

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:11, NKJV)

New England Christian Bulletin

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Attention Christian!
Do not Divide God’s Kingdom
Based on Masks or Vaccines!
By James Moriello

In our world today, there are folks everywhere who wish to divide people according to gender, age, skin color, and now, masks and vaccine status. This divisive spirit has even begun to infiltrate God’s churches. It will not, however, be welcome in my heart, or the congregation in which I serve.

There are differing views among intelligent people regarding the effectiveness of masks and vaccines. Every individual must weigh the risks of getting a serious case of the Coronavirus against the risks of possible side effects of the vaccine. So far, I have made two pastoral observations. First, mask mandates tend to engender fear and do social and emotional harm to children, who have a very low risk of contracting a serious case of Covid-19 if they are otherwise fairly healthy. Second, it seems to me that the vaccines, in the short term, have been helpful to the general health. Acknowledging a limited benefit of masks and vaccines, I oppose all mandates, and promote liberty of individual choice. I respect those on both sides of the issues. If you are for masks and vaccines, respect people who are against them. If you are against them, respect those who are for them.

“Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things” (Romans 14:1). “Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:1-3). “But if anyone seems to be contentious, we have no such custom, nor do the churches of God” (1 Corinthians 11:16).

Does Prayer Really Work?
Yes! Come to God Today!
By Scott Lanctot

(Photo By Tanya Hay)



“I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry” (Psalm 40:1). Suppose you are praying for a specific person, or for a specific thing to take place, and you feel that your prayers are not being heard. I believe the Bible gives the answer. ““For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD” (Isaiah 55:8). Sometimes God’s permissive will can get someone’s attention. “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age” (Titus 2:11-12). So to the person we are praying for, God has been made known. There is no excuse for a flat out rejection of God’s amazing grace. As Christians, we are never to give up on hope. For our God is the God of hope, and we have an example of this in the prodigal son passage. “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!’” (Luke 15:17). His father had been in prayer for his wayward son, and most if not all Christians can relate to that particular piece of Scripture.

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God Versus Satan
By Tanya Hay

The Bible is a testament to God’s attributes, which are loving, loyal, and positive. In contrast, Satan’s attributes are hurtful, deceitful, and negative. Believing in God, through the blood of Jesus Christ, brings about peace, joy, and trust. Not trust that life will be perfect, but trust that He will see you through whatever storms await you in this life.

GOD

Comforts you, Matthew 5:4, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Forgives you, 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.”

Reassures you, Jeremiah 15:19, “If you return, then I will bring you back.”

Encourages you, Ezra 7:28, “So I was encouraged, as the hand of the LORD my God was upon me; and I gathered leading men of Israel to go up with me.”

Calms you, Psalm 107:29, “He calms the storm, So that its waves are still.”

Enlightens you, 2 Samuel 22:29, “For You are my lamp, O LORD; The LORD shall enlighten my darkness.”

Stills you, Psalm 46:10, “Be still and know that I am God.”

Leads you, Psalm 23:3, “He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake.”

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George Washington, American Hero, By Susan Moriello

George Washington, one of America's founding fathers, was educated by the notebook method, taking notes and doing his own research, writing out facts and information on various subjects. He was orderly, neat, and consistent in his education. Some of his early notebooks are still preserved in the Library of Congress. Washington was one of the great and virtuous statesmen who was heavily influenced by the Great Awakening, a product of the godly environment that helped prepare the colonists for their destiny. In 1777-1778, Washington was commander of the American army. During this time, he led the troops, inspiring them by his character. He encouraged and inspired them to persevere through many hardships, including lack of food, clothing, extreme cold weather, and disease. The troops' love of their leader and love of liberty kept them moving on. Washington was sustained by his trust in God alone. He ordered his men to attend church, and observe days of fasting, prayer, and thanksgiving. He was instrumental in establishing our independence and securing the beginning of the most free and prosperous nation that the world has ever seen. After he won the Revolutionary War, in 1787, at the Constitutional Convention, he made a speech that ended with him saying, "The event is in the hands of God!" In 1789, Washington took the oath of office with his hand on a Bible opened to Deuteronomy Chapter 28. This chapter promises blessings or curses upon a nation according to its faithfulness in keeping God's Word. At the end of the oath, he added the words, "So help me, God." Then he leaned over and kissed the Bible. President Washington issued a proclamation for the people of the United States of America to thank "the great Lord and Ruler of nations" for enabling the establishment of the Constitution and government for the safety and happiness of the people. He said that it is "the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor." Washington was a mighty man for the Lord! In 1797, Washington said, "Religion and morality are the essential pillars of society." In his Farewell Address in 1796, he said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to a political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports." Washington has left us with such a great legacy: his sacrifices for America, his love for country and liberty, but most of all, his love for the Lord!! His dependence upon and faith in the Lord promoted America's freedom and liberty to live in peace and harmony with all.

"The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways. Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. And the Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them. So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them" (Deuteronomy 28:9-14).

Publication Information, Contact Information, and an Invitation to Firm Foundation Church

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Firm Foundation Christian Church, Publisher
James Moriello, Editor

Phone: 401-765-0107

Email: firmfoundationri@verizon.net

Website: www.firmfoundationri.com

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Firm Foundation Christian Church meets at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI. We meet every Sunday for Worship Service at 10 am, and also every Friday for Bible Study and Prayer at 7 pm. We are a Soul Winning, Great Commission, Christian Bible Church. In addition to an active evangelistic ministry, we host tent revivals, do street evangelism, and offer beginner to advanced level independent study classes, all free of charge. All of our preaching and Bible Study is directly from the Word of God. We invite you to stop by and visit us.

We believe in the inspired Word of God which is without error in all that it affirms. Scripture (The Bible) provides the basis for our Christian faith (2 Timothy 3:16).

We believe in the Divine Nature of the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 5:6; John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11).

All men and women are sinners by nature in need of a Savior. We need God's grace and mercy (Romans 3:10-23; Isaiah 45:22).

That Savior is Jesus Christ, who paid for all our sins at the cross (Hebrews 10:12).

Those who trust in Him in faith (believe upon His work and promises) attain to eternal life (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4).



Grandparenting By Faith By Joe McKeever

The just shall live by faith. —Habakkuk 2:4, and quoted in the New Testament in Romans 1:17; Colossians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38. That truth formed the basis of the Apostle Paul's theology, and his Epistle to the Romans (on that subject) fueled the theology of Martin Luther and the Reformation, and two centuries later of John Wesley.

I tell friends who are about to become grandparents for the first time, "You are about to be more in love than you have ever been in your life!" I tell them, "Right now, you don't even know that child. But pretty soon, you will not want to live without them."

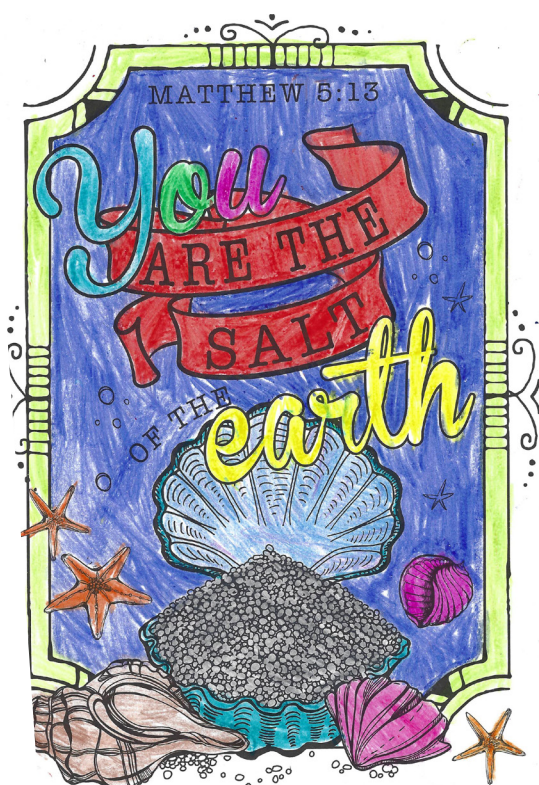
It's a marvelous thing the hold that the child of my child can have on my heart. In many respects, my eight grands have given me more joy than my three did. Perhaps it's because we had our children when we were young—in our twenties—and our grands when we were in late middle-aged and were far different, even better, people.

We want to cherish these little ones and to do all we can to make a lasting difference in their lives, for now and for eternity. So, let's talk about that. Let's talk about grandparenting by faith.

Now, everyone lives by faith. Even the most hostile atheist who resents the implication, does also. Anyone who drives on the interstate, eats in restaurants, flies in planes, and visits doctors and pharmacies is demonstrating great faith, mostly rewarded but sometimes ill-founded.

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ARTWORK BELOW:
BY AUTUMN GRIFFITHS



Abortion: The American Holocaust By James Moriello

"For you formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb."
(Psalm 139:13)

This paper was originally written several years ago, back in 2012. But it is still just as relevant today. God-fearing people continue to advocate for the most vulnerable people in our society, unborn children. We are thankful for the actions of the great state of Texas on behalf of conceived human beings. We are saddened by the politicians in Rhode Island who continually advocate for their murder. This issue alone shows us how important it is that Christians vote.

Since the infamous Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, well over fifty million babies have been legally murdered in the United States. The Holocaust of Abortion is justified, and even advocated for, by many powerful people and interest groups in our country for a variety of reasons. Perhaps you are reading this and have wondered what the basis is for the statements I have just made here. Many would say that they constitute an extreme position. While this essay is indeed written from the perspective of a Christian Pastor, the ethical dilemmas that will be confronted should be within the ability of even the most agnostic skeptic to understand and ponder. We will begin by defining when life begins. Then, we will address what I call the 'pro-choice fallacy.' Having done so, we will answer several arguments put forth by the proponents of legalized abortion.

We will begin by defining when human life begins. From the Christian perspective, we turn to the pages of the Holy Bible, which is the guide for all Christians everywhere with regard to all matters of faith and practice. "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity. And in sin my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5). David affirms that he existed as a person beginning at the moment of conception. The New Testament says of Elizabeth that "the babe leaped in her womb" at the greeting of Mary (Luke 1:41). According to God's Word, life begins at conception, and there is a baby in the womb from that point until birth. Therefore, for the Christian, the case is closed.

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Does Prayer Really Work? Yes! Come to God Today! (Continued from Page 1)

There is spiritual warfare between God and the devil. "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). And sometimes the news is not favorable. I personally had that experience when we lost our middle son Scott. God was not blamed. I believe it was God's permissive will that he departed. And I also believe that there is a redemptive purpose for the lives of the people who are left behind to pick up the pieces. It could be a hard pill to swallow for someone reading this. The easy way out is to blame God for your heartache. But what does the Scripture say? "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life" (Galatians 6:7-8). So does prayer really work? Yes. There may also be divine delays according to the divine will. "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

What we need most of all is what so many deny the most, which is a relationship with God through Christ Jesus. Jesus has all the answers we need. Jesus is the true problem solver.

"God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
Even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried
into the midst of the sea;
Though its waters roar and be troubled,
Though the mountains shake with its
swelling. Selah
There is a river whose streams shall make
glad the city of God,
The holy place of the tabernacle of the
Most High.
God is in the midst of her, she shall not
be moved;
God shall help her, just at the break of
dawn.
The nations raged, the kingdoms were
moved;
He uttered His voice, the earth melted.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah"
(Psalm 46:1-7)

'The Lazy Man and His Excuses,' (Proverbs 22:13)

By James Moriello

"The lazy man says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!" (Proverbs 22:13, NKJV)

"The lazy man" has all the reasons in the world why he should not leave his bed and sofa and go to work and become a productive member of society. He pretends to live in rational and prudent fear of what might happen. Granted, lions were roaming the country in those days, but encounters with them were rare, especially in populated towns and cities.

Today, "the lazy man says" that he cannot work because of some imagined problem within himself, usually associated with the loss of a government check. He would rather stay home and not work, so he makes all the excuses in the book, including lack of schooling, his criminal past, his minor ailments, and hazards of particular jobs. The spiritually "lazy man says" that it is not needful to pray or read the Bible, because after all he believes in God and shall go to heaven regardless. This spiritual excuse is characteristic of unsaved folks, so we cannot be so sure of his assumptions on these matters. The "lazy man says" that he believes in consensus of the majority, and so he will not take a stand on any issues that arise, much less take a stand for Christ. But he may take a stand for why handouts that perpetuate his laziness are necessary, why those in government who promise these things must be reelected, or why certain numbers may be more likely to be called when the lottery numbers are revealed. The "lazy man says" that there is good justification for him to do what he wants to do when he wants to do it. There is no end of excuses for the "lazy man" to shirk responsibility. No excuse is too ludicrous. If one lion had been spotted in all of New England, the "lazy man" would have one more pretentious excuse to do as little as possible.

Christian friend, you and I are not called to be lazy. Rather, we are called to be diligent. May we be known as industrious workers and people who give to society rather than take from society. I once heard a modern day proverb that said, "If you need something done, ask the busiest person you know, because they have the most time to do it." Be that guy, for God has no use for lazy servants who offer poor testimony to the name of Jesus Christ.

Old Time Preaching Ministry

If you are looking for doctrinally sound Bible preaching and teaching, tune in to WNRI 1380am and 99.9fm on Tuesday at 7pm, and Saturday at 4pm. Where the "Old Book" is still used.

Psalm 138:2 (KJV): "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

Bible Trivia in the Book of Job: How much do you really know your Bible?

- 1) What land did Job live in? (Hint: It is not Oz)
- 2) At the beginning of the Book, how many children did Job have?
- 3) Who acted as priest in Job's household?
- 4) Who were the sons of God in Job 1:6?
- 5) Who accused Job of serving God only because he was so blessed?
- 6) How did Job's children die?
- 7) Who said "Blessed be the Name of the Lord"?
- 8) True or false: Job sinned and charged God with wrong after his initial trials.
- 9) Satan said that a man will give everything for his _____.
- 10) What was Job's body struck with?
- 11) Who said "Curse God and die"?
- 12) What are the names of Job's three friends introduced in Job 2:11?
- 13) Which of Job's friends was called a Temanite?
- 14) How long did Job's three friends sit in silence with him?
- 15) Job cursed the day of his _____.
- 16) "Man is born to _____ ..."
- 17) Who spoke the words Paul quoted in 1 Corinthians 3:19?
- 18) Bildad tells Job that his children died because of what?
- 19) True or false: Job speaks of the "shadow of death" concept.
- 20) True or false: Job says he will not trust God if He slays him.

(Answers on Page 7)

"God Devises Means", By James Moriello

"For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away a life; but He devises means, so that His banished ones are not expelled from Him" (2 Samuel 14:14).

Because of all the strife in King David's family, the king had not seen his son Absalom for three years. Joab apprehended this, and devised a plan with a certain wise woman from Tekoa in order to bring it to pass. These words in our text are the words of that wise woman of Tekoa, and God saw fit to include them in His Holy Book. There are many applications of spiritual truth that can be derived from them. Let us explore two of these.

The first relates to our mortality. Our physical bodies will one day cease to function, not to be "gathered up again" until Jesus returns. In the context of our text, this statement was made to drive home the point that we have limited time on earth, and estrangement within families should not be allowed to continue for a lifetime. Are there any close relations of yours that you have had a falling out with but not recently sought reconciliation with? Don't wait a day longer. As much as it depends on you, be reconciled to your friend or relation.

The second relates to God's salvation. We are all in a sense "banished ones." For we have sinned and are therefore not fit to be in the holy presence of God. But God "devises means" to give us opportunity to enjoy a right relationship with Him nonetheless. This has always been God's heart. Way back in the Garden of Eden, after Adam and Eve sinned, God provided animal skins to clothe them. They were expelled from the Garden of Eden, but they were not expelled from God Himself. Animal blood was shed to make those skins for a covering, for an atonement, and although their relationship with God would never quite be the same as it was before they had sinned, God had devised means to make a restored relationship possible for Adam and Eve (Cf. Genesis 3:21-24). He has devised the ultimate means to ensure that those who put their faith in Jesus Christ and His atoning shed blood as a covering will never be expelled from Him. If God had not devised means by sending His Son, God the Son, Jesus the Christ, to die for sinners, we would have no hope. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him" (Romans 5:8-9).

Resurrection: Our Final Victory: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Quotes from Great Americans of Yesteryear

“The Bible is the Rock on which our Republic Rests” (President Andrew Jackson, 1845)

“Religion and morality are the essential pillars of society” (President George Washington, 1797)

“If virtue and knowledge are diffused among the people, they shall never be enslaved” (Samuel Adams, 1779)

“I shall say with good old Simeon (when he saw the Christ Child brought into the temple): Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen the salvation of my country” (Elderly Statesman Christopher Gadsden, 1787)

“Christianity is the only true and perfect religion, and that in proportion as mankind adopts its principles and obeys its principles, they will be wise and happy” (Signer of the Declaration Benjamin Rush, 1806)

“The belief in a God All-Powerful, Wise, and Good, is essential to the moral order of the world and to the happiness of men” (James Madison, 1825)

“The great vital element in our system is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and divine truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ” (US House of Representatives, 1854)

“We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being” (US Supreme Court, 1952)

“For the Lord is our Judge, The Lord is our Lawgiver, The Lord is our King; He will save us” (Holy Bible, Isaiah 33:22)

Grandparenting by Faith, By Joe McKeever, (Continued from Page 3)

Twice in the last six months, I have undergone surgery. In both cases, teams I did not know put me to sleep and worked on me. My life was literally in the hands of people I did not know. Talk about faith!

Christians live by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the very essence of who we are. “Without faith, it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6). “For by grace are you saved through faith...” (Ephesians 2:8). “This is the victory that overcomes the world, even your faith” (I John 5:4). As you surely know, we could do this all day, citing verses that underline the role faith plays in the believer’s life: Luke 17:6 and 18:8; James 2:18 and Mark 2:5; Mark 4:40; Romans 10:17; I Peter 1:5,7,20, and of course, the great faith chapter itself, Hebrews 11.

First. Our lives: Let us be godly, solid people of faith. Want to bless your grandchildren? Then, start by living a life of integrity and faithfulness. Never let them think you are one thing in public and another in private. Your family should be (and usually are) the authority on your walk with Jesus. While you never want to parade your spirituality before them to impress them, they should catch you in unguarded moments being a child of the King—loving like Jesus did, praying, giving, worshiping.

Second. Our Bibles: Our delight, our food, our legacy. I have my grandmother’s Bible. Bessie Lowery McKeever (1895-1982) may have been the greatest Christian I ever knew.

(Continued on Page 7)

Fun Facts About God’s Creation!

Three-Toed Sloths

- *Live in the tropical forests of Central and South America
- *Sleep in trees, sometimes for up to 20 hours per day
- *Live an average of 20-30 years in the wild
- *Have 3 toes which are adapted so they can hang upside down
- *Are the slowest land mammals, traveling about 5 feet per minute, with a top speed of 0.15 miles per hour

Aye-Aye’s

- *Live in Madagascar
- *Are an endangered species, with only about 1,000-10,000 remaining
- *Are squirrel like primates
- *Have the same life expectancy as Three-Toed Sloths, 20-30 years
- *Are uncommon even in zoos, being found in only seven North American zoos
- *Are so ugly that they are cute, look up a picture of one on the internet

Ring Tailed Cats

- *Can be domesticated
- *Are not actually cats, but in fact mammals belonging to the racoon family
- *Are the state mammals of the state of Arizona

Blobfish

- *Have been called by some the “world’s ugliest animal”
- *Are deep sea fish which live 2,000-4,000 feet underwater off the coast of Australia, and in that general area of the world
- *Cannot swim, and simply wait for food to come to its mouth

Dumbo Octopus

- *Got its name because of its resemblance to the Disney character “Dumbo”
- *Live 13,100 feet underwater
- *Is only 8 inches tall

(Source: www.google.com)

God Versus Satan (Continued from Page 1)

Following Satan and his ways will bring about stress, worry, and suspicion. He makes it his business to take away peace, joy, and comfort at every opportunity.

SATAN

Worries you
Condemns you
Frightens you
Discourages you
Stresses you
Confuses you
Rushes you
Pushes you
Tempt, Tricks and Deceives you

God has given us all free will. Which of these lists sound more appealing to you? Love and positivity? Worry and negativity? Not sure? I encourage you to take time to ponder these things, and I hope you’ll choose your path wisely.

“My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands;
For length of days and long life
And peace they will add to you.
Let not mercy and truth forsake you;
Bind them around your neck,
Write them on the tablet of your heart,
And so find favor and high esteem
In the sight of God and man.
Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.
Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the Lord and depart from evil.
It will be health to your flesh,
And strength to your bones.”
(Proverbs 3:1-8)

Bible Trivia in Job, Answers

- 1) Uz (1:1)
- 2) 10 (1:2)
- 3) Job (1:5) Remember, Job lived before the Old Testament Law was given.
- 4) Angels (Hebrew: bnei ba Elohim)
- 5) Satan (1:9-11)
- 6) House fell down on them as a result of a great wind (1:18-19)
- 7) Job (1:21)
- 8) False (1:22)
- 9) Life (2:4)
- 10) Boils (2:7)
- 11) Job's wife (2:9)
- 12) Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar (2:11), or Eli, Bill, and Zo for short
- 13) Eliphaz (2:11)
- 14) 7 days and nights (2:13)
- 15) Birth (3:1)
- 16) Trouble, or Labor (5:7)
- 17) Eliphaz (5:13)
- 18) Their great sins (8:4)
- 19) True (10:21-22, also see Psalm 23:4)
- 20) False (13:15)

Scoring:

18-20: Excellent Bible Scholar!

15-17: Very Good, Keep at it!

12-14: Getting there, Learning is a lifetime process

0-11: Don't be discouraged, but read the Word daily, and the Lord will teach you

“Oh, that my words were written!
Oh, that they were inscribed in a book!
That they were engraved on a rock
With an iron pen and lead, forever!
For I know that my Redeemer lives,
And He shall stand at last on the earth;
And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,
That in my flesh I shall see God,
Whom I shall see for myself,
And my eyes shall behold, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!” (Job 19:23-27)

For some in depth Bible teaching,
tune in to the Firm Foundation in
Christ Television Ministry!
Northern Rhode Island (Cox Chan-
nel 18 and Verizon Channel 23),
Tuesdays at 10 am and Saturdays at
10 am
Rhode Island Statewide Intercon-
nect B (Cox Channel 14, Verizon
Channel 33), Sundays at 4 pm and
Wednesdays at 3:30 pm

Grandparenting By Faith (Cont. from Page 6)

Third. Our Prayers: Time-released capsules for our loved ones. Nothing kick-starts our prayers like holding a newborn in our hands. That happened when we became parents and went into overdrive when our children made us grandparents. I suggest you pray time-release prayers. We pray for the future events in this child's life: for teachers, best friends, sweethearts, careers, marriage, and such. We pray for them to know Christ and to live for Him. Paul said to the Colossians: “We have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all power...” (Colossians 1:9-11). That pattern is probably as good as we could ask for. We pray for this child to grow up to be thoroughly saved and live a life of righteousness. Among other things that means knowing God's will, walking in a worthy manner, pleasing the Father, bearing righteous fruit, and continually growing in Him. Long after you and I are in Heaven, we trust that the prayers we prayed years earlier will “kick in” and be answered in the lives of these so dear to us.

Four. Our Stories: Telling what God has done for us. Jesus told the man previously known as the Gadarene demoniac: “Go home to your friends, and tell them what the Lord has done for you and how He has had mercy on you” (Mark 5:19). That's a pretty good pattern. Let's tell family and friends what the Lord has done for us. And let's make Jesus the star of the show, not ourselves. There is no room for bragging. We're trying to make a lasting deposit in their lives. I love the last few verses of Psalm 92. “(God's righteous people) will still bear fruit in old age. They will be full of sap and very green, to declare that the Lord is upright, He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.” My outline on that—I'm a preacher, you know!—is that God's faithful old people will be fruitful, youthful (full of sap), beautiful (very green), and truthful (declaring what we have learned of God over our long lives). Someone says, “My family does not want to hear my stories.” I respond, “They will, in time. So, record them.” Get a journal and start writing. Or, open your laptop (where I am working this very moment) and start a Word program or a website. Even if they don't read it now, they will in time.

Five. Our Gifts: Material blessings to these we love. You give gifts to your grands? Sure you do. We all do. My wonderful Grandma Bessie made beautiful quilts for each of her grandchildren (and that was a lot of people!). My wife Bertha makes afghans for friends and loved ones. What do I do? Nothing so spectacular or interesting, but for their birthdays I make personalized cartoon cards (and include a nice check, which they seem to appreciate!). I've given cars to some of my grands. The key thing in giving gifts to our grandchildren is to choose wisely and not overdo it. Then, one more big thing: Once we give to them, we should expect nothing in return. We are not buying their love or their loyalty. In most cases, they will probably not even send a thank-you. But it's all right with me. I know them, and know their hearts, and I know I am well-loved by each of my eight.

I love them fiercely and pray for them every day of my life. It's such a privilege to be a grandfather. I pray to be worthy. (This article has been abridged for space. Used by Permission. To read more of Joe's writings, visit www.joemckeeper.com.)

Abortion: The American Holocaust, Continued from Page 3

“For you formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.” (Psalm 139:13)

Human life clearly begins at conception. What about those who do not accept these things as true because they do not believe the Scriptures? Humanly speaking, we cannot say for sure when life begins, or can we? I submit to you that we can, and the line of reasoning goes as follows. The human life is a continuum, which begins as a single cell at fertilization. We might say that this is the ‘most embryonic’ stage of human life. From that point forward, the person continues to develop as a human being. Blood cells begin to form after seventeen days, the heart begins to form at eighteen days, the heart begins to beat at twenty-four days, the baby looks distinctly human after one month, reflexes and brain waves are operational by the end of two months, and so forth. Ever since fertilization, or conception, we have a person with the capacity to be a functioning adult. There is no time between the points of conception and death that a viable human being does not exist. On what basis then do some select a particular point of time at which a baby goes from ‘un-personhood’ to personhood? It would be untenable to argue that life begins at some point in the womb—say three months—because that is simply a point on the continuum of development. That is, there is no radical change or interruption in the child’s development that would justify such a reach. A second option is viability. Again, who gets to determine viability? Are the infirm elderly, terminally ill, and mentally retarded going to be deemed ‘not viable’ by similar standards? The third option is to say that life begins at live birth. The question then is one of who decides whether or not that child has the inalienable right to live or not. “You shall not commit murder” (Exodus 20:13). Murder is the deliberate killing of another human being. Society does not consider it morally acceptable to strangle a six month old infant? Why then is it acceptable in society, by virtue of making it a legal act, to strangle a baby who has lived five months in the womb of his or her mother? Yes, this happens! And this is not the only barbaric way that the purveyors of infanticide kill babies. They also use suction to pull out the unwanted child piece by piece! These things may sound like scenes from a horror movie, but they happen every day across America in hospitals and clinics.

Now we will speak to those take the ‘pro-choice’ position. First of all, the term is a fallacy. What they really mean is that the mother gets to choose whether or not to kill her baby. However, there is no choice at all for the unborn child, who is unable to fend for him or herself. To coin a term, we will call this the ‘no-choice’ position, as it far more closely describes the reality of the situation. The unborn baby has no choice, for he or she has received a death sentence. “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward” (Psalm 127:3). The Creator has entrusted the mother with another human life. With that comes responsibility, whether the actions that brought her to this point were planned or not. It is true that the baby cannot live apart from the mother, but he or she still ought to be protected by her. A mother would not leave her two month old baby exposed to the elements without food, would she? She has an obligation, and privilege, to provide basic needs. Now if the baby two months in the world could not survive apart from the mother, this surely would not justify killing the child for, say, economic reasons. Yet, this is the very logic used by the ‘no-choice’ folks to justify murder of a dependent baby in the womb. Abortion, especially for the Christian, is a social justice issue. Someone needs to stand up for those who cannot for whatever reason stand up for themselves. It is ironic that many who are the most vocal in their concern about civil rights issues and disenfranchisement of the poor fail to speak up for the most defenseless people of all—children in the womb.

Let us now address some of the arguments and objections raised by the ‘no-choice’ camp one by one. These are smoke screens designed to break down the resolve of those who advocate for children. Their argument is followed by my response.

- 1) Abortion is a private matter between a woman and her doctor. This entirely ignores the fact that whether or not the child lives hangs in the balance. Both God and the child are both deeply involved and deeply concerned with the matter. So is anyone concerned with advocating for social justice, that the baby may live and not die.
- 2) The government has no right infringing upon the matter and legislating morality. One of the responsibilities of human government is to encourage good and to discourage and punish evil (Romans 13:1-5). Otherwise, we would have chaos in society. Government legislates morality all the time. For instance, rape is considered a serious crime and is punished as such.
- 3) Abortion is not a religious issue, and the church has no right getting involved with it. This is partially true. It is primarily a social justice issue—speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. However, for those whose consciences are informed by God through Scripture, there is a greater conviction to act on behalf of unborn babies.
- 4) Restricting abortion would turn back the clock on women’s liberties. Separate issue, or maybe not on second thought. Twenty five million female babies have already lost their liberties because the clock of their lives was stopped prematurely. They never had a chance—or a choice.
- 5) Criminalizing abortion would bring us back to the days of unsafe abortions. This is preposterous! We should not sanction murder for the reason that it can be ‘done more efficiently’!
- 6) Rape and incest are special cases. Studies show that this is true of mothers involved in less than seven percent of abortions. Both involve a terrible crime being perpetrated on the woman. However, the baby would then become the innocent victim. Two wrongs do not make a right.
- 7) Life of the mother is a special case. This is also relatively rare. In such cases, we must do all we can to avoid killing the child, but insofar as it is possible, preserve both lives, ascribing to them equal value.

In conclusion, I challenge you the reader to take a position and a stand on the matter. The murder of unborn babies is a serious crime against humanity, and it is happening legally in our country today. Do not vote for politicians or support organizations that are complicit in the American Holocaust called abortion. Murder under any other name is still murder. If you have been involved in abortion, God’s hand of grace reaches out to you. You cannot undo the wrong, but you can repent before Almighty God and find grace and forgiveness in time of need. May God bless you today.