

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning Week 25 (June 14-20, 2015)

We will continue to study God's Word on the subject of abortion this week. (Reprinted from week 4, 2013 with revisions)

Sunday, June 14 (read Ecclesiastes 4:1-4)

And I declared that the dead, who had already died, are happier than the living, who are still alive. (Ecclesiastes 4:2)

Solomon writes this book with a very cynical attitude. That's because he is only looking at life "under the sun" (v. 1). Even though he is king over all Israel, he sees problems that are too big for even the wisest man who ever lived. He observes that powerful people are oppressing the poor who have no comforter (v. 2). Therefore, he makes a government declaration concerning them. He declares that death would be preferable to being poor, old and helpless (v. 3). That's the same rationale of those who favor **euthanasia** today. Next, he declares that the unborn will be much better off if they are not born into poverty and oppression. That's the rationale of those who favor **abortion** today. He states, "there is nothing new under the sun" (1:9). I would have to agree with him! Therefore, we are to look to the **Son** in His residence "**above the sun**" to find answers better than euthanasia and abortion.

Monday, June 15 (read Galatians 1:11-17)

*But when God, who set me apart **from my mother's womb** and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles . . . (Galatians 1:15-16a, emphasis mine)*

Paul begins this passage by stating that his gospel message came directly from God, not from man (v. 11-12). He reminds the Galatians of his faithfulness to the traditions of Judaism in his early years (v. 13-14). It is at that point that he makes a bold statement concerning the fact that he was "set apart from his mother's womb" (v. 15 footnote) by the grace of God. We saw in the June 12th devotions that Jeremiah was called from **his** mother's womb. Now we see that the Apostle Paul was also set apart **from the womb** for a call he was to hear much later. How many of the more than 55 million aborted babies in the United States would have grown up to be special agents of God? We will not be able to answer that question this side of Heaven!

Tuesday, June 16 (read Luke 1:15, 39-45)

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:41)

I usually use this text during the Christmas season, but I want to emphasize it now that we are studying the abortion issue. The proper translation of v. 15 is "**from his mother's womb.**" Unfortunately, you have to read the NIV footnote to find it. John the Baptist leaps for joy at the sight of the Son of God (v. 41 & 44). This happens three months **prior** to John's birth. Amazingly, Jesus is only several days old in Mary's womb. This passage, alone, would make me pro-life forever, but when it is added to all the others I have taught over the last nine days, the conclusion becomes obvious. Are we going to continue to allow our politically correct society to brainwash our children

Wednesday, June 17 (read Matthew 18:1-4)

He called a little child and had him stand among them. (Matthew 18:2)

In today's study, Jesus uses a little child as an object lesson to teach His disciples. They are concerned about which one of them will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (v. 1). Jesus teaches true salvation by calling a little child to stand beside Him (v. 2). He says, "Unless you change and become **like little children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (v. 3). Young children are loving, trusting, pure, forgiving, honest and teachable, just to mention a few obvious qualities. Jesus is telling His own disciples that "they must be born again." A true believer is not concerned about who will be the greatest. The person who **is** the greatest will be the one who realizes that salvation is the "gift of God." True humility will result from the knowledge that we can do nothing to deserve His great gift (v. 4)!

Thursday, June 18 (read Matthew 18:5-6)

And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. (Matthew 18:5)

I used this entire passage in week 20 of 2012, but I return to it because it is so significant to the subject of little children. The abortion industry should be horrified by the 5th verse. Abortionists have denied continued life to more than 55 million unborn children. The warning in v. 6 should scare all of us. We have allowed schools to teach sex education without even mentioning **abstinence**; we have sat on our "blessed assurances" while TV shows target our children with filth; the video game industry glamorizes violence and desensitizes our children; the music industry targets youth with obscene lyrics; homosexuality is taught as an alternate lifestyle instead of an abomination to a Holy God. Can God's judgment be far away for our country?

Friday, June 19 (read Matthew 18:7-9)

Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come! (Matthew 18:7)

Jesus acknowledges that ungodly things, such as the few I listed yesterday, will enter the lives of our children (v. 7). Each industry promoting the filth that our kids are exposed to is a multi-billion dollar business. How do we stand up against the forces of evil? We start by setting a Godly example for our youth. We know that Jesus is **not** advocating mutilating our earthly bodies (v. 8-9). That would not keep us from sinning anyway. What **is** He saying then? He is warning us to be very careful what we touch (hand), where we go (foot), and what we look at (eyes). The pornography business (another multi-billion dollar industry) knows that all sexual acts occur in the head before they occur in the bed. We must be very careful how we live; our children and grandchildren are watching!

Saturday, June 20 (read Matthew 18:10-14; 19:13-15)

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)

Jesus uses the parable of the lost sheep to teach us just how much He cares about each little life (v. 10-14). He is "not willing that any of these little ones should be lost" (v. 14). Verse 11 appears only in the footnote of the NIV because most early manuscripts did not include it. "The Son of Man came to save what was lost" is an accurate biblical quote, however, because it also appears in Luke 19:10. The disciples have not yet learned the value of little children, so they try to stop them from coming to Jesus (19:13). After all, children don't contribute to the treasury and they require care. Our Lord reminds them and us that "the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these" (v. 14). Observe the pure qualities of little children and you will finally understand that Jesus **accepts us** as we are and then **grows us** into what we can be by His Spirit.