

## Sermon Notes

# REFLECTIONS



Pray For  
The Faces  
Not Yet  
Seen

River Road  
Baptist  
Church  
4-19-09



# Reflections

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Springtime! A time for new life. We see the birds returning from their various migrations to nest and hatch the next brood of little ones that will be the next generation of birds. Puppies and kittens turn our heads as we pass by the pet shops in the mall and watch their antics as they seemingly enjoy their new life. Flowers, grasses, and trees in their own way brighten our lives with their new blossoms, blades, and leaves. All around us we see and rejoice in the new awakenings that springtime brings into our lives.

Sadly, there are little ones that we will not see. Their lives were ended before their little faces were able to bless our world because of a society that has embraced a culture of death as a convenience to lifestyles without boundaries. Rather than see the beauty of a little baby in the arms of a mom and dad we are instead left knowing that another life was snuffed out before the baby was born. The Scriptures look at these little ones as God's gift to us.

Psalm 139 tells us. *...For Thou didst form my inward parts; Thou didst weave me in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I will give thanks to Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Thy works, And my soul knows it very well.*

*(Psalm 139:13 NAS)* Another Psalm describes the one who has children in very special terms. *...Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. <sup>5</sup> How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They shall not be ashamed, When they speak with their enemies in the gate.*  
*(Psalm 127:4 NAS)*

Jesus received the children in spite of His disciples efforts to keep them away. *...But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*  
*(Mat 19:14 NAS)* There is no doubt that the Bible speaks of life as precious and important as Jesus died to give us new life in Him even while we were dead in sins as the Scripture tells us... *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, (Eph 2:1 NAS)* As God told Noah in Genesis chapter 9... *. <sup>5</sup> "And surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. <sup>6</sup> "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For*

*in the image of God He made man. (Gen 9:1 NAS)* When we put life itself into the biblical perspective given in the Scripture, we must conclude that life is a gift of God and must not be forfeited for mere convenience because of man's life-style choices.

What then, do we do as Christians to combat the social philosophy that results in tens of thousands of abortions each year? We must pray, of course, but we must also make certain that we have taught our children the biblical view of life that honors God's purpose for creating life and the process by which each generation is added to His creation. Whenever possible we need to also speak out firmly against the atrocity of abortion-on-demand but with love and sensitivity to those who have already been victims of the insidious philosophy that has led them to this outcome. As we point people to Christ and His work on the cross and His resurrection that gives new spiritual life to those who receive His gift of salvation, we must remember that Christ died for all men because all have sinned.

To deprive the world of babies whom God has perhaps gifted with the knowledge that leads to cures for diseases, or possibly to speak God's Word with power and authority as ministers and missionaries is definitely to sin against God's declared purpose and plan for all of mankind. We were indeed created for a purpose and were "fearfully and wonderfully made." Then, on a more selfish level, I will always remember the arrival of our children and the immediate bond of love and commitment to their well-being that flooded my heart as I was privileged to watch them enter the world. These same emotions flooded our hearts as we first saw our grandchildren whose arrival will forever be indelibly imprinted in our hearts and minds. I can't imagine the loss if their faces were not part of our life because their life had been taken through abortion before their birth.

Let's purpose to pray for those whose faces are not yet seen that they will be allowed to live, grow and come to know Jesus as their Savior. Let's also take care to teach our children the truth about life. In our resistance to these awful practices, let's also be mindful that God loves those who have been captivated and then deceived into terminating a pregnancy. To minister to the broken and damaged is to help heal a life and will help prevent the loss of another generation. Let's be the face of the lost little ones and the heart of caring to those deceived. **Pastor Doug**