

Abortion in Our Midst

Introduction – Our nation continues to mourn and talk about the 3000 Americans who were murdered on September 11, 2001 (as we should). But little talk goes on about the 3000 Americans who were murdered yesterday, and the day before, and the day before that. 50 million abortions later, we just passed the 38th Anniversary of Roe v Wade. The hands of our nation are covered in blood. The church was virtually silent when the law that demanded every state to allow abortion on demand was passed. With so many years and so many murders, it is also true that personally this blood has affected us. One of the things such numbers can do to us is numb us from responding. What are we to do? What must our nation do?

The Sin of Abortion – If you are faithful to the Scriptures, there is no debate. Abortion is nothing less than the murder of a human being (Ex 20:13, 21:22-25, Psalm 139:13-16). Modern medical technology has not only made abortion a far safer procedure for the mother, it has also revealed the glorious hand of God in the womb in living color and in our growing knowledge of the details of the life and development of a baby during his or her nine months in his or her mother's womb. And the logical fallacies of our nation betray us even in the recent news. Conservatives and Liberals all joined together in acknowledging the ongoing, life-saving work of doctors over Rep. Gabrielle Giffords even though her life depended upon the skill, care, time, sacrifice and expense of others.

The Source of This Murder (James 4:2) – *“You lust and do not have, so you murder”* (my translation). When someone is consumed with their desires, they are full of lust and covetousness. Covetousness not only leads to idolatry; it is idolatry (Col 3:5) and all of this is deadly poison. Many women get abortions because they fear what will happen if they are burdened with raising this child. They may also fear what will happen to their reputation. They may fear what their family, social group, even their husband, might do to them. There are dozens of other fears, a myriad of justifying reasons. But at its core, our national conscience declares that there is a right “to choose” and this comes from our idol called “self.” Self-enhancement, self-enlightenment, self-advancement are the gods of America.

The Wrath of God is Abortion (Psalm 137:8-9) – It is not that God is up in heaven wishing that we would stop killing babies but unable to stop all of this. God is absolutely sovereign over everything and in giving us over to our idolatry and sin (Rom 1:18-32), we are witnessing the judgment of God upon a nation. And this means we must heed His Word lest the discipline only worsen. The answer begins with repentance and confession. The answer to the abortion problem is Jesus.

If the Wrath is Upon You (Psalm 51) – Let us address this as a personal issue as it may be with some of you and most certainly is or will be with others you know. David was guilty of sexual sin and murder and Psalm 51 teaches us about personal repentance and confession. David pled for mercy without making any excuses (vv1-2). He named His transgression and agreed with God's just punishment (vv3-4). David's sin did not make him a sinner, but revealed his nature (vv5-6). He confesses that only God can make him clean (vv7-9) and only God's goodness can restore fellowship, joy, and a steadfast heart (vv10-12) but when God does this, His grace and mercy will be declared (v13). A contrite heart that understands the blood-guilt that has been removed cannot help but break forth in great praise and thanks (vv14-17), and the downhill flow of that sin, being graciously stopped, will also bring forth great sacrificial feast of thanksgiving (vv18-19). Of course, this is only made more clear in and through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 1:8-10). If you make excuses for your abortion and refuse to call it a sin, you will live with the guilt and consequences. But God is in the business of forgiving every kind of sinner (1 Cor 6:9-11). Come and welcome to Jesus Christ.

Since the Wrath is Upon Our Nation – What would it look like for a nation to be led as a nation in repentance? What would it look like for a nation to repent and, in the name of Jesus, be forgiven for murdering 50 million children? It would have to be nothing less than a nationwide awakening. For how many other connected sins would also have to be confessed? How many otherwise secret sins? We know that Hezekiah led Judah in confession and repentance, beginning with acknowledging right worship (2 Chron 29:1-6), leading the nation and even beyond to come before the LORD (30:1, 6-9). Even so, Sennacherib, the king of Assyria threatened to destroy Judah (32:1ff), but the LORD answered Hezekiah's prayer and miraculously spared the nation (32:20-23).

From Whence Comes Repentance? – Many people mocked the message of Hezekiah (2 Chron 30:10) but many humbled themselves and returned to the LORD (v11). And God gave them *“singleness of heart to obey”* (v12). God is in the judgment and God is in the repentance. We must pray for such a singleness of heart to fall upon our nation, from the top-down, and from individual hearts up to the heart of the nation.