



**Forest Hill
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Matthew Martin, Associate
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Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A..M.
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Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

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Words of the Master

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HANDS THAT SHED INNOCENT BLOOD

Brandon Britton

[Editor's Note: Tuesday, January 22, 2006 marks the 33rd anniversary of the infamous Supreme Court decision, Roe vs. Wade. Those who love God, the Giver of life, must ever be at the forefront defending innocent human life.]

When you think of God one of the first words that comes to mind is the word love. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love (1 John 4:8). "We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). It is logical to associate God with love, but what about hate? Hate is a strong word and one we seldom use in association with God. For that very reason we should "take notice" whenever God says He hates something. In Proverbs 6, Solomon lists seven things that the Lord hates and one of them is hands that shed innocent blood. Understanding this should cause me to make certain I am on the "right side" of such an issue, because I certainly would not want to side with something God says He hates.

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isa. 5:20). Although written to Israel nearly three thousand years ago, the warning of Isaiah is timely and applicable to the United States today. It is both tragic and true that we witness injustices on a daily basis. Too often these injustices are handed down from our highest courts and elected officials. When I learned that a federal court declared the words "under God" to be unconstitutional (and therefore un-American), I was reminded of Isaiah's words. When I learned that the guilty verdict and death sentence of a convicted murderer was appealed and overturned because the jury contemplated what the Bible had to say about crime and punishment, I was reminded of Isaiah's warning. Every time I see or hear something that reminds me it is legal in this country to execute the unborn, and that it has been done nearly fifty million times since 1973, I cannot help but believe we have become the very about which Isaiah spoke.

How can a person possibly endorse the killing of the unborn? I wish it was that simple. In actuality the question is how can one hundred fifty million people support the killing of the unborn, because statistics show that roughly half of all American citizens support the legalization of abortion. The most perplexing aspect of this to me is that so many of those who support abortion, oppose capital punishment. It is beyond my understanding how people can demand that murdering an unborn child be legal and out of the same mouth argue that executing convicted murderers should be outlawed. Though I don't understand this "logic," many powerful and popular groups espouse this view.

Groups like the National Organization of Women (NOW) and the ACLU support the continued legalization of abortion on demand and oppose the death pen-

alty for convicted murderers. Linda Miklowitz, president of the Florida chapter of NOW was quoted as saying, "We believe that life begins at birth, and we're very pro-life from that point. While NOW doesn't have a formal stand on the death penalty, as it is not one of our main issues, we deplore unnecessary loss of life of persons who are already born in unnecessary wars and unnecessary executions." Did you notice that she stated they believe life begins at birth? If you have ever seen an ultrasound or felt a baby kicking inside the belly of its mother you would either have to be a complete idiot or a liar to argue that what is inside is not alive. No wonder Jeremiah lamented, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Truly we are calling evil good.

The Bible teaches that an unborn child is very much a child. "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee" (Jer. 1:5). "And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb" (Luke 1:41). Although this is describing an unborn child in the womb, the word used here is "brephos." It is also used in Luke 2:12,16 to describe the Christ child wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. Both before and after birth the Lord refers to it as a child. Regardless of what activists, politicians or even doctors may say, the Lord has said it is a life and He hates the hands that would shed the blood of that innocent life.

The overwhelming majority of those who will read this will not be doctors and even the small percentage who are, very few, if any, of them will have ever performed an abortion. So why talk about those who shed innocent blood? The answer is simple...I do not actually have to perform an abortion to have my hands stained with the blood of the innocent. If I support abortion, or support those who do endorse the continued legalization of abortion the blood is on my hands. Just like Pilate, who thought washing his hands cleansed him from all guilty in the crucifixion of Jesus, those who turn a blind eye to this genocide are stained. So many of the elected officials in this land proudly and boldly declare that they would not appoint or support a judicial nominee for the Supreme Court if he opposed abortion. I can try and justify it, soothe my troubled conscience or just ignore it altogether, but the truth remains that if I vote for those who make such proclamations or hold to such opinions, I too am guilty of shedding innocent blood. When my vote empowers such men to legalize these atrocities my hands drip with innocent blood.

Perhaps the most pathetic and humorous (if it

were not so serious) aspect of all is the games people often play when trying to defend their support of abortion. Many people, and most politicians, claim to personally and morally oppose abortion, but legally support Roe v. Wade (the Supreme Court case that legalized abortion on demand). This has to be one of the most ridiculous and hypocritical statements I have ever heard. Can you imagine Paul or Peter saying, "Personally I am opposed to human sacrifices to idol gods, but I support every parent's right to burn their children alive as an offering to Molech"?

Try as one might to justify this barbaric practice, the truth still remains that God hates hands that shed innocent blood. This does not just apply to the one holding the scalpel, vacuum hose or saline injection needle, but also to the politicians and judges who give him the legal power to do so, and to the citizens of the United States who vote them into office giving them the power to do so. Friends, when I can open a newspaper and read where people are protesting the execution of convicted murderers and "protecting" a woman's "right to choose" (abortion), we have got it all backwards. God help us to stop calling evil good and good evil before it is too late.

(from *Upon TheRock*, Vol. 9, issue 1)

Brandon Britton is one of the evangelists of the East Hill Church of Christ in Pulaski, Tennessee.

“Cultures can be judged in many ways, but eventually every nation in every age must be judged by this test: How did it treat people?...Our own is no exception. Those who regard individuals as expendable raw material...do battle on many fronts with those who see each person as unique and special, worthwhile, and irreplaceable.”

Francis A. Schaeffer

AMERICA'S HOLOCAUST

Frank Chesser

In the course of human history, events sometimes occur which stir the moral indignation of sensitive people throughout the world. Such was the case when Hitler and the Nazis tortured and murdered six million Jews. Their action was consistent with German law which had been changed to permit such mass extermination of Jewish people.

President Roosevelt described the bombing of Pearl Harbor as a day that would "live in infamy." Such a day also occurred on January 22, 1973, when the U.S. Supreme court legalized the wanton slaughter of innocent children nestled quietly in the protective nursery of their mother's womb.

Webster defines murder as the killing of another human being with malice or forethought. What is the difference in a contract killer being hired to take the life of another and a doctor who is employed to destroy by cruel mutilation the life of an innocent baby while sleeping in its mother's womb? Both are paid assassins.

Child sacrifice for idolatrous purposes was a prevalent practice in the Old Testament times. "They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal" (Jer. 19:5). In our day, those who have devoted themselves to sensuous practices have conceived a similar action for unwanted children, the innocent product of their own carnality.

Consequently, since the infamous decision of January 22, 1973, multiplied millions of children have been murdered under the guise of legalized abortion. Such mass extermination of innocent lives is perfectly consistent with the laws of our land as was characteristic of the Nazi's annihilation of six million Jews under German law.

The law of God condemns with equal fervor the heartless atrocities of Nazism and the callous transformation of the mother's womb into a bloody chamber of torture and death. It is pure folly to think that a nation can devote itself to the mass destruction of children and escape the judgment of God.

Those who support the right to life are greatly encouraged by the nomination of Judge Samuel Alito to the United States Supreme Court. Please contact your senators to voice your support. In Tennessee:

**Bill Frist (202-224-3344) or (www.frist.senate.gov)
Lamar Alexander (202-224-4944) or
(www.alexander.senate.gov)**

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