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## The Greatness of all American Tragedies

### Radio Message by Dwight Porter, D.D.

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**I** CAN give you the exact date of such occurrence: January 22, 1973, when the U. S. Supreme Court handed down to us the Roe vs. Wade decision. It was the most infamous day in the history of our nation. How could America allow such tragic action so opposed by God and His Word? We did it the same way we reelected the president of this country, knowing that he was an adulterer. Every member of his party in the U. S. Senate voted for a sexual pervert to remain as the impeached president of our country. Folks, this country is in sad moral deterioration. What is God's reaction to such action?

Two hundred years of historical and legal precedent were set aside by one judicial act. Such action was not the beginning of rebellion against God's law, but it was a revelation as to how far this country has progressed downward from biblical morality. For three decades now we have observed the barbaric slaughter of innocent unborn babies. These deaths by murder far surpass all our wars combined. Don't miss these figures: All wars that the USA have been involved in have amounted to 1,138,233 deaths.

#### In 30 Years, 42 Million Deaths by Abortion

We lament the 3200 deaths in the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001; and we never shall forget the announcement that our recent shuttle fell apart over Texas skies. That total in death? SEVEN. Where are the memorial services for the millions of babies dead at the will of their mothers? Why do we not read of such horrible deaths in our newspapers, TV, and radio? Again, such action simply indicates the values of a nation crumbling before our eyes. If the blood of one man cried out to God from the ground, what crescendo is rising toward heaven from millions of babies who have had their lives snuffed out? God said to Cain about murdering his brother: "What have you done? the voice of your brother's blood cries to Me from the ground (cries out for revenge)" (Genesis 4:10).

An encouraging happening is President Bush calling for the observance of a National Sanctity of Human Life Day. He is to be commended for such action. No greater issue, except slavery, has divided the American people as much as abortion on demand.

#### Germany's Holocaust

Our country was part of the crowd who sentenced the German doctors to death for performing abortions during the second World War. Their murdering of millions of Jews and Gypsies does not come near American's own holocaust of unborn babies. We sing "GOD BLESS AMERICA," but some day soon judgment is coming to our fair land. Did the Old Testament countries survive rebellion and disobedience of God's plain commands? There are only Ten Commandments, and one of them clearly states THOU SHALT NOT KILL. *But it is my body, I can do with it whatever I please.* It is **not** your body; it belongs to God. (Keep reading!) It is the product of conception, which means another life. Pro-choice means the pregnant woman is making a deliberate choice to end someone else's life – premeditated murder. But in 1973 the liberal Supreme Court supposedly changed all that. Prior to this time, it was always considered murder – life is ended by the

legitimate request of someone. How could such reasoning take place in the national value of this country? It was not done all at once; yet it became this course of action, the permissive law of the land.

#### The Source of Life

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man, so are the children of the youth" (Psalm 127:3, 4). Here are the verses that state there is no conception independent of the Lord. In the Old Testament it was evident that God opened or closed the womb of women. IF a child was to come, it would be from the Lord, and this truth holds true down to this day. This then is the reason for my opposing abortion for those women victimized in incest or rape. "Thus says the Lord, your redeemer, and He that formed you from the womb; I am the Lord that makes all things, that stretches forth the heavens alone, that spreads abroad the earth by myself" (Isaiah 44:24). "Did not He that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?" (Job 31:15, Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5).

#### Is There Forgiveness?

Yes, God will forgive you, but don't think it is all over when you ask Him. The biblical principle of suffering for sin has not been changed or altered. David was forgiven, but he and his family suffered dreadfully for his sin. Do not expect God to treat you differently. But forgiveness can be your portion if you seek it with all your heart and believe God's Word. He will not forgive you to continue on in your sin.

#### What Can We Do?

1. Do not support a church that is not openly opposed to abortion.
2. Speak out against abortion whenever the subject arises.
3. Do not hesitate to call it what it is, the murdering of innocent children.
4. We must influence the political and judicial process. They receive financial pressure in this money-making process. They do observe voters' actions and reactions.
5. Do not support any political campaign that endorses abortion.
6. Do not vote for any politician that is not wide open in his stance on this matter.
7. Do not hesitate to take your stand on a Scriptural basis.
8. Warn the abortion crowd of God's assured judgment upon such action.
9. Remember that doctors, nurses, and hospitals are as guilty as mothers and fathers.
10. Write letters to your elected officials on this vital matter.
11. Know where every person stands on this issue who is soliciting your vote, down to your town councils.
12. Do not be intimidated by anyone anywhere promoting that the majority are for this murder of children.

#### When Will Change Come?

Not until we have a sufficient number of people in our land who will vote men and women into office who oppose this damnable action. No other way exists! Our electorate is the reflection of the grass roots of America. (I am not altogether sure of that last statement when about half of the eligible voters in this country do not declare themselves in the ballot box!)

"CRY ALOUD, SPARE NOT, LIFT UP YOUR VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET, AND SHOW MY PEOPLE THEIR TRANSGRESSION, AND THE HOUSE OF JACOB THEIR SINS" (Isaiah 58:1).

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## A Trumpet Not Uncertain

**O**N a recent Sunday morning I was in my usual place in the saxophone section of our church orchestra. We had just finished a beautiful work for choir and orchestra, when to my surprise the pianist, Cookie Strickland, who is also the wife of our pastor, Rev. Danny Strickland, rose from her seat at the piano and went up to the pulpit microphone.

"I want to share with you a narration from one of my dearest friends, Susanne Potts, who is also a member of this church," she began, then continued to read the following true statement, which I found to be so moving that I requested permission to publish it for you:

It was July 1983. I was almost 23 years old and almost three months pregnant with my second child. Just as it had with my first child, my "morning" sickness lasted mornings, afternoons and evenings, almost every day. About the only time I wasn't throwing up was when I was asleep. I had already lost close to fifteen pounds during this pregnancy. We didn't have insurance, so we had chosen a facility that based its charges on your income. I hadn't been to see a doctor at the Family Healthcare Center yet, but I knew I had to, so I called and explained my situation and got an appointment with one of the doctors. I was too ill to drive myself, so my mother drove me and waited for me in the waiting room.

I was sitting in one of the examination rooms when the door opened and the doctor came in and introduced himself. He told me to turn over, and he gave me two shots in the hip. Then he asked me if I knew what was causing, all the nausea and vomiting. I thought he was joking and replied, "Of course I do. I'm pregnant. It's called 'morning sickness'." The doctor looked startled. "You didn't tell me you're pregnant!" "You have my chart in your hand," I replied. "Didn't you look at it?"

"Mrs. Potts, no one told me you were pregnant." Now looking at the chart, he continued, "The shots I just gave you could cause severe deformities in your baby. I'll be right back." He turned and walked out of the room. I sat there wondering about what had just happened.

In a few minutes he returned and said, "Okay. We need to go ahead and schedule the procedure, and the sooner, the better." "What procedure?" I asked. "We will have to terminate your pregnancy," he replied. "What do you mean, 'terminate' my pregnancy? You want me to have an abortion? No! I will not abort my baby!"

"Mrs. Potts, you do not understand," the doctor explained. "Your child could be severely deformed from the medicines you just received. We can't take that chance."

"Oh yes, we can. And we will, because I am not going to abort my baby!"

The doctor continued to try to convince me that "in this situation" an abortion would be the best thing to do, but I flatly refused.

When I left that day, the receptionist gave me a receipt for my payment. Listed on the receipt were the injections I had received. I kept that paper as proof of their mistake, and I still have it somewhere.

Over the next six months I made many trips to the facility, but I never saw that doctor again. The doctors I did see ran a lot of

tests and performed a lot of ultrasound procedures and told me that everything looked fine. The doctors also gave me the option of having an amniocentesis done, but I refused. Whether this baby was perfectly healthy or not, this baby was going to be born!

I was thrilled when I was far enough along to feel my baby moving around inside me, but sometimes my mind would drift to that day I received the shots and the words the doctor had said: "...your child could be severely deformed from the medicines you just received." When I would worry, my husband would reassure me that everything was going to be fine, that God would take care of us.

Finally, on January 22, at 10:00 p.m., my labor started. Twenty-three and a half hours later I gave birth to a beautiful, healthy, eight-pound thirteen-ounce, redheaded baby boy. My husband had been right; God had taken care of us. He had protected our son and kept the medicine from harming in any way. If I had listened to the doctor that day, I would have killed our precious son, because of the doctor's mistake. Instead, eighteen years later, we are still enjoying our gift from God!

Mrs. Strickland finished reading. She stepped back, turned, and with a gesture toward our first trumpet player, said, "And here he is! Stand up, Kenneth Potts!"

Ken stood for a moment as the congregation broke into heartfelt applause. My eyes were moist; I had a lump in my throat as I sat in the orchestra. I had long appreciated the musicianship of this good-looking, well-built young man, for in our orchestra, First Trumpet has a leadership role similar to that of a symphony orchestra's concert master (usually the primary violinist). By his confident, reliable phrasing, he helps all of us realize the conductor's interpretations in the most cohesive way. As an old Army bandsman, I have auditioned many trumpeters of less ability who still were able to contribute greatly to various Army bands; I am qualified to judge such skills. Since the incident related above, Ken graduated from high school and has been offered full-tuition music scholarships at two universities.

However, the primary point of this essay is not to praise a deserving, talented, and well-trained young artist, but to dramatize how narrowly tragedy was averted, how very close was the escape from great loss, a loss of which we would never even have known.

—Warren Bridges/condensed from *Catherine's Choice*

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