

## From Our Pastor January 5, 2019

Sabbath Greetings to Everyone!

The saddest and most shocking headline at the end of 2018 is, "Abortion Was the Leading Cause of Death Worldwide in 2018, Killing 42 Million People." Killing more human beings than heart disease, cancer, or other natural causes, in just one year the carnage exceeded the total loss of human life in World War 1 (37 million) by five million. Lifeneews.com reported on a study of worldwide statistics compiled by Worldometers which indicated that there were nearly 42 million abortions world-wide in 2018. The independent site collects data from governments and other reputable organizations and then reports the data, along with estimates and projections, based on those numbers. When the abortion numbers were compared to other causes of death, including cancer, HIV/AIDS, traffic accidents and suicide, abortions far outnumbered every other cause. Total deaths--excluding abortion--worldwide in 2018 are estimated at 59 million, only 17 million less than the number of babies killed in their mother's womb. Unbelievably, just under a quarter of all pregnancies (23 percent) were ended by abortion in 2018, and for every 33 live births, ten infants were aborted.

The abortion number is incomprehensible, but each of those 42 million abortions represents a living human being whose life was violently destroyed in their mother's womb. Each unborn baby already had their own unique DNA, making them distinct from their mother. That DNA indicated if the child was a boy or girl, their eye and hair color, their height, and much more.

An abortion is the premeditated killing of an innocent unborn human. The ugly truth is often masked with various euphemistic labels such as "women's rights" "pro-choice" "reproductive rights" or "women's health" but the truth is not hidden. Soon after conception the new baby grows incredibly fast. His heart is pumping blood by day 21, it is possible to listen to his beating heart at that time. Brain waves can be detected on an Electroencephalogram (EEG) by day forty, about the time that most mothers know they are pregnant.

Thanks to modern science which includes 3-D ultrasound technology, the beginning of human life is evident. The unborn child in the womb can be observed throughout pregnancy in stunning detail. The US Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion was based on the judges' opinion that "viable life" was not detectable until 24 weeks gestation. The advances in medical science since then, had they been known, might have changed the ruling.

While the nations with the highest abortion rates are in Asia, the USA and most European nations are in the top 30%. An estimated 60 million unborn babies have had their life snuffed out by abortion in the U.S. since Roe v. Wade in 1973. Why are so

many innocent lives being ended? Idolatry. Our ancestors in Israel forgot the God who blessed them and turned to Baal worship, even sacrificing children to the pagan god of stone.

"They left all the commandments of the LORD their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. They caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger. (2 Kings 17:16-17). "You shall not murder"--the 6th Commandment from God--is very real. (Exodus 20:13, NKJV) According to a study by the Guttmacher Institute, nearly 99% of all abortions are the result of reasons that can be summarized as "not being convenient" for the mother.

Millions of babies have been and are being killed each year because they are not deemed as convenient. The altar of self and convenience. What a tragedy! Do we think God does not see?

Our Creator God intended children and grandchildren to be a blessing from Him. The finest joys and happiness that can be experienced in this physical life are the interactions and relationships in a happy family--a man and wife and their children.

In Psalm 127:3 we are told, "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is his reward.... Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them... (verse 5)" "Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants all around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.

.... Yes, may you see your children's children. (Psalm 128 4-6)"

Our God knows babies before they are born. As He told Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. (Jeremiah 1:5)" After the return of Jesus Christ to set up His Kingdom here on the earth, the killing of babies will be a thing of the past. All children will have the chance to be raised by their mothers and fathers, and live a full life learning about God and his laws and purpose for them.

"The streets of the city Shall be full of boys and girls Playing in its streets." (Zechariah 8:5)

*Rex Sexton  
Pastor, UCG Portland*