

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 24 (June 7-13, 2015)

Forty-two years ago on January 22, 1973, Roe vs. Wade became the law of our country. More than 55 million children have been torn from the warmth of their mother's womb since that fateful ruling that made abortions legal. This is not a political issue; it is a Biblical issue! We will explore what the Bible teaches on this subject over the next two weeks. (Reprinted from week 3, 2013 with revisions)

Sunday, June 7 (read Proverbs 24:10-12)

Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. (Proverbs 24:11)

This is one of those obscure passages that many believers have never seen. The unborn children do not have many political advocates because they cannot vote. Those of us who know the truth about the origin of life must speak up on behalf of these little ones who have no voice (v. 10). In some states abortion is permitted through all stages of pregnancy, even including partial birth abortions during which the child is pulled from the womb by its feet and killed by a needle in the back of its head. Who is going to rescue these children (v. 11)? The worldview is that this is a **women's right's issue**, but the Biblical worldview is that "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" begins with life in the womb. God knows our hearts and He will repay according to what we do or do not do (v. 12). Will you stand up for these unborn children?

Monday, June 8 (read Psalm 139:1-12)

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? (Psalm 139:7)

The psalmist begins by acknowledging the sovereignty of our Lord (v. 1-4). We serve a mighty God who is **omniscient** (all knowing)! I am amazed that He knows everything about me and loves me anyway! Don't miss the fact that He discerns "my going out and my **lying down**" (v. 3, emphasis mine). He means that literally! David, the writer of the psalm, continues by expressing his amazement of God's **omnipresence** (everywhere at once) in v. 7-10. There is no place on earth or in Heaven or in Sheol (the land of the dead) where we can escape from His watch and care. If we think we can hide from Him our deeds done in the dark (remember v. 3), we are sadly mistaken (v. 11-12). These verses bring us to a discussion on the subject of abortion in tomorrow's devotions.

Tuesday, June 9 (read Psalm 139:13-16)

For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. (Psalm 139:13)

This is one of the most amazing passages in the Old Testament. Having acknowledged God's **omniscience** and **omnipresence** (v. 1-11), David proceeds to the truth that no new life is ever created in the womb apart from the Father's will (v. 13). God oversees each step in the creation of a child and He makes no mistakes! Our Lord not only knits you together in your mother's womb, He also ordains every day for you before one of them passes by (v. 15-16). Can you praise Him today because you are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (v. 14)? David's darkest hour is recorded in 2nd Samuel 11 when he wrongfully takes the wife of Uriah and commits adultery with her. The pregnancy threatens to expose his sin, so David has her husband killed in an effort to cover up his awful deed. You may have your own secret story known only to God. Can you accept His forgiveness today? And can you, like David, get back on the highway of life to teach truth to an unbelieving generation?

Wednesday, June 10 (read Psalm 139:17-18)

When I awake, I am still with You. (Psalm 139:18b)

I ended yesterday's study with two questions. If you answered, "yes," to the first one, you **should be** able to teach others because you have come to recognize just how marvelous our Lord's **grace** is! He knows everything about you! He knows every word you speak and every thought you think; yet He loves you anyway! How amazing is that? I hope you can join David in giving praise to your Holy God, because when you awake, you are still with Him (v. 18). My purpose in writing these devotions is not to bring condemnation to all those who have had abortions, but rather to educate those who have bought into the world's lies concerning this subject. Many are suffering from guilt, and God wants to set you free (John 8:32)!

Thursday, June 11 (read Psalm 139:19-24)

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. (Psalm 139:23)

I confess that there was a time in my life when I felt hatred for Planned Parenthood and for politicians who supported them with my tax dollars and for the "doctors" who performed the death procedures (v.19-22). I have picketed abortion clinics and stood with hundreds of thousands of people at pro-life rallies. Many advocates for abortion are **ignorant** of the Biblical teachings on the subject. Others have found an easy way to get rich because the multi-billion dollar abortion industry is largely unregulated and there are few lawsuits. Their **greed** makes them purposely blind to moral teachings. While their sin is great and we must continue to fight against this assault on the unborn, nevertheless, we can never feel self-righteous. Finally, I am arriving at the place where God wants me (v. 23-24). I will continue to be a voice for the unborn, but I **must also** allow the Lord to search me and to reveal **my** offensive ways. Are you willing to do the same?

Friday, June 12 (read Jeremiah 1:4-10)

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; (Jeremiah 1:5a)

I used this passage on September 20, 2012, but I return to it now because verse 5 is one of the strongest pro-life texts in the Bible. This is personal to me because God healed my voice at age 12 when He called me to preach (v. 6). I had not spoken a word that anyone could understand up until that time. What a joy it is to know that God had chosen me even **before** He placed me in my mother's womb (v. 5)! That fact gives me security, but it also makes me an advocate for pro-life causes. How can anyone miss this truth if he/she really believes God's Word? My Lord also reached out His hand and touched **my** lips to purify them for the task ahead (v. 9-10). Your calling will be different from mine, but God's work in your life began **before** you were created. Can you praise him today?

Saturday, June 13 (read Isaiah 49:1-6)

Before I was born the Lord called me; from my birth He has made mention of my name. (Isaiah 49:1b)

This amazing passage amplifies the pro-life theme of the week. Once again, the call comes from the womb (v. 1). Once again, God guides the mouth to speak His Word (v. 2). Put **your** name in the place of "Israel" in v. 3. Maybe you feel like a failure so far, but God will produce the results **He** wants if you remain clay in The Potter's hand (v. 4). This text actually prophesies the ministry of Jesus on earth, but God commands **us** to **pray daily for Jerusalem** (Psalm 122:6) while **we** also seek to bring His Light to Gentiles (v. 6) during this current Church Age. Praise Him because He formed you in the womb to be His servant (v. 5)!