

**“The Priority of Human Life”
Psalm 8**

Big Idea – Every human life is sacred and matters to God.

Psalm 8:1 “LORD our Lord, your name is the most wonderful name in all the earth! It brings you praise in heaven above.

2 You have taught children and babies to sing praises to you because of your enemies; so you silence your enemies and destroy those who try to get even.

3 I look at your heavens, which you made with your fingers. I see the moon and stars, which you created.

4 But why are people important to you? Why do you take care of human beings?

5 You made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

6 You put them in charge of everything you made. You put all things under their control:

7 all the sheep, the cattle, and the wild animals,

8 the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that lives under water.

9 LORD our Lord, your name is the most wonderful name in all the earth!”

1. Who created life?

God is the Creator of all life –

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created...”

Gen. 1: 26 God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female he created them.**

John 1:1 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He existed in the beginning with God.

3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.

4 The Word gave life to everything that was created

Acts 17:25 "...He gives to all life, breath and all things."

Man says – evolution. Evolution cannot answer:

Something from nothing

Inorganic matter to organic matter

Plant life to animal life

Animal life to human life

2. When does life begin?

Life begins at conception.

Psalms 139:13 "You made my whole being; you formed me in my mother's body.

14 I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well.

15 You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there,

16 you saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old."

Ultra sound is a wonderful educational tool that shows us:

1. At conception, all the genetic makeup is there. If there is no disturbance, the baby will become a human being.

2. Thirteen days after fertilization, even before you find out whether you are pregnant, every part of the body begins to form.

3. Doctors inform us that, generally, by the 18th day, there is a heartbeat. So in less than three weeks, there is blood flowing through the body of the baby.

4. At 42 days, brain waves can be recorded using an EEG device.

5. At 7 weeks, the baby has fingerprints, which he will carry for the rest of his life.

6. At 8 weeks, the baby responds to touch and moves away from painful contact

7. At 9-10 weeks (barely over 2 months), the body is virtually complete; it's just a matter of size.

8. You see, THE LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD! At the moment of conception, he is a human being.

What about the “quality of life” argument?

Leads to infanticide, euthanasia, assisted suicide...

Some think this subject not applicable to you. Yet the infanticide/ Abortion/euthanasia issue is closely linked. One Scandinavian country already gives Doctor, not patient, the right to decide when to terminate/end life. In the US-Fetal tissue is being used to try to reverse the effects of Alzheimers. Soon we may have to decide if prolonging the life of the elderly is worth killing the unborn. The Sanctity of life/Abortion/euthanasia issue is relevant to us all!

3. What is a human life worth?

Every human life is sacred, special, and worth living

The unique characteristic of each human being is the reflection of being created "in His image." Each of us reflects the very image of God. How? Mankind alone has intellect, emotion, and will, and the desire to worship someone or something higher than himself.

God sent Jesus to die on the cross for man's sins – (Romans 5:8; John 3:16)

Mark 8:36 “What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

If we lose sight of the value placed on human life, we are susceptible to the temptation to destroy that life designed by God. Life is sacred. When life is destroyed, we lose the impact of a life that could have enriched our lives and brought glory to God.

The movie, It's A Wonderful Life, allows a man to see what the world would have missed if he had not been born.

A college professor presented this challenging situation for his ethics class to consider. "A man has syphilis and his wife has tuberculosis. They have four children. One has died; the other three have terminal illnesses. The mother is pregnant again. What do you

recommend?" The class voted to terminate the pregnancy. The professor noted they had just killed Beethoven.

Ethel Waters, the great gospel singer, was born to a 13-year-old child who had been raped. The world would have been robbed of the wonderful sacred music provided by each of these individuals if life had not been valued even under difficult circumstances.

Must reject "the attitude that there is such a thing as a life not worthy to be lived." That sounds a lot like today's thinking. Ninety percent of expectant parents who receive a prenatal diagnosis of Down's syndrome will abort their baby! A life not worthy to be lived?

4. What should a Christian's response be to life and death?

Share the Gospel's good news of eternal life

Romans 6:23 "...the gift of God is eternal life..."

Teach abortion alternatives' – Education

Ever heard of Margaret Sanger? Margaret Sanger was atheist, 1 of 11 children born to atheist parents in 1879. Margaret Sanger-"I will have No Gods, No Masters." As a young adult, not only an atheist but a Eugenicist.

Remember Eugenics? Hitler used the theory of eugenics (Some races inferior) to justify Jewish holocaust. Eugenics is a set of beliefs and practices that aim to improve the genetic quality of a human population. Historically, eugenicists have attempted to alter human gene pools by excluding people and groups judged to be inferior or promoting those judged to be superior

Sanger-"It is every woman's right to live, to love..to be lazy,to be an unwed mother,to create life, and to destroy life."

1931-Sanger founded the "Population Association of America" It's goal, to eliminate the "human weeds" in America.

She wanted to create a "race of human thoroughbreds".

The "Population Association of America" later became known as "Planned Parenthood". The first Planned Parenthood centers were located in poor, minority

areas. Planned Parenthood specifically targeted blacks, immigrants and Jewish communities for abortions.

Encourage life giving births

Only God should determine life's beginning and end

Psalm 139:16 "You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed."

Here, the question is often asked, "What if the mother's life is in danger? Shouldn't she have an abortion then?" Dr. C. Everett Koop, former Surgeon General of the United States says that during his more than 35 years of medical practice in obstetrics, "Never once did a case come across my practice where abortion was necessary to save a mother's life."

And at the other end of life, when, loved ones have illnesses diagnosed as terminal and are perhaps in great pain, Christian doctors who view God as the giver and taker of life can become very skilled in pain management to alleviate that suffering. Even though the circumstances may not make sense from our view, we are never "authorized" to "play God," to usurp the position that is rightfully His by practicing euthanasia and assisted suicide. Psa. 23:4, 1 Cor.12:9.

The Tiny Foot (from the book, Christmas in My Heart, by Joe Wheeler)

Several years ago a fragile young woman came to my office, expecting her first baby. One month before she was due, the baby was in a breech position. The death rate of breech babies is high because of the difficulty in delivering the after-coming head and the imperative need of delivering it quickly after the body is born.

During the delivery, I waited as patiently as I could for the natural forces of expulsion to thoroughly dilate the firm maternal structures. At last the time had come, and I gently drew down one little foot. I grasped the other, but it would not come down beside the first one. To my consternation, I saw that the other little foot would never be beside the first one. The entire thigh from the hip to the knee was missing.

I knew what a dreadful effect this would have upon the unstable nervous system of the mother. The family would almost certainly impoverish itself in taking the

child to every famous orthopedist in the world. I saw this little girl sitting sadly by herself, while the other girls danced and ran and played.

I could slow my hand; I could delay those few short moments. No one in this world would ever know. The mother, after the first shock of grief, would be glad she had lost a child so sadly handicapped.

The little pink foot on the good side bobbed out from its protecting towel and pressed firmly against my slowly moving hand, the hand into whose keeping the safety of the mother and the baby had been entrusted.

I couldn't do it. I delivered the baby with her pitiful little leg. Every foreboding came true. The mother was in the hospital for several months -- she looked like a wraith of her former self. As the years went on, I blamed myself bitterly for not having had the strength to yield to my temptation.

Our hospital stages an elaborate Christmas party each year for the staff. This past year, three lovely young musicians on the stage played softly in unison with the organ. I was especially fascinated by the young harpist. She played extraordinarily well, as if she loved it. Her slender fingers flicked across the strings, and her face was upturned as if the world that moment were a wonderful and holy place.

When the short program was over, there came running down the aisle a woman I did not know. "Oh, you saw her," she cried. "You must have recognized your baby. That was my daughter who played the harp -- the little girl who was born with only one good leg 17 years ago. We tried everything else first, but now she has a whole artificial leg on that side. Best of all, through all those years, she learned to use her hands so wonderfully. She is going to be one of the world's greatest harpists. She is my whole life and now she is so happy ... And here she is!" The sweet young girl had quietly approached us, her eyes glowing.

Impulsively I took the child in my arms. Across her warm young shoulder I saw the creeping clock of the delivery room 17 years before. I lived again those awful moments when her life was in my hand. As the last strains of "Silent Night" faded, I found the comfort I had waited for so long.

