TITLE: Values Voting

 Life

TEXT: Jer. 4:1-5; Ps. 139:15-16; Pr. 14:12; Ro. 12:19;

Gen. 50:20; Phil. 4:13; Deut. 27:19; Ps. 94:1-6; Jer. 32:34-35;

Ezek. 16:20-23; Mt. 19:14; Jer. 7:5-7

INTRODUCTION: Values voting, what is it?

 Being a values voter essentially means a voter that places their highest priorities on how a candidate stands on value issues such as the right to life of our nation’s unborn children.

 In talking about values voting this morning we are going to discuss life.

 For the values voter probably thee paramount issue for us should be life. Life is central to the abortion debate.

 We can dance around the edges of the issue by defending our position, whatever that position may be, on many other fronts and for many other reasons but it really all comes down to life and our definition of it.

I have known Christians that are generally against abortion and would identify themselves as very pro-life but have some reasons in their own minds where abortion may be justified.

Some will say that they are not for abortion, well unless the woman is raped or the pregnancy is a product of incest.

 In other words there are exceptions to their pro-life position.

 In the early days of the discussion before Roe vs Wade was decided this was thee argument that the pro-choice or anti life group used to try to persuade the passing of a national law allowing abortion.

 Regardless of their intent once Roe vs Wade was decided upon by the Supreme Court a door was opened that has led to over 60 million abortions in our nation. Does that mean that 60 million women were raped or suffered incest or had their lives put in danger by the pregnancy? No! Statistically less the 1% of the abortions performed in this nation is done for any of these reasons.

Almost 99% of the abortions performed in America are non-therapeutic abortions. 99% of abortions in America are performed for no other reason than the perceived connivance of the woman.

 Thus abortion has become nothing other than another form of birth control in America.

 Which it is clinically not because birth control keeps life from beginning while abortion snuffs out that life after is has already begun.

Now don’t get me wrong, when a woman is raped and becomes pregnant because of that rape it is a terrible thing. A very, very hard thing!

 But to just automatically think that the solution is to snuff out the life within her womb is a very dangerous position to take because of regardless of the reason behind the pregnancy that which is in the womb is still a life.

Life is central to the abortion issue and that is why those that promote legalized abortion strive so hard to define the fetus as nothing but a mass of tissue until it comes out of the womb.

There is absolutely no science behind their belief but it does ease the conscience if one can convince oneself that what you are doing is not really taking a life.

So what does Gods word have to say about life and where it begins?

The Lord had these words to say to the prophet Jeremiah…

 **Jeremiah 1:4-5 ( NIV )****4The word of the LORD came to me, saying,****5“Before I formed you in the womb I knew****£** **you,    before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”**

Jeremiah was recognized as a life, a person, by God from the moment of his conception!

 **Before I formed you in the womb I knew****£** **you,    before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”**

 God had a calling upon the life of Jeremiah while he was yet inside his mother’s womb!

God saw the potential of that life long before it was viable outside of his mother womb.

King David said this in the Psalms..

 **Psalms 139:13-16 ( NIV )****13For you created my inmost being;    you knit me together in my mother’s womb.****14I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;    your works are wonderful,    I know that full well.****15My frame was not hidden from you    when I was made in the secret place.    When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,****16your eyes saw my unformed body.    All the days ordained for me    were written in your book    before one of them came to be.**

 Does God recognize life inside the womb, even at its most early stages? Yes He does!

 God recognizes life as life from the instant of conception!

 And we can try to convince ourselves otherwise to help ease our conscience but it does not change the truth of life’s origin and just when it begins..

**Proverbs 14:12 ( NIV )****12There is a way that seems right to a man,    but in the end it leads to death.**

 How fitting this verse of Scripture is to the issue of legalized abortion in America today.

**There is a way that seems right to a man,    but in the end it leads to death.**

The way of abortion on demand has seemed right to us as a nation and its end has led to the death of over 60 million of our most innocent citizenry, our unborn children.

And we seem to think that God will never hold us to account for what we have done or allowed to be done as a nation!

 That somehow as Americans we are exempt from Gods judgment for sins condoned as a nation!

Founding father George Mason, The author of our Bill of Rights once said this:

 *As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providence punishes national sins by national calamities.*

 Mason rightly understood that as nations don’t have a soul that will one day have to stand before God and give an account for what they have done; any judgment for a nation must take place for them in this world!

 *As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providence punishes national sins by national calamities.*

 I couldn’t help but think over these past months with what has gone on in our economy because of the Covid pandemic what better way for God to judge America then with what we have so often placed above Him…Our materialism, our wealth and prosperity!

Let me ask a very serious question this morning?

 Church, when is life not worth protecting?

Is there a time when Life is not worth protecting?

 I have a very good friend whose daughter was raped a few years ago and became pregnant because of that rape. My friend was angry and wanted to kill the guy who did it. It was a hard time for their family.

 He woke up in the middle of a night and God spoke to him and said just let it go. Trust me.

 God gave him this verse of Scripture..

**Romans 12:19 ( NKJV )** **19Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, *“Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,”*****£** **says the Lord.**

 He said an amazing peace came over him in that moment and he lost all hatred against this person.

 He says that this child, his first grandchild is the joy of their lives and they cannot imagine what life would be without this little guy.

God’s grace is an amazing thing! God’s grace can empower us to do all things, endure all things and make good all things.

 When Joseph finally confronts his brothers who had sold him into slavery many years earlier, he said this to them…

 **Genesis 50:20 ( NIV )** **20You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.**

 Joseph could have been bitter and was in a position to get retribution but instead he embraced the healing grace of God.

 So am I saying because my friend got through this so well that it shouldn’t be a problem for others who may go through it. No!

 It is just an example of Gods amazing grace and that we can claim and believe the promises of His word as His children.

 Promises such as:
**Philippians 4:13 ( KJV ) 13I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**

 Many if not most young woman who have had abortions really struggle with their decisions for years afterwards. Sometimes consciously and sometimes subconsciously.

 If the aborted child is just a mass of tissue like a tumor than why would there be a struggle, a haunting feeling of things not quite right within them?

 I believe because there is a deep down understanding imbedded by our creator of life and its sacredness.

 Many who have had abortions have been forgiven and have had their hearts healed by the Grace of God. And thank God for His grace of forgiveness and emotional and spiritual and physical healing…

But life, all life, whether inside or outside of the womb is precious in God sight!

 Jesus went to the cross for the lives of the unborn just as much as those who have been born.

 David under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit says this is: **Psalms 51:5 ( NIV ) 5Surely I was sinful at birth,    sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**

 We are all born into sin and that sin starts at conception.

 We are all sinners and things beget things of their own kind…two cats have kittens, two dogs have puppy’s, to human beings produce human beings, two sinful human beings reproduce after their own kind—sinful human beings.

 Now unborn children, like all small children, I believe are covered by God’s grace until they come to an age of accountability but they are still born sinners as we all are and it was only what Jesus did on the cross that saves them. So Jesus laid down His life for them as much as for us!

So the question remains, we will stand up for life in this upcoming election and all future elections?

Do we know where the candidates, whether Presidential, Senatorial or Congressional, stand on this issue? The issue of life!

 To me this ought to be the ultimate game changer for a values voter!

 Does the man or woman that I am casting my vote for promote a culture of life or a culture of death?

**Deuteronomy 27:19 ( NIV ) 19“Cursed is the man who withholds justice from the alien, the fatherless or the widow.**

**Psalms 94:1-6 ( NIV )****1O LORD, the God who avenges,    O God who avenges, shine forth.****2Rise up, O Judge of the earth;    pay back to the proud what they deserve.****3How long will the wicked, O LORD,    how long will the wicked be jubilant?****4They pour out arrogant words;    all the evildoers are full of boasting.
5They crush your people, O LORD;    they oppress your inheritance.
6They slay the widow and the alien;    they murder the fatherless.**

 The Hebrew word for fatherless used here is:

***thome'* root meaning to *be* *lonely*; a *bereaved* person:—fatherless (child), orphan.**

The Greek equivalent is

***fan-os'***

***bereaved* (“orphan”), that is, *parentless:*—comfortless, fatherless.**

 Every aborted child in this nation has been fatherless (and motherless) at the time that their life was ended.

The sole role of a Father and Mother in the pages of Scripture is to protect and to nurture their children.

 A man and a woman can biologically produce a child but that act does not make them a Father or a Mother in the biblical sense!

A father protects and a mother nurtures!

 Aborted children are both fatherless and motherless in that sense! They have no one to protect or willing to nurture them.

 In this nation have we have erected a modern day alter to the ancient false god Molech.(molock).

*Molock Baal was* the chief deity of the Ammonites and worship of this pagan deity required its followers to sacrifice their children to him.

 Some within Israel got caught up in this pagan idolatry.

**Jeremiah 32:34-35 ( NIV )****34They set up their abominable idols in the house that bears my Name and defiled it.****35They built high places for Baal in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to sacrifice their sons and daughters****£** **to Molech, though I never commanded, nor did it enter my mind, that they should do such a detestable thing and so make Judah sin.**

 **Ezekiel 16:20-23 ( NIV )
20“‘And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was your prostitution not enough?****21You slaughtered my children and sacrificed them****£** **to the idols.****22In all your detestable practices and your prostitution you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, kicking about in your blood.****23“‘Woe! Woe to you, declares the Sovereign LORD. In addition to all your other wickedness,**

**you built a mound for yourself and made a lofty shrine in every public square.**

**21You slaughtered my children and sacrificed them****£** **to the idols.
22In all your detestable practices and your prostitution you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, kicking about in your blood.**

What is this referring to when it says: **you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, kicking about in your blood.**

This is speaking of when they were in their mother’s womb! A time When they were naked and bare and kicking around on the inside of their mother!

**23“‘Woe! Woe to you, declares the Sovereign LORD. In addition to all your other wickedness,**

**you built a mound for yourself and made a lofty shrine in every public square.**

 Have we made a lofty shrine in the public square within America today! I think we have!

 That lofty shrine is the national sanctioning of abortion on demand.

Every abortion clinic is a shrine to Molock!

 I believe that Jesus words in Mt. 19:14 speak as much to our unborn children as to any child that has been born….

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

 Church, God has called us as His disciples to stand in the gap for them! We have been called to defend the fatherless! To defend their cause and to become their voice.

 There are two primary ways that we can do that.

I will give the lesser of the two first.

 We need to stand up for all the unborn children of this nation by doing our best to elect leadership that respects and will stand up for life! All Life!

This is possibly thee most important issue for a values voter! To respect life and step into the gap of fatherhood and motherhood for our unborn citizenry that has no voice of their own.

To elect men and women that have a compassion for the unborn and have a desire to stop the holocaust of killing our most innocent and vulnerable citizenry.

Men and women who will give them a voice!

Secondly and most importantly, we need to be reaching out to others with the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

 To strive to share the Gospel of Jesus with our friends and relatives and co-workers leading them into the loving and compassionate arms of the Savior.

The best way to reduce and even eliminate the problem of abortion is to lead men and women to Christ so that Jesus can change them from the inside out and give them His perspective of life!

I would dare say that most of us who are adamantly prolife may not have always been that way, but it was our relationship with Christ and our knowledge of Him that changed our mind or gave us real conviction about the sanctity of life, all life.

The best way to change the direction a nation has taken away from God is the change the individuals within that nation!

God is a lot better at convicting men of sin and changing hearts and minds then we can ever be!

 So if we really want to see a dynamic change in the direction our nation is taking we need to fulfill the great commission our Lord has given to each of us as His followers.

 To go into all parts of our world and make disciples! Introduce others to Jesus so Jesus can start that process of regeneration within their lives as He has in ours.

 I have not always been as pro-life as I am today. There was a time in my younger life when I agreed with the rape and incest argument. That abortion was ok in those cases. It was through my relationship with Christ and my study of Scripture that has convinced me otherwise!

 And what convinced me was that if it is life when a pregnancy is wanted and planed it is still life when it is not wanted or planed!

The issue is life not how the life comes about!

If abortion is wrong because it is the taking of an innocent life than abortion is wrong for any reason!

If we stand on this issue in any other way then our stand is faulty!

 God’s grace is an amazing thing! It is an all-powerful thing for those who will reach out and grasp it!

 God’s grace can enable a woman to bear an unwanted or unwelcome pregnancy. God grace can give a woman the ability to love her child no matter how it came into being! God’s grace can give a woman the compassion to give that child to someone who does want it if she isn’t able to care for it.

 God’s grace can even give the strength to a woman who chooses to have her child even though it may mean sacrificing her life in exchange.

 None of this is easy but all is possible through the amazing sufficiency of God’s grace.

In this upcoming election will you stand up for life?

 Will you vote your conscience and give a voice to those whose voice cannot be heard?

There is a wonderful promise in Scripture for us as a nation if we do.

**Jeremiah 7:5-7 ( NIV )
5If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly,
6if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm,****7then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your forefathers for ever and ever.**

**14Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”**

Our calling Church is to stand up for the fatherless.

 Stand up for those who have no voice of their own and cannot defend themselves.

Will we be faithful to that calling and vote our values in this election.

Allowing our conscience to be our guide…..

 Find out where the candidates running for any office stand on this issue, find out where your political parties platform is on this issue and then vote you Christian conscience..

Charles Finney in 1835… “The Church must take right ground in regard to politics... Politics are a part of a religion in such a country as this, and Christians must do their duty to the country as part of their duty to God... God will bless or curse this nation, according to the course Christians take in politics.”