

Shadrach Youth Ministry

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Book report:

I read Intoxicated with Babylon by Steve Gallagher. I consider it to be one of the very best books I have ever read. It states what I have been taught all my life, and provides numerous Scriptures to back it up. In fact, Scriptures are referred to numerous times each page, giving validity to what Mr. Gallagher is saying. In my opinion, the book forces it's reader to make a choice between spiritual life and death. I can't adequately express my appreciation for his excellent presentation of the truth, his clear diagnosis of the Church's depraved condition, and the life of holiness which he shows is necessary to have an inheritance in the kingdom of Heaven. Here is just one quote from the book: "People are only vulnerable to being deceived when they want what is being offered to them."

Throughout the book, he specifically shows how the Church has been deceived because of its selfish desires. It was especially refreshing for me to read Intoxicated with Babylon because I am living in Cleveland now, away from the godly influences in which I was raised. I have been given new ammunition for standing firm in the midst of the battle. I highly, highly recommend this book to people who are living in an environment that encourages compromise. –Charles Morey

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Work on memorization – Genesis chapter 1

New assignments due on January 13th.

Tips on Waiting from A Voice in the Wilderness by Loran W. Helm:

- "If we do not daily deny ourselves – what we want and desire – to wait upon God until He is able to teach us what the Holy Spirit wants us to do, we are missing what Christianity is all about. " (page 78)
- "We must wait before Him that He might teach us how to be led. We must first learn to trust and die out to our own desires so that He can bring us to the place where we can discern His will in the Word and in the Spirit." (pages 119-120)
- "Young people, it is so urgent that you find, through waiting on God and prayer, the companion which God has selected for you." (page 125)

Jesus could Have Been an Unwanted Baby....

Many people at the time of Jesus' birth believed that Jesus was conceived in sin. It was inconvenient and very damaging to both Mary and Joseph's reputation to have this pregnancy. Thankfully, Mary chose to gracefully lose her own reputation and to believe God. I am thankful for the values for life that they had as well. I would like to talk to you about abortion this month. It may seem strange to think that December would be the month to discuss this topic! But, as you remember baby Jesus, appreciate the dedication to what is right on Mary and Joseph's part – it cost them in the short run, but paid dividends beyond comprehension in the long run. Remember also the turmoil of mothers today whose lives may be turned upside down (or right side up) by an unexpected child—by whatever reason. Pray for them that they will also find their help in Christ.

Is abortion ever right? Let's discuss some arguments that even self proclaimed pro-lifers have for abortion. (I am assuming that the readership of this newsletter are pro-life and believe life begins at conception.) Here are some arguments that some people wonder about.

Argument One: What if it's rape or incest?

Should a woman have to carry a baby for nine months that constantly reminds her of a tragic incident? First of all, let me mention that a pregnancy for one of these reasons is very rare. In fact, since conception doesn't occur immediately, with immediate medical care, pregnancy from rape or incest can be prevented. However, it does happen occasionally and we need an answer for the emotional trauma involved. Professor Stephen Krason points out, "psychological studies have shown that, when given the proper support, most pregnant rape victims progressively change their attitudes about their unborn child from something repulsive to someone who is uniquely

worthwhile." Dealing with a rape victim can be an opportunity for the Christian community to develop true understanding and charity. Isn't it preferable to try to develop these virtues than to try to use an ethic of destruction as an answer to the problem? If we really are pro-life, we will agree with Dr. Michael Bauman, "A Child does not lose its right to life simply because its father or its mother was a sexual criminal or deviant." Once we start putting qualifications on who has the right to live, then we enter very dangerous territory. Let's bring comfort and help – not more destruction.

Argument Two: What about all the unwanted children in the world?

If we know a child is not going to have enough to eat, or be verbally or physically abused, wouldn't it be better to let the child die now? If the unborn child is fully human (which it is) then it has the right to protection of life just like the born child who is being neglected or abused. Again, we can't qualify who has the right to live and who doesn't. Only God knows the value of each child. Also, there is no evidence that a child who is unwanted during pregnancy has a more likely incidence of child abuse. In fact, one study shows that 90% of abused children were wanted by their mothers. Stopping people from having children will not eradicate abuse. The question isn't what the quality of life will be, the question is: Is the unborn fully human? Life begins at conception.

Don't add some thoughts here:

In Genesis 38, we have a very unusual story of Judah, his three sons and his daughter-in-law, Tamar. After a series of events, Tamar seduced Judah, her father-in-law. Tamar became pregnant. Now, did Tamar sin? Yes. Was it a bad situation? Yes! Do you believe God brought judgment for what she did? Yes. Now, would that not have been a good reason for an abortion? Some people today would think so.

Although God would have been displeased with the actions of Judah and Tamar, He has a way of turning a "mess" into a "message." Tamar had twins named Pharez and Zarah. Now look at Matthew 1:3, "And Judah begat Pharez and Zarah of Tamar; and Pharez begat Esrom;" and so on. Isn't it amazing that God would choose to use an illegitimate boy to be a part of the lineage of Jesus, the Christ, the Savior of the whole world?! God is into LIFE!!!!

Argument Three: It isn't right or effective to force our beliefs about pro-life onto our society by the passing of laws. Should we make such moral issues public policy when the public doesn't want it?? First of all, remember that the Roe v. Wade decision was made without popular consensus. At that time, the majority of people believed abortion to be wrong. Second of all, the abolition of slavery was also made with widespread disagreement of opinion in America in the nineteenth century...the same is true about most of the civil rights legislation. Then some would argue that making abortion illegal would cause more back alley abortions more likely which can be dangerous. That would be the same as saying we should legalize theft so that people won't have to sneak around and do it behind someone else's back!! It would be more dangerous that way, you know!! ☺ If life is eternally precious, then we must treat it so with our legislation. God knit us together in our mother's womb, Ps.

Argument Four: What if the life of the mother is in danger? This is the most unlikely scenario of all. Politicians and activists will talk like it happens every day, but, in actuality, it is pretty much unheard of. If the mother is in danger, it is not immediate danger, and the baby can be brought to a development where it is relatively safe to take it early and then nurture both baby and mother into health again. Quote from Dr. Alan Guttmacher, pro-abortionist and former head of Planned Parenthood, in 1967: "Today it is possible for almost any patient to be brought through pregnancy alive, unless she suffers from a fatal illness such as cancer or leukemia, and if so, abortion would be unlikely to prolong, much less save life." So be cautious about making too much of this exception remembering life and death are in the hands of God and we must not act in our own flesh or fears. The intent should be to save both lives.

Our God is a God of life - even in unusual circumstances. Let's be a people of life and of hope for the hurting!

For more info, see <http://www.ccel.us/Beckwith.2.html>