

# Man's Obsession with Death and the Christian Fight for Life – Psalm 139:13-16

**Introduction** – Ever since the Fall, mankind has chosen death (Gen 2:15-17). As we pass by another anniversary of Roe-v-Wade and the terrible scourge of the murder of babies in our culture, it is important to see that this fight is not something that began in 1973. It is in the nature of unbelieving man to love death and it has been the work of the kingdom of God to proclaim life from the dead. There have been many battles over the sins of infanticide, abortion, child-abandonment, and suicide/euthanasia – our obsession with death and our imposition of it upon the most vulnerable. It is helpful to remember that there have been victories as we seek the Lord for more.

**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, Luke 1:44, Psalm 51:5). Our medical technology has been a double-edged sword. We can now see the glorious hand of God in the womb in ways we could never imagine, confirming the words of Scripture. But we can also provide “safer” procedures to end that life – safer, at least, for the mother. When a nation hates God, they will by definition love death (Prov 8:36).

**The Valley of the Shadow of Death** – We are far too used to it and we hide it well. We are especially good at hiding death in the present, though often well-researched history brings forth the truth. Are you aware that the 20<sup>th</sup> Century was the bloodiest on record? And yet we tend to think we are a civilized people, quite enlightened from the dark ages (while in our nation alone, we slaughter some 3000 children a day). We fail to realize that this is how it always is when man is left to his fallen nature, removed from God the Father, the Giver of Life.

**The “Thanatos” Factor** – *“The Thanatos Syndrome is simply the natural sinful inclination to death and defilement”* - George Grant. All men have embraced death. *“...And child-killing has always been chief among them”* – Grant.

**Life for the World** – But this is a world of life. Life-created. Life-sustained. Life-redeemed. God sent us the words of life (John 6:68) and ever since, the church has been the minister of life and reconciliation to the world (2 Cor 5:18-21). Wherever the church has gone and flourished, the practices of death have been reversed. Infanticide was rampant in Greece and Rome. So were a variety of abortion practices. But as the church took hold of society and culture, there were reforms which began to protect the rights of the lives of the unborn. George Grant in his, *“Third Time Around: A History of the Pro-Life Movement from the First Century to the Present,”* and Alvin Schmidt in his, *“How Christianity Changed the World”* both document many victories in the pro-life battle over the centuries.

**The Need to See How Wonderfully He Created Us** – In our text, Psalm 139:13-16, we find the only longstanding answer for the abortion problem. Individuals, communities, and nations must come to believe that God created us in His image and that He does that over and over again from the point of conception. The Psalmist refers to himself in the womb; himself with personhood. You can't get from this passage (and the others we have looked at) and then decide it is fine for others to discard the wonderful creation for the sake of our own convenience.

**Coming to Believe** – But here we arrive at the central problem. The world does not believe in Jesus Christ and many Christians erroneously think that Christ has no Lordship position in the public square. This is why we are praying for reformation and revival; an awakening by the Spirit that brings multitudes to repentance, faith and joyful obedience to the God by Whom each of us was fearfully and wonderfully made.

**From Death to Life** – The problem began when death was chosen over life and the ramifications of that went everywhere. The manifestations in all ages have included issues of taking the lives of innocent children. The work Christians have done over many centuries has regularly accomplished much good – but longstanding change has always required the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus applied to individual hearts and then upon communities. The point of this history lesson is not to discourage us but rather first to remind us that this problem did not begin in 1973 and encourage us to look back and see how the church has made a difference in previous centuries. May God be merciful to us once again.