood-businesses-are-in-urban-areas-n2407809>

¹⁴ http://www.protectingblacklife.org/pp_targets/

¹⁵ <http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/michael-w-chapman/nyc-more-black-babies-killed-abortion-born>

¹⁶ <http://liveaction.org/what-we-do/investigations/racially-motivated-donations/>

¹⁷ <http://www.centerformedicalprogress.org/cmp/investigative-footage/>

¹⁸ See http://www.forerunner.com/forerunner/X0717_Abortion__Evolution.html.

¹⁹ C. Everett Koop, M.D., *Koop: The Memoirs of America's Family Doctor* (New York: Random House, 1991), p. 264, comments: "It always seemed clear to me that life begins at conception. After the twenty-three chromosomes of the sperm are united with the twenty-three chromosomes of the egg to become a one-celled living organism containing the entire genetic code that will eventually become a you or a me, that single cell requires nothing except nutrition to become a baby nine months later. Biologists seem to have no trouble believing that life begins at the time of fertilization when they talk about lizards, doves, or baboons; it is only when the argument turns to the highest form of animal life, a human being, that there enters a lot of fuzzy thinking about conception and life."

²⁰ When God set forth the final five of the 10 Commandments to protect people's rights and preserve order in society, the first one is a prohibition against taking someone's life. In fact, the high value God places on human life is the justification for Capital Punishment. See Genesis 9:6, which says: "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed for in the image of God has God made man." When you murder another person, you have committed a great evil. Why? Because God created man in His image, and your malicious attack against another human being is considered an indirect attack on God Himself. And

that crime is worthy of the death penalty. Rom. 13 in the NT talks about the fact that God has ordained government to carry out that penalty-the authority “does not bear the sword for nothing-He is God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” Human life is precious in God’s sight, the object of his great love. Anyone who takes a life wrongfully, is the object of God’s wrath. See also Exod. 21:12-17, 22-23, 29.

²¹<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/record-number-of-pro-abortion-laws-being-introduced-dwarfed-by-pro-life-gai>

²²<https://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/how-millennials-are-impacting-the-pro-life-movement>

²³<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/president-trump-named-pro-life-person-of-the-year-for-2017>.

²⁴Thomas Jefferson to Maryland Republicans, 1809. as found in Andrew A. Lipscomb and Albert E. Bergh, eds., *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson*, 20 vols., (Washington, D.C.: The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Association, 1903-1904), 16:359.