

Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

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Issue 11

When Does Life Begin?

By: James Cammock

One of the most important questions in the abortion discussion is, “When does life begin?” Another way to ask the question is, “At what point in a woman’s pregnancy does the embryo become a human being?” One’s view on the content of an expecting mother’s womb determines his value of it.

Some argue that life begins as early as fertilization, when the sperm and egg join. Others believe that life begins as late as birth, when the expecting mother gives birth to her child. Still others believe that life begins somewhere in between these two stages. One important point to remember is that science is *unable* to determine at what point the embryo becomes a human being. The late Dr. Tommy Mitchell explains, “A purely scientific examination of human development from the moment of fertilization until birth provides no experimental method that can gauge humanness. Stages of maturation have been described and cataloged. Chemical processes and changes in size and shape have been analyzed. Electrical activity has been monitored. However, even with this vast amount of knowledge, there is no consensus among scientists as to where along this marvelous chain of events an embryo...becomes human” (Answers in Genesis, When Does Life Begin?).

When all views are considered, one is led to the logical conclusion that human life begins at fertilization. One reason for such conclusion is the fact that life is a continuum. From growing in the womb to being born, from playing as a child to enjoying the golden years as a senior, each stage of life flows seamlessly into the next, culminating

in death. Dr. Mitchell rightly points out that “...the development of a person is a continuum with a definitive beginning at the moment of fertilization...” When we are dealing with the embryo, we are dealing with a human being, regardless of what point it is in its development. On what objective, scientific basis is a second trimester baby more human than a first trimester baby? On what grounds is a baby one day old more human than a baby one day from birth? There are none. Any attempt to identify a certain point in the development of the embryo as the beginning of a human being is simply arbitrary.

The position that human life begins at fertilization is in harmony with God’s Word, the Bible. When we compare Luke’s account of Elizabeth’s pregnancy with his account of Mary’s birth, we very clearly learn God’s view of the unborn. After receiving the news that she would have the privilege of bearing God’s Son, the virgin Mary journeyed with haste into the hill country of Judah to see her cousin, Elizabeth (Luke 1:39). Elizabeth was also pregnant at the time with the one who would be later known as John the Baptizer (Luke 1:24). Writing as a trained physician (Colossians 4:14), Luke records that when Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the “babe” (John) leaped in her womb (Luke 1:41; cf. 44). The Greek word for “babe” in this verse is *brephos* and it means “an infant” (Strong’s Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries). Sometime after Mary had given birth to Jesus, an angel of the Lord appeared to certain shepherds and announced the wonderful news. The angel told them they would find the “Babe” lying in a manger (Luke 2:12; cf. 16). Luke again employs the Greek word

brephos to speak of Jesus as a “Babe.” God views both the born and the unborn as infants, precious human beings who are made, or who are in the process of being made, in His image. Christian writer, Wayne Jackson, adeptly concludes, “From the divine viewpoint, the product of human conception is a baby – both before and after birth” (ChristianCourier.com, Luke 1:41 – Baby or Fetus?). Other passages that reveal God’s view of the unborn include Psalm 139:13-16 and Jeremiah 1:4-5.

Science cannot define at what point in a woman’s pregnancy the embryo becomes a human being. However, by remembering that the development of a human being is a process, and by working backward to the beginning of that process, one is logically encouraged to conclude that human life begins at fertilization. By considering God’s view of the unborn, we understand that such a conclusion is in line with the Bible. May we as Christians value every stage of human life and do everything we can to protect it.

The Hero Behind Every Story

Who is the hero of the book of Joshua?

You might think it is Joshua. The book is named after him after all. But the hero is definitely NOT Joshua.

It's JEHOVAH!

Of course, God is the hero of every book of the Bible, but perhaps more so than any other, God is the hero of this book:

Joshua's name occurs 168 times in the book, while God's personal name, Jehovah (Yahweh), is found 388 times, over 2.5 times more frequently than Joshua's.

God calls on Israel to defeat mighty Jericho by walking around its

walls. (Not exactly a military strategy that would lend itself to boasting.)

When Israel faced Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, and the confederation of four kings who fought with him, God sent large stones from heaven to rain down on them, so that more died from the hailstones than by the sword (10:11).

When God reviews His faithful deeds for Israel in the last chapter of the book, the first person "I" is used by God 18 times (over the space of 12 verses).

Even Joshua's name (Jehovah saves) directs attention to God!

Joshua is not some expert general. He's not the master architect of a military campaign. He's merely one who is faithful to obey God's Word (1:7; 24:29). It is the LORD who gives Israel victory (3:10; 24:11).

The LORD God does not share glory with anyone. He alone deserves praise for any good purpose accomplished in this world.

Think about the things God is doing through you. The temptation is for you to take credit (especially if it is something impressive), but you must resist that urge.

The next time you feel good about something you've done or someone praises you for accomplishing something, give glory to God!

-selected-

All of Kelvin Pugh’s lessons from our Gospel Meeting are available on the MidTown website. www.midtowncoc.org under Resources.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of March 15, 2020

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread: Patrick Gooch
Fruit of the Vine: Bryant Siegel
Offering: Kevin Sheeran
Assist: Desmon Flonnory, Curtis Scherffius, James Cammock

Sunday Evening: Patrick Gooch, Bryant Siegel

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Don Lynn
A.M. Closing: Isaac Jobes
P.M. Opening: James Cammock
P.M. Closing: Wayne Martin

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Anthony Scherffius
Sun. P.M.: Larry Nuckels
Wednesday: Isaac Jobes

Ushers:

Allen Clifton
Doug Jobes

Wednesday Devotional: Bryce Dolan

Open/Close Building:

Sound System: Scott DeDear

Greeters: Dale Hill
Ushers

Prepare Communion: Randles

We will begin a new program called the Compassion Card program as part of our efforts to evangelize. The goal of this program is to reach out to those in our community who are struggling with illness or bereavement. If you are interested in taking part in this program, please see James Cammock.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Will Cleveland's two year old grandson, Calder, who collapsed and was unresponsive. He did regain consciousness by paramedics but had another seizure at the hospital.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15: Jr./Sr. high devotional at the Whites home after evening services. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.
March 21: Monthly Door Knocking
March 28: GEMS meeting @ 9am
April 25: F.U.E.L Youth rally hosted by MidTown

AREA EVENTS

Mar. 26-28: "Women of Valor" Retreat. More info on the bulletin board.
Mar. 27-29: Beeville Gospel Sermon Series
Mar. 28: Youth Day Bible Study Workshop in Beeville.
June 3-7: "Wait on the Lord" Men's Development conference in College Station.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Connie Kasper (19); Manny Flonnory, Parker Foerster (20)

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Janice FitzSimmons
Dee Gilpatrick
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius
Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of March 8, 2020

Bible Class.....	86
A.M. Worship.....	136
P.M. Worship.....	84
Wednesday Bible Class.....	100

Offering \$3,534

Reading for this week:

And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you."
Joshua 10:8

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli
Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
Southwest School of Bible Studies - William Pedigo

GO PAPERLESS!

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