

## ***Sanctity of Life Weekend***

January 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

### **The Christian Worldview of Life**

#### ❖ God is the Giver of Life

*Acts 17:24-25 “... He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”*

*Genesis 2:7 “then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.”*

*Isaiah 42:5 “Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it:”*

#### ❖ Suffering and Death came through Sin

*Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned —“*

- *Genesis 4:5-8*

#### ❖ Sin Separates us from God

*Isaiah 59:2 “but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, ...”*

*Ephesians 2:12 “remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”*

#### ❖ Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away our sin!

*John 1:29 “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”*

*1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”*

### **The Issues of Right to Life and Right to Die**

#### **God is Sovereign over our time to be born and our time to die**

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;”*

*Psalms 139:16 “... all the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.” (NIV) <sup>1</sup>*

*Luke 12:25 “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”*

- ❖ The truth that God is Sovereign moves us to conclude that the termination of life whether in the womb or at any other time is wrong!
- ❖ We live in what some have called a “Culture of Death,” meaning that death is the solution to unwanted social, financial or physical problems in life.

Ä Abortion on Demand – termination of life in the womb

Ä Euthanasia – termination of life upon request

Ä Physician Assisted Suicide – assisting a person in the termination of life

✓ Colorado voters approved a ballot measure on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, that will give some terminally ill patients in the state the option to seek life-ending medication from a doctor.

✓ In *The Memoirs of America's Family Doctor*, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop warned that the practice of medicine “cannot be both our healer and our killer.”<sup>2</sup>

❖ Death is not a solution; on the contrary, death is an enemy!

*1 Corinthians 15:26 “The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”*

❖ Life is Sacred and God alone determines the time and means of death!

*Ecclesiastes 8:8 “No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death. There is no discharge from war, nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to it.”*

❖ Two reasons that motivate people to desire to end their life:

1. Hopelessness – No remedy for ongoing pain, suffering, anguish, depression, financial burden on family

◆ Elijah experienced hopelessness ... *1 Kings 19:4 “But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, ‘It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.’”*

◆ God’s good purposes are sometimes fulfilled through suffering! ...

*Ecclesiastes 7:14 “In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.”*

*Romans 5:3 “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,”*

◆ David experienced depression ... *Psalm 42:5 “Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation”*

2. Control – It’s my life! I determine what is best for me!

◆ Life is a Mist ... *James 4:13-17*

◆ The example of the Rich Fool ... *Luke 12:16-21*

◆ Jesus foretold the means of Peter’s death ... *John 21:18-19*

❖ The key to facing life’s difficult challenges is surrendering our will and desires to God!

*Luke 22:42 “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done.”*

Ä Jesus endured the ultimate suffering as He surrendered His will to the will of His Father!

Ä God’s eternal purpose was fulfilled through Christ!

### **Our God of Hope!**

*Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”*

Endnotes:

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<sup>2</sup> Koop, C. Everett, MD. *Koop: The Memoirs of America's Family Doctor*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992. Print.

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