



a failed abortion was suffocated by the doctor. There is a report of an instance of a child being placed in ICU after surviving a failed abortion, until the doctor demanded that it be removed, claiming “That’s not a baby, it’s an abortion.” How does this differ much from what God rebuked in Jeremiah 19:5?

No matter how many celebrities get on television defending a woman’s “right to abortion” the simple fact is ABORTION KILLS BABIES! Why are

there so many abortions? In most cases it is not an issue of a threat to the life of the mother. In most cases abortion is done as a type of birth control because it is “inconvenient” of the mother to have a child at the time. Are we really much different from the Canaanites when we kill our own children to allow ourselves sexual freedom?

The Battle at Hand

My aim is not to shock, but to remind us exactly what the issue is. We are at war. We might wish that we could “**remove the high places**” and “**Break the sacred pillars**” and “**Cut down the wooden images**” as Hezekiah did to battle evil (2 Kings 18:4). Now, in this age, the Lord reminds us through His word that, “**The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**” (2 Cor. 5:11). Let us never allow ourselves to come to view this world as a “pretty good place,” but do all that we can to rescue as many souls as possible person by person leading them to Christ.



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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

ISSUE

15.24

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

June 16
2013



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Steve Dixon
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Andrew Dow

“Nor Did it Come into My Mind”

By Kyle Pope

In Jeremiah 19:5 the Lord rebuked the nation of Judah for some thing that was so abominable to Him that He declared, “**I did not command or speak, nor did it come into my mind**” (Jer. 19:5b, NKJV). What could be so distasteful to the Lord? The first part of the verse identifies the practice: “**They have built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal**” (Jer. 19:5a). Sadly, this type of horrifying practice is not confined only to ancient history—in our own day is closely, if not exactly practiced.

Pagan Worship in Ancient History

When the children of Israel came out of the land of Egypt in about 1270 BC they were a most peculiar people. While many of the people of Canaan believed in the god EL (a name which the Hebrews themselves used for God) their beliefs about his nature were quite different. Most of the people worshipped many gods, as opposed to the Israelites who were instructed, “**I am Jehovah thy God, who brought thee out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, thou shalt have no other gods before me**” (ASV). This was not always easy for the Israelites to do. At different times they worshipped *Asherah* (1 Kings 18:19), *Ashtoreth* (Judges 2:19), *Baal* (1 Kings 16:32), and *Molech* (2 Kings 23:10). Even before entering

Canaan, while still on the plains of Moab they tried to blend Baal worship with true worship and 24,000 of them paid for it with their lives (Num. 25:1-9).

Why would people who had seen God's power turn so directly to worship false gods? The answer lies in the nature of the pagan worship itself. History, archeology, and Scripture itself reveal to us that the religions of Canaan were some of the most hedonistic the world has ever known. Their loosely structured system of gods basically revolved



Olsen Park church of Christ

around fertility, sexuality, and death. In an appeal for favor from the gods, their children would be offered in sacrifice by fire to Molech (Ezek. 20:26). The supposed reward was fertile fields and free sexuality. Their temples housed male and female homosexual prostitutes who would offer themselves to the people and their offspring to the fire (Hos. 4:14; Deut. 23:17,18). This intoxicating lure led these poor souls to do almost anything for their gods. As is seen in 1 Kings 18:26-28 when the priest of Baal **“Leaped about the altar...and cut themselves as was their custom with knives and lances until the blood gushed out of them”** (NKJV). James Michner in his historical novel *The Source* (assigned reading in my college ancient history classes) painted a frightening image of this period. He described a people foolishly turning one moment from seeing their children beaten and burned to the next bartering for an night with a shrine prostitute. This desensitvity to the value of human life makes it little wonder the Lord would say, **“The land is defiled; therefore I will visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants”** (Leviticus 18:25).

Modern Parallels

One might wonder how all this relates to our culture. We find no *Church of Baal* down the street or *Congregation of Molech* around the corner. Even so, the same values demonstrated by these people of long ago are exemplified today. We must remember these were people just like us, but they had sunk to the point they valued nothing and no one over their own sensual pleasures. Think about some parallels:

Attitudes Toward Children

Most people understand that the most healthy atmosphere for children to develop is one in which there are caring parents committed to one another and to their children's well-being. Yet all around us we can see divorce, remarriage, and adultery at

will while the children are sacrificed to the gods of *self-fulfillment* and *self-indulgence*. Even when parents do stay together there is often no time left to **“Train up a child in the way he should go”** (Prov. 22:6) because of our worship of hobbies, careers, friends, and self-interest.

Attitudes Towards Sexuality

The media in our society has learned that sexuality can be used as a lure to get people to buy almost anything. Standards of decency are pushed further and further until we become hardened to the immodesty and immorality portrayed. If any challenge is voiced, up goes the cry of “censorship” as they try to protect any activity as “free speech.” Little does it seem to matter to these *defenders of liberty* that rape, murder, child prostitution, and pornography have increased. Street gangs often view the brutalization and rape of women as requirements for acceptance.

Satanism

When I was a boy talk of satanic cults and witchcraft was only the kind of thing for scary movies. Now tragically for many people it is real. When I lived in Birmingham, a gospel preacher named Bob Buchanon had worked with the police department in connection with a number of cases of satanic crimes. There have been instances of children killing their parents out of some twisted devotion to Satan. In Southern Missouri some years ago two teenagers beat a schoolmate to death to obtain “power from Satan.” Apparently some women in these groups actually serve as “breeders” for children used in infant sacrifices. Finally, in the late 1980's a graphic example came to light at Matamoros, Mexico, near the Texas border. Multiple human sacrifices were committed at

the instigation of a cult leader named Adolfo Constanzo. Members of the cult claimed to have been influenced by the brutal satanic movie *The Believers*, but the actions of these twisted souls was not fiction, it was real!

Abortion

One of the most blatant parallels, which has tragically become accepted as a “right” in many people's eyes is abortion. Though the word *abortion* sounds very tame, this barbaric practice can involve a baby being burned to death in the womb with salt solutions, or severed from its mother to drown in the womb. Even worse, some abortion procedures involve babies being sliced up while still in the womb then vacuumed out and thrown away.

In recent court cases, it has come to light that some abortionists deliver live babies and then cut the spinal cord, killing otherwise healthy babies. In a case in Florida some years ago a child that survived