

Choice v. God

Over the course of your lifetime, how many times can you remember that you've been really thankful for something that the government has done? For me, I can count them on one finger, and it happened this past Friday - when six of the nine Supreme Court justices overturned the deadly *Roe v. Wade* ruling that made abortion a legal "right" across the entire nation.

The Supreme Court didn't outlaw abortion, they merely affirmed that the right to kill your unborn child is nowhere guaranteed in the Constitution. In the majority opinion that struck down the federal mandate, Justice Samuel Alito explains that "*the Constitution makes no mention of abortion.*" This ruling corrects the error of the 1973 decision and sends the authority to decide the legality of abortion back to the states where it belongs. There will likely be many liberal states that will allow abortion, and many godly states that will ban it.

Before I go any further, I want to assure you that this is not some long-winded political diatribe. I am quite certain that my political opinion does not interest you in the least (nor should it). Abortion is not a political issue; it never has been – it is a moral issue. And as such, I must fulfill the ordination vow that I took in this very church – to preach the truth of God's Word.

In the years between *Roe v. Wade* and today, more than 63 million infants were *legally* murdered inside their mothers' wombs – this is nothing short of mass genocide. Abortion in the US has killed more people than Hitler's holocaust (17 mil), or Stalin's genocide (7.5 mil). Without a doubt abortion is our nation's most horrible collective sin. God has judged many nations for their sins – why would we be any different?

More importantly for those of us who've stood silently by while 3,548 (on average) babies were slaughtered every single day in our country – abortion is our vilest personal sin, by way of omission. Those Americans who oppose abortion, and even we Christians who oppose abortion are still in very real

danger of God’s rightful and just judgment falling on us for letting it happen on our watch.

I beg you, in the name of the One and Only God – REPENT! We can never end our crusade for the lives of the unborn. We cannot be passive on the matter; it is literally life and death for these souls. We must end our tradition of complacency, inaction, and silence and rise up as One Nation Under God with a single voice that proclaims that Life has inestimable value at all stages and all ages. Pray that life will soon be viewed as sacred by all people; that God’s people will speak up for each and every life; and that those who’ve been deceived by the devil’s lies about “choice” may come to believe in God’s Word as the only Way and the only Truth.

Combating the Lies of “Choice”

Dear saints please understand that for some wayward souls, there are different “truths” that vehemently oppose the undeniable truths of Scripture. I want us to look at just three of those lies about abortion, and consider the Bible passages that refute them. We have got to be prepared to care for the souls of those who are now in a rage or at the very least an uproar because they feel that they’ve been harmed by the Christian right. The truth is that doubters, haters, the godless, and even liberals are precious to God. We’re commanded by Jesus to speak the Gospel truth to them in love. And in so doing, we’ve got to biblically respond to the lies that they have believed.

Lie #1 “Abortion isn’t murder, because there’s no life until birth”

Even just the definition of abortion is being debated. Christians would say abortion is the taking of a human life. If that’s true – then abortion is nothing less than premeditated murder. Therefore, those who approve of abortion are forced to find a way around such ghastly wrongdoing - so they claim that a fetus (the preborn) is not yet a human, not yet alive.

The Bible clearly states otherwise: the very much alive (although unborn) John the baptizer leapt for joy in his mother's womb when he heard the voice of Mary. *[Luke 1]⁴¹ ...When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb.* Nonliving things don't leap. Masses of tissue don't leap. But we've all seen or felt living babies leap and kick and move inside the womb. There is absolutely no doubt that that baby is alive.

The lie that life doesn't begin until birth is the biggest and boldest of all the pro-choice lies. Those who believe abortion isn't murder are either profoundly ignorant or willingly deceived by the straying world, their sinful flesh, and / or the father of lies himself.

Lie #2

"My body – my choice"

This lie contends that there's only *one body* (one being) involved in the act of abortion – that abortion is no more evil than having a rotten tooth pulled or a diseased organ surgically removed. But the bible speaks plainly of at least 2 persons in pregnancy. God creates a completely separate person inside the mother: *[Psalms 139]¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.* Two separate people are plainly in view. Just as a homeowner doesn't have the right to kill those living inside the house with him (because it's his house), neither does the mother have the right to destroy the child living inside her (because it's her body).

And on top of that, the absurd notion that people are the sole owners of our bodies is contrary to Scripture: *[1 Corinthians 6]¹⁹ ...Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you...? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So, glorify God in your body. My body, My choice* is wrong: logically, morally, and Biblically.

With this lie the pro-death crowd tries to sound philosophical and compassionate. Claiming that all children should be wanted and loved by their parents (very true), and not foisted upon those unprepared couples who neither want them, nor can afford them. I must point out that science has provided many ways to prevent pregnancy - and that society has made sure that those preventatives are available at little or no cost to everyone. The only excuse for unwanted pregnancy is a combination of laziness and lust.

The pro-choice people say that free contraceptives are not good enough – and in the case of being inconvenienced with a pregnancy, these lazy lusty parents must be free to slaughter their unborn child. Prevention takes planning and that’s too hard. It’s easier to kill than take a pill after all. To the loveable numbskulls who think this way, Mother Theresa of Calcutta says, *“It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.”*

God has other ideas about children, He says they’re never a burden, but instead they are blessings: *[Psalms 127]³Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. ⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one’s youth. ⁵Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!*

With my hand raised to God, I can testify that this is the truth! My girls are the most wonderful gift I have ever received – they are the best thing I’ve ever done (their mother may have helped a little), and at every thought of them, I know that I am truly blessed.

Closing

I want to close by sharing with you some excerpts from Christian author Samuel Sey’s blog *“Slow to Write”* dated May 3rd of this year (shortly after the news of the high court’s ruling was leaked):

“...If you didn’t know already — you’re about to find out that the culture wars are just a proxy war of the spiritual war.

We are not merely protecting babies from abortionists; we are protecting babies from Satan. We are not merely debating abortion with “pro-choice” people, we are defending truth and justice against demonic deception and injustice.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
(Ephesians 6:12)

We are not merely wrestling with abortion activists, leftists, and Democrats — we’re wrestling against even more powerful beings.

So, Christians, let’s be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. We should put on the whole armor of God, so that we may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10)

Let’s commit ourselves to praying... Pray for wisdom for pro-life politicians and activists. Please pray for repentance and changed minds for pro-abortion Justices, politicians, activists, and people considering abortions.

Please pray for truth and peace in America. Please pray for repentance for apathetic Christians on abortion.

Please pray that all pre-born babies will finally be rescued from abortion. And please pray that we won’t rest our hopes on sinful judges. Pray that we would rest all of our hopes on the only sinless, unwavering, Judge in the world: Jesus Christ.”

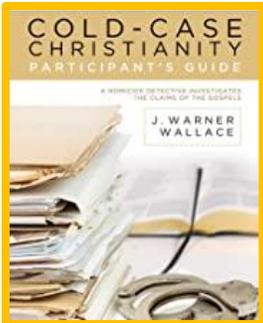
Pray that they understand that our motive is not to win arguments but to win souls - not to condemn their past, but to condone a far better future with Christ

in His Kingdom. Pray that they'll begin to see that we are not motivated by hate, but by love, by the love God showed us, a love that we now earnestly desire to show them.



COLD CASE CHRISTIANITY

(Adult Bible Study – Sunday Mornings)



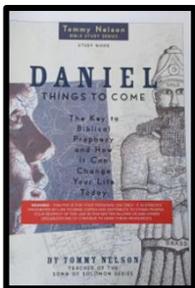
After a rough start on Cold Case Christianity, we are well under way. . .our “Adult Sunday School’ class is exploring Christianity via Cold Case: “A Detective’s View.” This class has proved to be very interesting. If you can join us, it is beneficial...every Sunday morning 0930-1030. We usually start with donuts, coffee/tea and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there.

Gary Jo Lee

DANIEL: Things to Come

Mid – Week Bible Study

(Wednesday evening 6:30 p.m./Thursday morning 10:30 a.m.)



The End Times - perhaps there is no more mysterious and controversial topic in the Bible.

Why study such a subject? Christians ought to know the entire Scriptures, and according to respected Bible teacher Tommy Nelson, knowing how the story ends helps us find our place in the narrative today.

If you want to discover a life of more purpose, peace, and intensity, unlock the prophecies in the book of Daniel.

Join us Wednesday Evenings at 6:30PM or Thursday mornings at 10:30AM.

Vacation Bible School a.k.a. Truth Tuesdays

First Lutheran Church conducted its first off-site VBS program this summer called Truth Tuesdays. Each Tuesday in June we went to Chaparral Apartments so that the children and families there could learn about the true creation event. We had bible lessons, snacks, crafts and activities each day.

We had lots of fun activities and crafts, and some of the favorites were scrubbing off rocks to reveal quartz crystals, making small wooden sailboats, meeting a live bearded dragon, and of course, blowing bubbles!

The real highlight of Truth Tuesdays was that we were able to get God's word into the hands of 14 kids! Each child was given their very own Bible to keep. We plan to invite all of the families at Chaparral to join us this year when the children's Sunday School resumes.

Lutheran's for Life *July*

July 3 – Pentecost IV (Proper 9) – Sometimes testifying to the sanctity of life means confronting uncomfortable truths. Jesus speaks with just such courage to three whole cities in this week's Gospel lesson (Luke 10:13-15). And in our Epistle (Galatians 6:1), the Apostle Paul explains the ultimate purpose of warning against sin: to restore and redeem a treasured neighbor with faith and forgiveness even for abortion or assisted suicide.

July 10 – Pentecost V (Proper 10) – Leviticus 19:15 expresses our Lord's compassion for every human life: "You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great." He has delivered us each from domains of darkness with a grace that receives and preserves no matter what ages, appearances, or abilities. We get to extend the same joy and hope to anyone the culture labels "half-dead" (Luke 10:30)—from the embryo to the elderly!

July 17 – Pentecost VI (Proper 11) – Abortion means abandonment. Parents desert their little ones to death because they themselves feel forsaken. Today's appointed Psalm describes how God wants all those whom others disregard: "Though father and mother have forsaken me, the Lord will take me in" (Psalm 27:10). In the Body of Christ, no one goes unwanted, even during surprise pregnancy. We share Father Abraham's delight (Genesis 18:10) in abundance!

July 24 – Pentecost VII (Proper 12) – Even surprise pregnancies involve a father. More than 60% of women who undergo abortion report pressure to do so from a man in their life. Jesus extends instead the joy of God Himself in a fatherhood that finds beautiful and blessed fulfillment by protecting and providing for the child (Luke 11:11-13). The sanctity of life isn't a women's issue—it's a Gospel gift!

July 31 – Pentecost VIII (Proper 13) – Why settle for "my body, my choice?" Death used as a solution like in abortion or assisted suicide offers pride, pleasure, property, and popularity, but all these only end up in vanity (Ecclesiastes 1:2). The real wealth that eyes don't always see and money cannot ever buy comes from believing our bodies, hearts, and lives belong to the Father and Savior who made each one for His own (Psalm 100:3). Let God give life!

July, 2022

DATE	READER	DATE	USHER
3	Chuck Gray	3	Carol Gray
10	Michelle Brennan	10	Sue Wackerly
17	Bill Heierding	17	Joan Heierding
24	Gary Jo Lee	24	Gary Jo Lee
31	Sue Wackerly	31	Gary Jo Lee

Communion Deacon: Chuck Gray

Altar Guild: Laura Waller

Alternate: Bill Heierding

August, 2022

DATE	READER	DATE	USHER
7	Chuck Gray	7	Carol Gray
14	Michelle Brennan	14	Gary Jo Lee
21	Gary Jo Lee	21	Penny Lee
28	Sue Wackerly	28	Jim Wackerly

Communion Deacon: Bill Heierding

Altar Guild: Laura Waller

Alternate: Chuck Gray

July Birthdays, 2022

4	Joan Monroe	10	Keith Monroe
11	Bonnie Forsberg	14	Jim Wackerly
15	Dot Linn	15	Joan Monroe
17	Carol Gray	24	Joe Glass
27	Kiley Wackerly	28	Pr. John Chandler

August Birthdays, 2022

1	Bryce Brennan	8	Chelsea Dunlap
13	Kassidy Wackerly	15	Shirley Ray
20	Suzanne Borum	27	Gabriel Forsberg
28	Molly Wackerly	28	Noah Forsberg



Gone Home to be with the Lord

A huge reunion was happening in Heaven Tuesday evening about 8:30 our time. Joyce Fahrni went home to be with Jesus. We know she is out of pain and can speak and not cough. She's happy and in the presence of our Lord and Savior. We will miss her terribly. God is in control of our days. Praise God!!

Her Celebration of Life will be held at First Lutheran Church. the family would like us to provide snacks and drinks. We already have volunteers to supply lemonade and tea. We need cookies and other snacks. While I will not be able to be there in person, I will supply cookies and a fruit tray. Please let me know via email firstlutheranchurchokc@gmail.com or by text (405) 892-3596 or phone how you would like to participate – serve during the reception immediately after the funeral, bring something or both.

Joyce Fahrni

Celebration of Life

July 9, 2022

Saturday – 2 P.M.

First Lutheran Church of OKC.