

Choose Life

Deuteronomy 30:19



I. The Bible off the bookshelf

1. The Bible is God's unchanging word in the midst of a wayward world.

Psalms 119:89 Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

2. The Bible is our authority, not the warped and wicked society which surrounds us.

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

3. The Bible urges us to choose life.

Deuteronomy 30:19 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 20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.

II. The baby in the belly

1. The Bible presents life in the womb as a provision from God.

Deuteronomy 7:13 The LORD will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land—your grain, new wine and oil—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land that he swore to your forefathers to give you.

1 Samuel 1:20 So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him."

2. The Bible presents life in the womb as a process and procedure of God.

Psalms 139:13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Isaiah 44:2 This is what the LORD says—he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, O Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

Isaiah 44:24 "This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things,

Job 31:15 Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?

Ecclesiastes 11:5 As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.

3. The Bible presents life in the womb as perceived and peered upon by God.

Psalms 139:15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body.

4. The Bible presents life in the womb as packed with potential for God.

Psalms 139:16 All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Isaiah 49:1 Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name.

Jeremiah 1:4 The word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

5. The Bible presents life in the womb as precious to God.

Psalms 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

6. The Bible presents life in the womb as a personality from God.

Genesis 16:11 The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. 12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

Luke 1:30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

Luke 1:39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Luke 1:13 (NASB) But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. 14 "You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb. (And NET and NLT and GWOT)

7. The Bible presents life in and out of the womb as protected by the prohibitions of God.

Exodus 20:13 You shall not murder.

Exodus 21:22 If men who are fighting hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. 23 But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

Jeremiah 22:3 This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of his oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the alien, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

III. The believer at the ballot box

1. The Scriptures clearly bear out that a life in the womb is a God-created human person with lively potential.

Psalms 139:13 You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb.

2. Killing innocent life is grievous to the heart of God.

Proverbs 6:16 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19 a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

3. God charges his people to defend the weak and the oppressed.

Psalms 82:3 Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. 4 Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

4. Jesus exhorted his followers to season their society with righteousness.

Matthew 5:13 You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

5. The Church bears the responsibility to hinder the influence of evil.

2 Thessalonians 2:5 Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? 6 And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. 7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

6. Spiritual and moral responsibility is placed upon those who have been entrusted with influence.

Luke 12:48 From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

7. Killing innocent life was the greatest offense and the last straw in removing Judah from their inheritance.

2 Kings 24:3 Surely these things happened to Judah according to the LORD'S command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all he had done, 4 including the shedding of innocent blood. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD was not willing to forgive.

IV. The believer beyond the ballot box

1. Believers must speak the truth in love about these urgent matters.

Ephesians 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

2. Believers must proclaim and practice the gospel of God's grace and forgiveness for all who will receive.

Ephesians 1:7 In Jesus Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8 that he lavished on us

3. Believers must be loving, compassionate, helpful neighbors to those in crisis and confusion.

Luke 10:33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.