

All we have has been given to us by God to use for His glory and in His service. We are but stewards of these things (1 Pet. 4:10). The Lord expects us to be good stewards, but giving what comes without cost to us is not practicing faithful stewardship.

The measure of our devotion, reverence, and love for God is in direct proportion to how much we are willing to commit to the service of God, or how much we are willing to sacrifice (John 12:3ff). Those who take the easiest, cheapest way to serve God are, in reality, servants of self, not God.

There is to be nothing cheap about our religion. It is to be the best we have—the same attitude that characterized David. “I will not offer... unto Jehovah my God [that] which cost me nothing.”

— Al Brown, deceased

THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

Let us pray for...

- Sheila Beauchamp — recovering from shoulder surgery
- Tonya Thatcher — difficulty with pregnancy
- Judy Reid — treatment for auto accident injuries (sister in NJ, planning to move here)
- Lester Kamp — fighting prostate cancer
- Mike Mallett — fighting leukemia (faithful brother in Evant, TX)
- Ken Chumbley — fighting cancer and other physical problems (Gospel preacher)
- Ann Henderson — fighting cancer (Sheri Woodall's aunt)
- Brian Ritter — fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)
- Tim Smith — fighting chronic physical problems from auto injuries (Gospel preacher)
- Samuel Bagsangi — Gospel preacher in Philippines we help support
- Joshua Aidoo — Gospel preacher in Ghana we help support

Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	14
Sunday AM Worship	14
Sunday PM Worship	14
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	16
Contribution	\$675.00
Contribution average (2015)	\$940.50

Internet Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast, beginning at approximately 10:45–10:50 a.m. and 1:12–1:15 p.m., via Internet through our Website, www.northpointcoc.com.

Assignments...

Adult Bible class teacher for February
 Chairman of Men's Meetings (January–March)
 Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Rick Beauchamp
 Rick Beauchamp
 Dub McClish



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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Gruesome Anniversary

The Pharaoh of Moses' time decreed that every male Hebrew was to be slain at birth (Exo. 1:16, 22). All civilized men consider him to be unspeakably cruel and immoral (Acts 7:19). We call the ancient Greeks who “exposed” their unwanted and helpless infants to wild animals and the elements “barbaric” and “inhumane.” Even atheists justly recoil at the jealous blood thirst of Herod the Great as he murdered Bethlehem's baby boys when Jesus was born (Mat. 2:16).

History remembers Adolf Hitler as a homicidal maniac on a grand scale for his destruction of 6,000,000 Jews. Josef Stalin purged 23,000,000 of his own people. However, Hitler and Stalin combined were small-time operators beside the advocates, judges, and practitioners responsible for legalized, casual abortion in our nation. January 22, 2015, marked the forty-second anniversary of the heinous Roe v. Wade decision of the Supreme Court. In June 2008 the same court that ruled in 1973 **that it is not** “cruel and unusual punishment” to kill a babe in the womb ruled **that it is** “cruel and unusual punishment” to execute a child rapist. Such absurd and contradictory rulings typify the upside-down times of the present.

Since Roe v. Wade, over 57,500,000 lives have been snuffed out in the US alone by this utter contempt for human life; we must be their voices until this ruling can be reversed. Ninety-three percent of these killings occur for “social” reasons—the convenience of the parents-to-be—a gruesome, after-the-fact means of birth control.

Is abortion infanticide or is it merely the removal of “expendable tissue”—similar to the appendix? To the pro-death abortionists, the unborn depersonalized “fetus” is merely a piece of tissue like a wart, a mole, or even a tumor, and therefore expendable. These thoughts lead to the question, “When does life begin?”—perhaps the vital question of the entire discussion of abortion.

The abortion advocate answers, “At birth,” but the Bible, science, and common sense all answer, “At conception.” God told Jeremiah, “Before I formed you in the belly I knew you; and before you came forth out of the womb I sanctified you, and I ordained you a prophet unto the nations” (Jer. 1:5). **Before** he had skeletal or muscular form in the womb (i.e., at conception), God recognized Jeremiah as a living person. The Bible so declares consistently (e.g., Job 3:16; 10:11; Psa. 51:5; 139:13–16; Isa. 44:24; 49:5; et al.).

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Sunday
 Bible Class 9:30 AM
 Worship 10:30 AM
 Worship 1:00 PM

Wednesday
 B.C./Worship 7:00 PM

Medical science generally places the beginning of life at conception. In 1984, 61 physicians, including 2 former presidents of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, issued a statement titled, “The Utmost Respect for Human Life.” It said in part:

We urge all those engaged in the abortion debate to recognize that a central issue in the discourse must include acceptance of the fact that induced abortion causes the death of a **living human** (emph., DM) (*Abortion: Where Have All The Babies Gone?* American Tract Society, Garland, TX).

Some abortion advocates recommend singing or playing music to the unborn so as to influence them. How strange: do they expect to influence a “wart” or a “mole”? Pro-abortionists recognize life in the unborn in other forms of animal life. They will gather by the thousands to demand the “right” to slay mercilessly their own kind in the womb, but will go on a hunger strike to protect an eagle egg (i.e., an “unborn” eagle, not merely an eagle “fetus” by their own admission).

If life, humanness, and personhood do not begin at conception, when do they begin—a day, a week, a month, three months after the sperm fertilizes the egg? Let the abortionist tell us. While there are many other crucial principles upon which to oppose abortion, the determination of the beginning point of life is pivotal. If life begins at conception (as certainly it does), abortion just as certainly constitutes murder—legalized murder, but murder no less. **A Christian cannot favor this practice and be faithful to God.**

We should pray fervently that through God’s providence this ruling will soon be reversed completely. We should let our representatives (both the state and federal) know our abhorrence of abortion. We must vote for candidates at every level who oppose abortion and who will work to correct this tragedy. (Remember that one major party has a strong pro-abortion, pro-death plank in its platform, while the other party has an anti-abortion, pro-life plank.) Let us courageously oppose this monstrous work of darkness (Eph. 5:11), confident that God will bless our efforts.

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX

[**Note:** If the foregoing article appears familiar to many readers, it should. I have printed a version of it more than once in these pages over the years near the Roe v. Wade anniversary. We must never abandon championing the lives of these helpless little ones. Nor dare we cease exposing the black hearts of those who support and operate the deathshops that mercilessly murder the innocent. DM]

Praying for Leaders

One of the quickest ways to get some folk riled up is to discuss politics and/or religion. Some believe that these ought not be topics of discussion. Others believe that politics and religion are incompatible and shouldn’t be mixed. However, the Scriptures have much to say about both subjects and clearly demonstrate that religion and politics can and do mix.

Jesus demonstrated this point when He responded to a question regarding paying tribute (i.e., taxes) to Caesar. After showing Caesar’s image on the super-scription on a coin, Jesus stated, “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which

are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s” (Mat. 22:21). As a Roman citizen, Paul made an “appeal unto Caesar” (Acts 25:11).

The Christian is to submit to civil authority because, “the powers that be are ordained of God” (Rom. 13:1a). At this point it is important to note that the first century Christians lived under the Roman government, which was corrupt and immoral in many ways. Yet, they still had the obligation to submit to this government [Ed. Note: as long as it did not require them to disobey God—Acts 5:29] and pay taxes.

Any government that operates as God intended is: (1) “not a terror to good works,” (2) “the minister of God to thee for good,” (3) bearing the sword of justice, and (4) “a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil” (Rom. 13:3–4). As anyone can see, a government that is just and righteous is truly a great thing, which sort of government the citizens of every country should work toward establishing and maintaining.

Prayer is one way that Christians can help their government officials become what God expects them to be. Paul instructed Timothy:

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour (1 Tim. 2:1–3).

One doesn’t have to agree with a politician’s platform to pray for him. In fact, when government officials deviate from God’s will, they need our prayers the most. When we survey our own government, it is easy to see that most of our politicians have lost their way and have departed from the godly principles upon which our great nation was founded. Our leaders therefore ought to be at the top of our prayer list.

— Bruce Stulting
Huntsville, TX

No-Cost Religion

After David had been told by God to build an altar and worship God on the threshing floor of Araunah, this Jebusite offered the king the threshing floor and everything necessary to worship God. David refused the offer with these words: “Nay, but I will verily buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt-offerings unto Jehovah my God which cost me nothing” (2 Sam. 24:24).

Would that all Christians had the attitude of David. Instead, they often show the very opposite disposition. David realized that an offering which cost him nothing was worth exactly that to him—nothing. God has always demanded the best that each person has—not what somebody else has (Lev. 22:21).