



ALL THEY THAT HATE ME LOVE DEATH

by

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“But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.”

—Proverbs 8:36

It was on a halcyon and serene Sunday morning—somewhat like today—that the entire American nation was shocked by the words it heard on the radio: “On this day, December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan has instituted a sneak attack upon Pearl Harbor. Thousands of American servicemen are dead. This is a day which will live in infamy.”

No one who lived through that morning will ever forget that announcement, but did you hear the announcement today? If not, I will repeat it: “The United States has suffered a sneak attack. The entire population of the following American cities has been destroyed: New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas, Chicago, Philadelphia, Detroit, Saint Louis, and Atlanta.”

No, there has not been a nuclear war. But over 25 million people—more than the entire population of all of those cities—has been destroyed by abortion worldwide, more than have died in all of the wars of the human race. Today is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday—a day when we pause to remember these millions of what could have been beautiful little children who never lived to see the light of day.

This is something we have now grown somewhat accustomed to. At the time, when the abortion issue was being debated, there were those of us who said that this was the beginning of a “slippery slope.” As many said, it is but a small step from abortion to infanticide, from infanticide to euthanasia and suicide. That, of course, was ridiculed, but now, seventeen years later, we see that we have been steadily sliding down that slope.

Even as I speak, before our Supreme Court, arguments having already been heard, lies a decision on a euthanasia case. Different? Significantly different from the case of Karen Ann Quinlan a few years ago. The decision then was to remove from her a respirator, the artificial means that was sustaining her life. When such means are removed, such heroic actions are discontinued; the person may live or die naturally. As you know, when the respirator was removed, Karen Quinlan did not die for a considerable period of time thereafter.

The Cruzan case now before the Supreme Court is quite different. Here, the decision is whether it is right and lawful and constitutional to remove food and water from a patient who is comatose. Nancy Cruzan was severely injured in an automobile accident and has been comatose since then. Is it right to remove even basic nourishment? Are those heroic medical procedures?

A committee of the AMA has declared that the administration of food and water, if done by a tube, constitutes medical treatment and medicine. However, there are those, like Rita Marker, director of the International Anti-Euthanasia Task Force, who say that receiving food and water is not medicine, even if it is administered through a tube—just as taking penicillin by tablet through the mouth does not make penicillin food, but medicine, and so we have a very serious case before us.

I would like for you to grasp, if you can, a little bit more of the over-all context and significance and undoubted consequences of the direction and course being taken today. There is a great clash in our country between the concept of *sanctity* of life and the concept of *quality* of life. People have heard and read many such discussions, and I am afraid that for most, they do not grasp the full implication of what that means.

SANCTITY OF LIFE

The concept of sanctity of life is a spiritual concept; it is a religious concept. The word “sanctity” which comes from the Latin word *sanctitas* from *sanctus*, means holy or sacred unto God, inviolable, that which God has declared is of great value. It is, therefore, a spiritual concept.

However, for a humanist or an atheist or an unbeliever of most any kind, there is no such thing as “sanctity of life.” Unless there is a God who has given us a spirit and who sanctifies us, there cannot be a sanctity-of-life ethic.

Paul Gauguin, a famous artist, wrote on his last painting shortly before attempting suicide: “Whence come we? What are we? Whither do we go? The answers are *nowhere, nothing, and nowhere*. Life is merely matter and protoplasm.

Carl Sagan said that there is and never has been anything in the universe but matter. Therefore, if one has that kind of a totally non-spiritual view, we have in the quality of life simply a physical understanding of life. Now, we may indeed say that this person has come closer to the perfect ideal of human life than that person ... or this person here ... or that one is somewhat in between, but if every soul has been created by God and has infinite value, then there is no degree of qualification between the two.

If I may say something radical: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life. . . .” Therefore, it is only from a purely atheistic, humanistic, secularistic view that one can determine that a life is to be valued, depending solely upon the physical characteristics of that life.

DELIBERATE STARVATION

In the decision that is taking us another step down that “slippery slope”—the Court having already decided that it is legal to let a person die, there is a great difference between letting a person die naturally and causing him to die by starvation. I would agree that we need not go to heroic mechanical means of keeping a person alive for many, many years when he simply has a machine breathing for him and making his heart beat, and he really is not alive. The person may or may not die in the near future, if he is allowed to do so naturally, but he will most certainly die if food and water are removed. He is then made to die slowly.

Let me say, my friends, it is a very, very short step between making a person die by starvation and making them die by a legal and lethal injection of poison. In fact, philosopher Dr. Helga Kuhse, speaking to 500 participants in a euthanasia conference said, “Once you show them how painful it is to starve to death, they will [gladly] accept lethal injections.” A very small step down that hill.

Outside of Atlanta is the famous Stone Mountain. Perhaps you have been there and even have climbed it. If you go there, you will notice a long, slow incline to the top of the mountain. From there, it begins to gradually decline for about a hundred feet and then falls off precipitously hundreds of feet to the ground below. Back at the top is a rope barrier to keep people from going down that very long and very gradual decline. Those who ignore this warning tend to go out just a little bit farther to get a better look over the edge. Before they realize it, their feet are slipping and sliding! Then they plunge off into the air and land hundreds of feet below. Many people have fallen off that mountain and died as a result. It is that slippery slope that leads to the precipice and to death. Today we are right now a good way down that slope.

Dr. Koop, former Surgeon General, said there is something that the abortionists, the infanticide promoters, and the euthanasia proponents always do: they take a few extreme examples and use these to gain sympathy for ideas and practices that later are not limited to extreme cases. To wit: What have we heard about abortion? The poor girl who is the victim of rape or is the victim of incest—surely, you’re going to allow that. Using such examples over and over and over again, they have succeeded in making abortion legal! Now over 40 [updated 2002] million American babies have been killed, less than two percent of which had anything to do with rape or incest. The same thing is now happening with euthanasia and infanticide.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Quality of life is a physical concept. There is no one who can look at another and determine the quality of his soul. If life is merely molecules in motion, then we can have a quality-of-life ethic. But if we are Christians and believe that there is an infinite, eternal, and unchangeable God who is a Spirit, who has given to us everlasting spirits, and if we have an inalienable right to life, we cannot buy that kind of an ethic.

It is a humanistic worldview that has brought us thus far down the slope and it will be nothing other than a Christian world-and-life view firmly held, espoused, maintained, and defended that can possibly take us back again.

A few years ago *Newsweek* contained an article with some very interesting things to say about when human life begins. It said that everyone should always have known this, for

biologically all life begins when the chromosomes come together. It goes on to stress that human life begins at conception. Thus admitted *Newsweek*. They went on to ask, however: When does this life take precedence over the health, or even the happiness, of the mother? Do you understand what they were recommending? They were saying that one human being may kill another human being (for they had just admitted that that is what this was in the womb), for his or her own *happiness*. Their “happiness”—for the health or even the “happiness” of the mother!

Another doctor, talking about his practice of infanticide, said that he often recommended infanticide to parents for the “happiness” of the parents. Whose rights are being defended?

It was for the “well-being” of society that mass euthanasia was practiced in Germany ... a long way down that slope we have already come—for “happiness.” Do you know what the philosophy of life based upon happiness is called? It is called “hedonism.”

Dr. Malcolm Watts gave a speech to the California Medical Association in which he said that the idea of the sanctity of human life has been part of all of Western civilization. The sanctity of human life is that which Jesus Christ brought into the world. It was held and maintained by the early Church with incredible vigor and overthrew the pagan heathen ideas of life.

The sanctity of life is not just some odd little view off to the side that we can ignore; it is the bulwark of Western civilization. It was the foundation of this country, and we are “endowed . . . with certain unalienable rights, that among these are (first of all) Life . . .” Watts says. “The traditional Western ethic has always placed great emphasis on the intrinsic worth and equal value of every human life, regardless of its stage or condition.

There is now much to suggest that it is being eroded at its core. Since the old ethic has not yet been fully displaced, it has been necessary to separate the idea of abortion from the idea of killing, which continues to be socially abhorrent. The result has been a curious avoidance of the scientific fact, which [again, as *Newsweek* said] everyone really knows, and that is that human life begins at conception and is continuous, whether intra- or extra-uterine, until death.” It is a human life.

Further, Watts states,

“The very considerable semantic gymnastics required to rationalize abortion as anything but taking human life would be ludicrous if they were not often put forth under socially impeccable auspices. It is suggested that this schizophrenic sort of subterfuge is necessary because, while a new ethic [the humanistic ethic] is being accepted, the old one [the Christian ethic] has not yet been [completely] rejected.”

To wit: what is needful? Deception, deceit, and lies. Convincing people? They have convinced tens of millions! We wonder how the German people could have been so foolish as to allow these things to go on and not even know what was happening. Yet, look at America! Are we any better? There are literally tens of millions of Americans who have been convinced by the lie that abortion is something other than killing a baby.

I recall when one of the nation's leading pro-life advocates, a medical doctor, was talking to another medical doctor who ran an abortion center. He said to him, "Don't you realize that these are human lives you are killing?"

The man became furious; he became livid, and said, "Of course I recognize that they are human lives. What do you think I *am*, an idiot?" But . . . there was a lot of money in it. "Do you think I'm an idiot" . . . like these stupid people out in America that are fed all these lies and believe them! Every doctor knows what it is a human life in the womb.

SEMANTIC DECEIT

Sadly, a vast number of young women have been deceived and have been told that it is merely "a product of conception" ... P.O.C. It's merely a "clump of cells," sort of like a wart or a mole.

Are we all that much wiser than the Germans? Semantic deceit and deception was necessary so they could slaughter millions of people—those people must first be dehumanized.

Dr. Paul Fowler points out that such semantic gymnastics have been necessary in the past to remove humanity, personhood, from Jews, Blacks, Asians and American Indians [and at one time women.]

"Look at all these men out here and those 'things' with them."

"You mean people?"

"No, no, of course we don't mean people. They're chattel."

Most people don't like it when semantic tomfoolery is being aimed in their direction, but now it is being aimed at those who cannot speak for themselves.

Another William Brennan (not the Supreme Court Justice William Brennan who voted for abortion), who is a professor at Saint Louis University, said: "The cultural environment for a human holocaust is present whenever any society can be misled into defining individuals as less than human and therefore devoid of value and respect." That is exactly what we have been and are doing.

Dr. R. T. F. Schmidt, at that time president-elect of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, said that the idea of abortion is "not only deeply disturbing to our traditional concept of the inherent value of human life, but is potentially shattering to the foundation of Western civilization." We are dealing herewith nothing less than the destruction of Western society in its totality. The essence of the Christian ethic that rid the Western world of paganism and heathenism was the sanctity of life.

When Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun wrote *Roe v. Wade*, he appealed to religion, did he not? However, he said, "If I were to appeal to religion, I would appeal to the

religions of Rome and Greece”—who, of course, practiced and encouraged abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, suicide and all of the rest, including the Coliseum! He would appeal to pagan religion for support of *Roe v. Wade*! We are reverting in this nation to heathen paganism, and most Americans don't even know what is taking place.

It is just another small step from infanticide to euthanasia. We go from happiness of the mother, to the happiness of the parents, to the happiness of society. As one of our governors said not long ago, “It is the duty of old people to move over.” Someone else said that we should “help the aged shove off.” It has also been recommended that legislation should be passed which would set a limit on life, after which these people should be “graduated”—if you understand what that means.

Remember how Nazism began. Hitler exterminated over 273,000 people before he really got going with the Holocaust! Who were these people? “The first to be killed were the aged [those who are an economic burden, who detract from the happiness of society as a whole], the infirm, the senile, the mentally retarded, and defective children [that included epileptics].” Then there were WWI veterans, amputees, still in hospitals. They had given an arm or a leg or more for Germany. Their reward was extermination as “undesirable.” Then, believe this or not, even children with badly modeled ears [did you get that Dumbo?] were put to death! Even bedwetters were killed—all part of the euthanasia project of Germany.

A FINANCIAL BURDEN WILL RESULT

I might say to those who support abortion, you probably would do well to kill all of the children, because if some survive, they've got a surprise for you ... grandpa. With increasingly more older people in our society, and increasingly less children (since over 40 million [2002 figure] of them have been murdered) the financial burden is going to be enormous. If I were a prophet, I could virtually tell you that if we continue the way we are going, that little group of remaining children is not going to tolerate the financial burden that is coming upon them.

At first it was thirty-two or-three adult workers supporting everyone on Social Security; then it was twenty and then it was ten and then it was five and it is now three. Soon it will be two to one. Half of everything people earn will go to support “those old folks,” “those old fuddy-duddies.” “We ought to do something about that. There ought to be a law!” There will be. We are a long way down that slippery slope.

It is time that America repented of its sin and acknowledged the heinousness of what it has done. We need to repent; we need to ask God's forgiveness for this nation, and even if we have never had anything to do with this, we need to plead as intercessors to God for America.

GOD IS MERCIFUL

I think it is good also to remember that the whole euthanasia program began in Germany with the decision to put to death those who could not be rehabilitated, the sick—just like Nancy Cruzan.

These are all painful decisions, but ah, my friends, the consequences of deciding against God's Word and God's law are absolutely enormous. You will only know that life is holy when you come to know the Holy One who died for you. There is forgiveness; there is mercy. Have you received that? I urge you to come to the Cross and to invite Him to come into your life that you might know the infinite value of your soul. The infinite and eternal God Almighty died for our souls that we might have life. They that seek Him find life, and they that hate Him love death. That is what Christ's incarnate wisdom says.

PRAYER: Father, the devil is delighted with our infatuation with death as a solution to the problems of life. Help us to turn from that, to repent of it, to say, "God have mercy upon me, a sinner. I turn to Christ. I seek life and not death. I would know goodness and length of days and life eternal in Christ. O God, open the eyes of America. Bring repentance to this people. Open the understanding of our judges that they may decide not in favor of death, but in favor of life. O Lord, give us wisdom. For Christ's sake."

Sermon delivered by Dr. D. James Kennedy on January 21, 1990, at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

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