

RESPECT FOR LIFE

INTRODUCTION.

- I. Those who died in the world at the hands of evil-doers is great.
 - A. The Old Testament records innumerable deaths in the wars of old.
 - B. In our day, the tragedy of death continues.
 1. In WW2, America lost some 400,000 service men.
 2. In Germany, Hitler was responsible for killing some 6 million Jews.
 3. In Russia, some 11 millions soldiers died, and as many as 20 million civilians died at the hands of Stalin.
 4. An estimated 500,000 Iraqians died at the hands of Saddam Hussein, and some 300,000 died in Iran by their leaders.
 5. In America, some 60 million innocent children have been aborted since 1974.
- II. This being the 15th anniversary of 9-11-11 when 2996 Americans died and some 6,000 were injured, in the New York invasion, it behooves us to think about the Origin, Brevity, and Preciousness of physical life itself.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let's consider the origin of physical life.

- A. God is the author of life, as begun in the garden of Eden. Gen. 1:26f; 2:7,20-24
- B. The makeup of humankind is basically body and soul (or spirit).
 1. At conception, God gives a soul to every human body. Job 32:8; Eccl. 12:7; Heb. 12:9; Jas. 2:26; Mat. 10:28
 1. Every human being has this makeup, which is above animal life which does not possess this likeness of God, and were formed for the benefit of mankind.

II. 2nd, let's consider the brevity of physical life.

- A. Physical life came into the world through the sin of Adam and Eve and man's eventual separation from the tree of life. Gen.2:15-17, 3:22-23
- B. Life is brief at the most.
 1. The early age of mankind showed life lasted for hundreds of years.
 2. With the changes in the environment of the world and other factors, man now does not have that longevity. Psa.90:10; Job 14:1,2; Heb.9:27; Jas.4:13f; 1Pe.1:24

III. 3rd, let's consider the preciousness of life.

- A. God forbids the taking of human life in murder, but permits it against evil-doers. Exo.20:13; Gen.9:6
- B. The **rest** of this lesson will focus on "abortion" or the unnecessary taking of the life of innocent children, especially in America.
 1. The Roe Versus Wade decision on Nov. 22, 1973 was the beginning of this evil which has resulted in some 60 million babies in America since that time.
 2. "Roe" was the legal name given to Norma McCorvey, who was having trouble in her marriage and wanting a divorce, but was persuaded by a feminist to lie and be used in the effort to legalize abortion for America, rather than get a divorce.
 - a. Her child was never aborted, but was born before the Supreme Court made decision, and was adopted out, and alive today with her own children.
 - b. Norma deeply regrets her being used in this way, and is dedicating her life to the undoing of legalized abortion, which she despises, and says she will be burdened with her part in this matter for the rest of her life.
- C. The Bible condemns the practice of abortion.

1. Several Old testament passages are helpful in this matter that we shall analyze Gen. 25:23-26; Exo. 21:22, 23; Num. 12:11,12; Psa. 22:9; Eccl. 1:5; Lev. 17:11; cf Luke 24:1,36-39; Ruth 1:11; Jer. 1:5; 20:18,19; Gen. 9:6; Prov. 6:16,17
 - a. (The above passages show that there is a “child” in the womb.)
 - b. One particular passage describes the loss of an unborn child as “life”.
Exo. 21:22,23
2. The Greek word *brephos* is used to describe an “unborn child, a newborn child, or child.” Luke 1:41,44; 2:13,16; 18:15; Acts 7:19; 2 Tim. 3:15; 1Pe.2:2
 - a. Several of these verses speak of a woman being “with child”, which is the definition of being “pregnant”.
 - b. “With” child shows that there IS indeed a child there, being developed but not yet born or delivered.

CONCLUSION

- I. Let us remember and honor those who have been brutally murdered or killed in war, or in other ways showing their patriotic duty or helping to protect the rest of us.
- II. Now is the time to also and most importantly take care of our souls in relation to God and eternity.
 - A. Our souls are most important and must be prepared for in this life through obeying the gospel of the Lord. He.5:8.9
 - B. We gain nothing and lose all if we neglect the soul till death.