**A WINDOW TO THE WOMB**

***Psalm 139***

Today is November 2, 2020. The news media for the past two years has focused the majority of its attention on tomorrow. Election Day. The talk of the town, as well as the nation, is about more than the politicians running for elective office, but also about “the issues.” Those issues include dozens of topics from A to Z. I searched on the internet this morning to see what the latest research tells us are the “hot button” issues from registered voters as they go to the polls tomorrow. Here is the breakdown:

The Economy (79%). Health care (68%). Supreme Court appointments (64%). Covid pandemic (62%). Violent crime (59%). Foreign policy (57%). Gun rights / Gun control (55%). Race relations (52%). Immigration (52%). Economic inequality (49%). Climate change (42%). Abortion (40%). Others: Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity, Education, Campaign Finance, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Marijuana legalization, Military / defense, Technology, Drug prices, Middle East peace, etc.
(Source: Pew Research Center)

Let me be very, very clear about this. I’m a gospel preacher and a shepherd of the flock of God at this local church. I’m not a politician, and I don’t preach politics. I don’t have any involvement in social media whatsoever (I don’t do FB, Twitter, etc). I’ve never told anyone how to vote. But since we are now living in turbulent times and with a high energy election, many ask us, “Who ya gonna vote for?” Here’s my answer.

I, like the apostle Paul, have dual citizenship. He used his Roman birth certificate to advantage on several occasions (Acts 21, 22, 25, 28), so I will use my American citizenship to vote my conscience. Since 1972, when I cast my first ballot, I have always voted with one issue in mind. It’s not the economy, health care, foreign policy, gun control or climate change. It’s not military service or criminal justice (although I’m very personally involved in that as I work in the prison system to help men find salvation, therefore grace over justice). My issue is the very one God addressed in Genesis and continued to speak on throughout the writing of the Bible.

***LIFE.***

In 1973 the infamous Roe v. Wade landmark decision was handed down in a 7-2 Supreme Court vote. I was 20 years old and a sophomore in college. My peers and I discussed that issue ad infinitum, ad nauseum (in other words, over and over again till we were sick of it). Those discussions drove me to the Scriptures to really study the issue of life, asking the great question: “*When does life begin*?”

Depending on how I answered that would determine how I would vote from that day forward, for on it hangs not only the primary answer of how God sees things (which determines my heavenly citizenship), but secondarily on the answer to our Constitution’s meaning “*Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness*” (which determines my earthly citizenship).

God created man and woman and commanded them to “*multiply and fill the earth*” (Gen. 1:28; 9:1). When Cain killed Abel it became a curse to shed innocent blood (Gen. 4). “*The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground*!” (Gen. 4:10). The taking of human life brings God’s curse and was legislated in His Word as a capital offense worthy of death (Gen. 9:6; Lev. 17:4; Deut. 19:10; Rom. 13:1-7).

So the question turns on the question of “*When*?” When does life begin? When did I begin to be me? Is this a question of science or theology? Should scientists or philosophers or theologians give us the answer? There are all kinds of views to consider. There is the *Genetic View* (life begins at fertilization). The *Implantation View*. The *Embryological View* (life starts at 12-14 days of fertilization). The *Neurological View* (when the brain has matured to produce an EEG). The *Ecological View* (when the fetus can exist outside the womb). The *Birthday View* (when the baby is out of the womb and takes it first breath). There are others. They are interesting (and always changing).

For Christians, we believe the *Biblical View* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We believe the Bible is God-breathed and is the final authority on matters of human life. One thing is certain, God’s Word never contradicts true science (*science* simply means *knowledge*). Scientists are forever changing their positions from one generation to the next because they follow the model of experimentation and discovery. What a medical scientist “knew” as fact in the 17th century has been debunked and replaced by 21st century advancement. But, what Paul and Peter knew to be true in the 1st century has not changed one jot or tittle (Matt. 5:18; Jude 3). It is perfect (I Cor. 13:10; Jam. 1:25).

**Psalm 139:13–16**

*For You formed my inward parts: You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.*

Here is the window to the womb. God wrote this 3000 years ago and modern science is only now catching up with the truth of this statement. Incredible photos of every stage of development have exposed the myth of the fetus (Latin for “little one”) being only a “mass” or “blob” of tissue. Tell that to Courtney Stensrud who gave birth to a baby girl who weighed less than an apple (410 grams – less than 1 lb.) when only 21 weeks, 4 days from conception. She is now a healthy six year old in first grade in San Antonio Texas.

David, with no scientific background, wrote that God knew him “*yet unformed*” (v.16). Truly, David, like all babies, are “*fearfully and wonderfully made*.” (v.14). This passage settled how I would vote from that day forward. I have voted (R), and (D), and (I) over the past 48 years, all depending on whether the candidate supported the silent voice of the unborn child. To me, it’s not about political issues, but the moral issue of life. If we get that wrong, nothing else matters.

I love you. – Rick