

# WHERE ARE WE HEADING? (PART 1)

Jon Macon

Those of you in attendance at North Columbia last Sunday night (or if you have listened to the sermon on the church website listed above) should be able to recognize many of the topics and statistics in this article. As was the case two millennia ago, so also today “*the whole world lieth in wickedness*” (1 John 5:19). Yet, the Lord does inform us that certain times are more perilous than others, when morals decline and wickedness grows “worse and worse” (2 Tim 3:1-11). In fact, God reserved His judgment of total destruction upon the Amorites for the point in time when their wickedness became full (Gen 15:12-16). That nation embarked on a downward slope that lasted several hundred years. Practically every one of us who are old enough to understand right from wrong can recognize that the United States of America as well as our entire world is on a slippery slope, departing further away from the Creator with alarming speed.

## **The sanctity of life: the unborn**

Cain was the first human being to take the life of another, and was cursed by God for it (Genesis chapter 4). When Noah and his family departed from the ark, God laid down a fundamental statute for mankind that upholds the Creator’s view of life: “*And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man’s brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man*” (Gen 9:5-6). The loss of Israel’s value for human life was a measure of its decay as a nation. They took the lives of their own children as part of their practice of idol-worship (Psa 106:37-38). Jerusalem was filled with the innocent blood that had been shed (2 Kgs 21:16), and God to refuse to pardon her sins (2 Kgs 24:3-4). In Ezekiel 16:20-21, God said, “Moreover thou hast taken thy sons and thy daughters, whom thou hast borne unto me, and these hast thou sacrificed unto them to be devoured. *Is this of thy whoredoms a small matter, that thou hast slain my children, and delivered them to cause them to pass through the fire for them?*” The killing of children is *not a small matter to God!* And this includes those who are still in their mother’s womb (Exod 21:22-25; Eccl 11:5). In the

# WHERE ARE WE HEADING? (PART 1)

(continued)

landmark *Roe v Wade* case in 1973, the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of abortion. There are no U.S. laws requiring clinics to report the exact number of abortions they perform, but the Centers for Disease Control and other groups do actively pursue data to track the number of annual abortions performed in our nation each year. That number is approximately 1.2 million, which has held steady since 2004. The average was around 1.6 million during the peak years from 1980-1990. Over 55 million total abortions have been performed in the U.S. since 1973. Less than 2% of those are reported as being for rape or incest (not a Biblically justifiable reason to perform an abortion, but shows how many unborn children die merely as a means of “birth control”).

## **The sanctity of life: the weak and feeble**

Innocent children are not the only ones legally dying in our country today. Physician-assisted suicide is now legal in Washington, Oregon, and Montana. Oregon was the first state to legalize physician-assisted suicide in 1994, and the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Oregon’s law in 2006. Through 2011, 596 people have died in Oregon by ingesting medications prescribed by physicians according to the law. Washington enacted a similar statute in 2008. The Montana Supreme Court ruled in 2009 that Montana’s constitution guarantees terminally ill patients the right to obtain lethal medications by prescription from their physician. That case was brought to the court by physicians. An initiative to make it legal in Massachusetts was defeated on November 7. But polls show a majority of people favoring the practice in certain states, and this issue is sure to get more attention. Euthanasia is the practice of a physician ending someone’s life without that person’s active participation. It is currently illegal in all states in our nation, but is legal in certain other countries, mostly in Western Europe. Do any of us really desire that some other person or group of people decide how valuable our life is? Sadly, it is not only the erosion of the value of life that is a measure of the decline of our nation. The same is true for the sanctity of marriage and the family, the first God-ordained institution in this world. More on that to come in next week’s article, Lord willing.