

Euthanasia: The Slippery Slope

By Lisa Van Houten



“I’m 28. And I’m scheduled to die in May.” That heartbreaking statement came from a lovely young woman in the Netherlands named Zoraya ter Beek who plans to have a physician kill her sometime this month. Why is she planning to die by lethal injection? Is she terminally ill? No, the reason, she states, is because she’s “hobbled by her depression and autism and borderline personality disorder.” As the Free Press reports, despite being in love with her boyfriend and living in a nice house with their two cats, she is tired of living - at 28 years old.

The Free Press goes on to report: “She recalled her psychiatrist telling her that they had tried everything, that ‘there’s nothing more we can do for you. It’s never gonna get any better.’ At that point, she said, she decided to die.”

This tragic account is not isolated, but is happening by the thousands in countries where individuals are **offered death instead of hope and help**. Physicians are now encouraging, even pressuring, patients to pursue euthanasia, seemingly, because it’s easier than treating them. As the reporter in the story above states: “Zoraya ter Beek is one of a growing number of people across the West choosing to end their lives rather than live in pain. Pain that in many cases can be treated.”

Euthanasia is a growing cause of death

where it’s been legalized. In the Netherlands, as of 2022, euthanasia accounts for one out of every 20 deaths. In Switzerland, physician-assisted suicide increased 11% last year; in Belgium, death by lethal injection went up 15%. Euthanasia is also legal in Canada, Colombia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, and Spain, as well as several states in Australia. Physician-assisted suicide has also been legalized in numbers of U.S. states – more on that below, **including troubling ramifications for Michigan**.

In Canada, which has the infamous “Medical Assistance in Dying” (MAID) program, euthanasia has “grown at a speed that outpaces every other nation in the world,” the Toronto Star reports. One out of every 25 deaths in Canada is the result of physician-assisted suicide - the fifth-leading cause of death. However, it’s now impossible to track how many Canadians are dying from assisted suicide because if someone seeks physician-assisted suicide due to a cancer diagnosis, cancer will now be listed as the cause of death – not euthanasia.

In addition, Canada also leads the world with the most permissive assisted suicide protocols. Canadians can now receive lethal injection if they’re suffering from issues such as depression, anorexia, chronic pain, mental illness, or disability. A pro-euthanasia group in Canada is also lobbying the government to expand assisted suicide to children as young as 12, while the Que-

bec College of Physicians is advocating for killing babies through assisted “suicide” up to age one who are born with “severe malformations” and “grave and severe syndromes.”

When the MAID law was instituted in Canada in 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau dismissed concerns that it would become a slippery slope. City Journal’s Michael Bonner writes, *“When critics argued that the ruling would result in euthanasia being offered to the mentally ill, the depressed, those with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau dismissed such concerns, saying, ‘this simply isn’t something that ends up happening.’”*

And yet eight years later, it has happened. As City Journal goes on to report: *“In 2021, Parliament removed the law’s previous requirement that a person’s natural death must be imminently foreseeable for him to elect suicide. Reports immediately began circulating of physicians pushing MAID on people who had suffered strokes or other survivable challenges. These people were isolated and depressed in many cases, but hardly at death’s door. In one alarming instance, a 71-year-old widower was admitted to hospital after a fall. He contracted infectious diarrhea in hospital, where he was humiliated by staff for the smell of his room. Staff claimed that*

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Personal Note from the President



In the midst of our labors and ministries together, we each also face joys and trials, births and deaths. We rejoice together and we also grieve together throughout our lives.

We just lost my brother-in-law, Jan's brother Steve VanSloten to a six-year battle with dementia and then Alzheimer's. He died at the age of sixty-five. Steve was a missionary in South Africa and then later with his wife Joy for many years in Turkey. Steve and Joy had worked in earlier years with the campus ministry, Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU), ministering to college students at the University of Pennsylvania and Michigan State University.

The funeral was conducted in East Lansing at University Reformed (PCA) with Pastor Jason Helopoulos officiating. It was a beautiful service with Steve and Joy's adult children playing a significant role with their testimonials - glorifying God and celebrating the life of their father. One person noted, and I'm sure that would have matched the experiences of a number of others, that they had never experienced such a beautiful service of ministry in music, preaching, congregational singing and testimonial where Christ was so magnified!

Indeed, I observed several loved ones, that I know are outside of Christ, who were highly attentive to the worshipful manner of the celebration and honoring of Steve's life.

It was a moving experience to see and hear the God-honoring manner and words of adult children, Joel, Mandy and Deirdre, as they shared biblically and lovingly the life and testimony of their father. Growing up in a missionary family, they, too, had served and, in some cases, as young adults in the

states and in Turkey. Mandy and her husband Sanjay presently serve in the Middle East with their children. No bitterness or doubt. Rather, gratitude, honor, and glory to God, as they released their earthly father to his Heavenly home, acknowledging the greatness of their Heavenly Father and His grace and mercy - who they have learned to trust through the trials and tribulations of life.

I was moved on the day of the funeral by a video displayed on Facebook by Steve and Joy's youngest daughter, Deirdre (who also is in full-time ministry with her husband Rob on the campus of Michigan State University). It was a recent video of Steve sitting at the kitchen table as Deirdre shared with him a worship video of *Great is Thy Faithfulness*. And, despite the advanced effects of Alzheimer's, Steve's face is aglow with a look of worship and adoration of His Lord and Savior, Jesus!

Death is coming to all. What comfort to be in Christ! When I first moved to Fremont (Jan's hometown) back in 1978 as a 32-year-old, I noted that Jan's parents (Dave and Geneva VanSloten) seemed to go to a lot of funerals at that stage of their lives. We noted how respectful and sober they were, but they also knew death was a part of life and that, for Christians, death does not have the victory. "*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.*" (Psalm 116:15) Jan and I were disciplined by their example. We, too, have experienced the tragic loss of a little granddaughter just learning to walk; a recent miscarriage of a little grandson; and the passing of brothers-in-law, sisters, and sisters-in-law; our beloved parents and grandparents; many elderly friends and financial supporters; former support staff; and the recent death of Donald E. Wildmon - the one who God used to ignite my heart and help provide a vision into this ministry seemingly so long ago (1987). You, too, have experienced similar losses.

The Apostle Paul's powerful words, as he neared the end of his earthly journey, resound with life and reality: "*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and*

not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh." 2 Corinthians 4:7-11

Just this day, in a noteworthy conversation with a respected friend a few years my senior who fights the fight of faith day in and day out, he said: "*Bill, if Bonnie (his departed wife of a year ago) could speak to us today, she would say, 'Guys: Just do the best that you can do while you're down there.'*"

In other words, be faithful in service, leaving the results to God. We saw some of the impact of my brother-in-law's faithful service. My friend is also doing that - relentlessly giving it his all - sounding the alarm and making tools of service available to those down here. May we be doing the same; striking the balance between prayerfulness, financial giving, and yielding our bodies as instruments of Jesus Christ for His glory and honor. "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*" Romans 12:1-2 Let us make that our charge and stay. God help us, we pray!

"Let your memory keep the instructions, reproofs, and comforts drawn out from out of the Word by these saints; and then let your conscience apply them to your soul until they distil into affections and you become more and more in love with the holiness of Christ yourself. ... Our friends and relatives have only been loaned to us for awhile, and whether we learn from them or ignore them, God will call them back before very long." [Taken from *The Christian in Complete Armour*, Volume 2, William Gurnall]

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he had end-stage COPD and offered him MAID; he took their advice and was euthanized within 48 hours of his first assessment. A post-mortem examination, however, proved that he did not have end-stage COPD.”

Canada’s euthanasia program doesn’t “distinguish between medical infirmities and avoidable suffering caused by neglect or poverty,” Bonner also writes. It’s also now argued that Canadians should be able to receive assisted suicide if “living conditions make their lives intolerable.” The philosophy of the Canadian government seems to echo that of Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* – let the poor die and “decrease the surplus population.”

Indeed, the vulnerable are often pressured to hasten their own deaths so as not to be “a burden.” Doctors have offered suicide to Canadians who can’t afford housing, veterans who are struggling financially, those who are on months-long waiting lists for medical care, or simply because it’s less expensive and more convenient for Canada’s government-run healthcare system to offer patients death rather than care.

It all comes down to dollars and cents. Back in 2017, the Canadian Broadcast Network reported that “medically assisted dying could result in substantial savings across Canada’s health-care system,” reducing costs by millions. **It’s cheaper to kill than to cure.**

Here in the U.S., ten states plus Washington, D.C. have legalized physician-assisted suicide. In an effort to negate their complicity, U.S. physician-assisted suicide involves doctors prescribing a lethal dose of pills for a patient to take at home. Yet that doesn’t wash the blood off the hands of doctors who betray the Hippocratic Oath to “do no harm.” The physician’s Hippocratic Oath goes back centuries before Christ and in-

cludes this sentence: “*Nor shall any man’s entreaty prevail upon me to administer poison to anyone. Neither will I counsel any man to do so. Moreover, I will give no sort of medicine to any pregnant woman with a view to destroy the child.*”

My home state of Michigan will be the 11th state to legalize doctor-assisted suicide, if Senate Bills 678-681 become law.

This so-called “Death with Dignity Act” would supposedly limit assisted suicide to terminally ill adults with fewer than six months to live. However, Canada once had those same “safeguards.” Now, just eight years later, they’re killing vulnerable people with depression and anorexia. **The slippery slope is very real.**

A recent special election to fill two empty seats in the deadlocked state legislature were both won by Democrats, giving the party of death the majority. **We can expect the Democrats to push through the euthanasia bills mentioned above. Michiganders, we need to be engaged is striving to kill these bills!**

A Michigan ballot proposal in 1998 which sought to legalize assisted suicide failed as 7 out of 10 Michiganders rejected it. However, in 2022, less than 25 years later, an overwhelming majority of Michigan voters approved a ballot proposal legalizing abortion up to the moment of birth. The moral foundations that once upheld our society have rapidly disintegrated.

It’s interesting that nearly 80 years after it’s filming, “It’s a Wonderful Life” is still one of America’s most beloved Christmas movies – a Christmas movie dealing with suicide. You more than likely know the story of George Bailey who also sees suicide as the only way out of his troubles – until Clarence the angel is summoned because, he’s told, George is “thinking seriously of throwing away God’s greatest gift.” In fact, “The Greatest Gift” was the original title of the movie script. “*It’s against the law to commit suicide around here,*” the tollkeeper says in the film. “*It’s against the law where I come from, too,*” adds Clarence.

While assisted suicide is no longer against man’s law in many countries, including our

own, it will always be against God’s law.

Our bodies – including our life and our death - belong to God. They are not ours to dispose of as we will. Human beings are created in His image, for His will, and for His glory. We were made for God; we are not autonomous beings. **The Bible makes clear that the giving and taking of life is God’s right; euthanasia is an attempt to usurp His authority.**

Of course, doctors should do all that is possible to relieve human suffering and the advancement of palliative care is a great benefit to many at the end of natural life. Deciding whether to pursue further treatment is also something to be considered. However, there’s a stark difference between comfort at the end of life and causing a life to end.



Death ushers in the greatest consequence for each person, the moment in which one’s final destiny is irrevocably set. (Luke 16:26; Hebrews 9:27) For those who have put their trust in the redeeming work of Christ, we are assured of eternity with the Lord. But what about those who have no hope? (I Thessalonians 4: 13) What about those who are lost in despair, and instead of being offered the hope found in Jesus, are instead offered death. Euthanasia robs them of the opportunity to hear the good news and find true peace - the peace that can only be found in Jesus.

We began with the heart-wrenching story of Zoraya ter Beek, who told the Free Press: ***“I’m a little afraid of dying, because it’s the ultimate unknown. We don’t really know what’s next — or is there nothing? That’s the scary part.”***

Oh, if only someone will tell her before it’s too late! Please pray for Zoraya that she will put her trust in the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and find His purpose for her life – a life, I pray, that will last for many years to come.

God's Sheep Must Prepare for the Wolves

By Chris Johnson



“A lot of people's moral compass and the guidelines that they've used and follow to live a just and righteous life has come from religion. And unfortunately, a lot of very intelligent people, they dismiss all the positive aspects of religion because they think that the stories are mere superstitious fairy tales, that they have no place in this modern world...”

That's the kind of thing you're used to reading in these pages, but it's *NOT* the kind of thing listeners are used to hearing on the Joe Rogan podcast. Much less what came a few moments later: *“We need Jesus. For real, like if you came back now, Jesus, if you're thinking about coming back, right now, now's a good time...”* That the infamous skeptic and world's number one podcast host would say those words would have been unthinkable half a decade ago, but that's the conclusion Rogan came to earlier this year while chatting with Aaron Rodgers.

And Rogan is only a sample of a class of former and often antagonistic agnostics who are in the midst, or have come through the other side, of a crisis of faith in recent years.

Russel Brand, a former Hollywood actor, stand-up comedian, and podcast host is also on a religious journey. Medium.com describes his background: *“He became famous in the late 1990s and early 2000s as a sexed-up comedian. He went on to become a noted activist, often critical of ‘woke’ politics. Now Russell Brand says he's become a Christian.”*

Add to Brand, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, an experienced critic of the Islamic faith she grew up in, but for the past decade coming from an established secular, atheistic perspective. In November of 2023, she announced her conversion to Christianity.

M.I.A., a British rapper with an international fanbase, was a fairly committed

Hindu who now says she became a Christian in 2017 after seeing a vision of Jesus.

JP Sears, the long-haired redhead who became Facebook and later YouTube famous in the 2010s for his satire videos criticizing leftist thought, though often with a nod toward Eastern religion, explained why he converted in 2023: *“There is an attempt to bring communism all over the world, certainly in the United States, there's a reason why communists have their number one objective to disconnect people from God, because they don't want people having faith in a real higher power so those communists get to be your higher power.”*

“...People who have a faith in a real higher power God, they are not controllable...”

Additionally, nearly any time a Christian mentions listening to Jordan Peterson's podcast you can expect to hear, “I think he's close to becoming a Christian.” His wife and daughter have pursued different paths of the historic Christian faith in recent years, and Peterson hosts Bible study courses for the Daily Wire, albeit from a literary perspective not a Christian one.

Even Richard Dawkins, author of the “God Delusion” and still very much an avowed atheist, recently said, *“I call myself a cultural Christian. I'm not a believer, but there's a distinction between being a believing Christian and being a cultural Christian.”*

Tucker Carlson, who was raised an Episcopalian but never took it to heart, has expressed a desire to and shown evidence of taking his faith more seriously.

Recently, Carlson interviewed liberal author, skeptic - and Jewish - Naomi Wolfe and their discussion helps us answer this question: what is putting all of these religious skeptics and agnostics into search mode and making Richard Dawkins feel warm inside about the faith he's so famous for attempting to dismantle?

Here is how Wolfe explains it as she recalls the “Covid era”: *“When I considered what I was seeing with all the heads of state of countries around the world walking in lock-step... in an anti-human assault against cit-*

izens, right? I mean, the lockdowns targeted everything that's best about us as human beings: prayer, singing, family, intimacy, physical contact, physical touch, physical contact, community. All of that was targeted. When I saw that happening around the world in identical language all at the same time, I realized that that was not from my study of history. That's not possible by just human history.

“It just felt like these dark forces had been let loose that had not been on the planet... And I saw that this was evil, right? I saw that it was so impressive, that it was beyond human capacity and that it was evil. So, I concluded that I believed that in God more literally than I had, because the evil aimed at Him was more literal than I'd ever witnessed before. So, it must be aimed at something that really exists, you know?”

Tucker called it “coming at it from a photographic negative.”

These former atheists and Hindus and agnostics are certainly not yet all orthodox, much less Evangelical, Christians, by any means. But I think that even their ranks are a reminder to Christians who have become so used to an antagonistic culture, that **people are still out there asking the questions for which Jesus Christ is the only answer.** There are still many who can see our culture turning to what Wolfe would describe, and I would agree, as thinly veiled demon worship and they don't want to be on the demons' side. And this is what's driving some towards God.

God's church must recognize that the battle is not against flesh and blood, stand boldly on His Truth against demonic influence, and be ready to guide these religious refugees to Him.

American Decency Frontline
Vol. XXXVIII, Issue V
Published monthly by
American Decency Association

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Lessons from Baltimore

By Steve Huston



Though several weeks ago and much news has since flashed before our eyes and run through our minds, we mustn't allow the memory of the Dali container ship leaving Baltimore Harbor – which lost power and backup power, resulting in the destruction of the Francis Scott Key Bridge – to disappear over the horizon of our memory. It's of vast importance because it holds three vital lessons for us: historical, unveiling our present danger, and of spiritual application.

Almost before the “dust settled,” we were assured there was no evidence of terrorism or foul play, yet as Gary Bauer reminds us: *“We have been informed in recent months by multiple federal agencies that communist Chinese operatives are attempting to hack into America’s critical infrastructure, including the electrical grid, water plants, and ports. We are now replacing many port cranes made in communist China because we concluded they had ‘spyware’ devices monitoring our shipping.”* And the day prior, *“the Justice Department announced the indictment of seven communist Chinese hackers connected to Beijing’s Ministry of State Security. So, the day after that announcement, we get this catastrophe.”*

After listing off other facts which make it difficult to trust the government’s “findings,” he concludes with: *“Don’t assume anything in the difficult months ahead. A government that loves killing babies and wants drag queens to read to your six-year-old will not hesitate to lie to you.”*

Unrestricted warfare from China? Terrorism? Accident? *We the People* may never know for sure, but God knows and may have allowed it for these three lessons.

Historical: As one blogger put it, *“This bridge is not just a physical structure but a*

monument to American resilience and perseverance through adversity.” If you’re not aware of the story behind our national anthem: the massive British fleet bombarding Fort McHenry in order to work its way through Baltimore, the men who passionately fought off this fleet through the day and rain-soaked night, and the raising of an even larger American flag over the fort after the battle was won, then you need to familiarize yourself with this amazing piece of history.

If this is an enemy attack, we would do well to learn the lesson of how precious freedom was to those who came before us. Might we pray for the same resilience and love of freedom – both physical and spiritual.

Present Danger: Historically, Baltimore has been a crucial port; it remains so today. It’s our ninth-largest port overall, but it’s first for cars and trucks. If this incident, whether intentional or not, revealed anything to the American public, it’s that we are woefully unprepared for intentional attacks and ill-prepared with an action plan for potential accidents – especially when one considers that no steps have been taken to protect the vulnerability of our critical infrastructure even though an accident took place in Tampa exactly like this one forty-four years ago. In speaking with Frank Gaffney, Sam Faddis gave this scathing indictment: Although we’ve known about this problem for forty-four years, “our entire federal bureaucracy hasn’t...lift[ed] a finger” (to make corrections). Add to this that most of our modern propulsion type ship engines are connected to the internet (making them hackable), we recognize that our maritime critical infrastructure is at great risk if we don’t take drastic protective steps concerning both ships and structures.

The collapse of this bridge not only effects the economy of those in Baltimore, its ripple effect is concerning for both the United States and our allies. For one, it’s a major disruption to supply chains both internally and for import/export of food and other goods. Militarily, Col. John Mills (ret.) calls it a “national security crisis” because nearly 10 percent of our ready reserve fleet is trapped in Baltimore Harbor

due to the bridge’s collapse. *“These are extremely important ships that are necessary for emergencies with, let’s say, an invasion of Taiwan by China. We need these ships immediately and four of them are trapped.”*

To learn about other issues and concerns surrounding this incident, go to www.presentdangerchina.org and watch the webinar *“No accident, comrade.”* Regardless, let us learn well the lesson that we are extremely vulnerable and we do a disservice to ourselves and our allies when we allow these things to go unchecked.

Spiritual Application: Historically, it’s vital that we remember where we have come from – the call out of sin to intimacy with Christ (“Follow Me.”) and the freedom that is found in Jesus. Instead of taking that freedom for granted, let us be ever watchful for the enemy within (self) and the temptations from without that desire to make shipwreck of our faith. May we learn from past events – both ours and others – and through regular examination where our spiritual structure may be weak and pray for God’s hand of strengthening. Let us lean hard on His grace, remembering His expected growth for us (2 Pet. 2) and the good works He has “before ordained that we should walk in” – for this is our role to play in strengthening.

The incident in Baltimore Harbor, intentional or accidental, reminds us to be vigilant in protecting our spiritual supports from attack through fervent prayer and daily devotions. To keep from being “hacked” by the devil, let us study the Word of God and diligently apply it to our lives, that we might have “strong meat” having our “senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” (Heb. 5:14) It is the Word of God which is our standard, for it never changes even when “churches,” ministries, and cultures do.

As spiritual attacks increase, let us set our sights upon heaven while we continue to occupy earth. Let us praise God and share the gospel, keeping our focus clear. All these things being done in the power of God for the glory of God.

FISA Allows Fed to Spy on Americans

By Chris Johnson



Last week, under Speaker Johnson's leadership, the House of Representatives passed the reauthorization of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). This took place after Johnson was the tie-breaking vote on an amendment to the bill which would have required spy agencies to obtain a warrant from a FISA judge before surveilling American citizens. Speaker Johnson's vote killed that amendment, while the bill itself was passed and will proceed to the Senate, where "privacy hawks" will have another shot at protecting Americans from the prying eyes of their own government.

What the passage of FISA reauthorization means for Americans is that private international interactions can open up American citizens to investigation. Over two decades ago, this was one issue where the American Civil Liberties Union lived up to its name and stood up for actual liberty. Here's their description of FISA from 2003: *"The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), born after the Watergate scandal, establishes how the government can secretly eavesdrop on Americans in their own country in intelligence investigations. It was originally passed to allow the government to collect foreign intelligence information involving communications with 'agents of foreign powers.'*

"Today, however, the federal government is exploiting this once-narrow exception to make an end-run around the Constitution. The USA Patriot Act, passed by Congress in 2001 and re-authorized in 2006, expanded FISA to allow the government to obtain the personal records of ordinary Americans from libraries and Internet Service Providers, even when they have no connection to terrorism..."

Two decades ago, records of online research on our own or the public library's computer was the extent of the data trail we left on-

line. With today's devices and the apps running on them, that data includes everything from emails to text messages to 'likes' on social media posts, just to begin with.

The concerned conservative citizen who isn't always up on the latest news from "the swamp" — Washington, D.C. — can be excused for their confusion if they are surprised by Speaker Johnson's imperial thumbs down for the warrant amendment. He had been an outspoken critic. Recently, he explained his change of heart: *"When I was a member of Judiciary, I saw all of the abuses of the FBI — there were terrible abuses, over and over and over.*

"And then when I became Speaker, I... got the confidential briefing from sort of the other perspective on that, to understand the necessity of Section 702 of FISA and how important it is for national security. And it gave me a different perspective..."

Of course, we everyday Americans can't know what Johnson heard in that briefing, but we can still see enough evidence of the FBI's priorities to know we might not share the same idea of what constitutes a "threat."

When we hear terms like "foreign intelligence" and "terror threat" and "national security" thrown around it may invoke images of robed and bearded men in the desert tapping out dastardly plans to some schmuck in Minneapolis whom they've talked into subscribing to Al Qaida magazine. But let me present another picture of what those terms mean to today's surveillance agencies.

Mike Benz, the executive director of the Foundation for Freedom Online made this point on War Room with Natalie Winters: *"Any crooked FBI agent can make the argument that if you do not support another \$60 billion this year, a \$100 billion later this year, a trillion over the next five years to Ukraine, then you are helping Russia. Well, why are you helping Russia? Well, we'd better find out to decide if you have Russian contacts. So, boom, now they can tap your wi-fi device. They can listen to your phone while you're on the toilet or making love to your spouse!"*

Benz's point is that you don't have to be

doing anything illegal or unAmerican to wind up in the sites of the national security apparatus; you just have to have the wrong opinions.

The FBI, in particular, stands accused of abusing the data collected on American citizens. In fact, the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) released a report last year detailing hundreds of thousands of such abuses. Several examples, as reported by the Hill, include: *"...the FBI turned to the database to look into someone it believed was present at the Capitol during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack, an inquiry that did not have any 'analytical, investigative or evidentiary' purpose.*

"An analyst conducted 13 searches of people who were suspected of participating in the riot to see whether they had any foreign ties, but the Justice Department later determined that it did not meet the standard required for a search."

Wired.com provides several more examples: *"FBI personnel conducted searches of FISA data using 'only the name of a US congressman...'"* and *"In another incident, the FBI ran searches using the 'names of a local political party...'"*

With the expiration date of the program approaching, the agency attempted to assuage concern by assuring Congress that they've refreshed their analysts on proper procedure for accessing the data and will police themselves better.

However, Americans have seen the priorities of today's FBI. We've seen journalists arrested for their presence at the January 6 protest. We've seen grandpas arrested for praying outside abortion clinics. In our own state, we've seen the FBI entrap young fathers in a scheme to kidnap the governor. We've seen them smother the Hunter Biden laptop story to manipulate the outcome of the last election.

This is who we're trusting with this access to our private lives. Congress failed to protect our privacy, which may prove to be a bigger threat to conservative Americans than terrorism, if things don't change in the executive branch.

Compromise or Conviction?

By Lisa Van Houten



Every baby knit together by his or her Creator has the inalienable right to life. Recently, the Arizona Supreme Court upheld a law passed in 1864 which recognized that truth. What the media fails to mention, this 1864 law banning nearly all abortions had been in effect in Arizona all the way up to 1973, when it was superseded by *Roe v. Wade*. With the *Dobbs* decision rightly overturning *Roe*, this law can now go back into effect. However, not only the Left, but many on the Right, condemned this protection of the unborn. Arizona Republican Senate candidate, Kari Lake, stated she “opposed” the re-instating of this abortion ban. Others echoed her sentiments, with “pro-life” Republicans actually calling for a reversal of this abortion ban.

Former President Trump has also declared that abortion decisions should now be left to the states, because, he stated, “this is all about the will of the people” and “whatever they decide must be the law of the land.” Politicians who have espoused pro-life principles are now sticking their finger in the air to see which way the cultural wind is blowing. So-called conservatives are following the establishment’s playbook, compromising on life in order to win votes. Statesmen stand unwaveringly for principles; politicians strive to be elected. And that’s why we see politicians run from pro-life principles because being “too pro-life” is not politically expedient. Instead of making the compelling case to the American people that abortion is morally wrong because it intentionally kills human beings, Republicans are surrendering the issue to Democrats out of fear of losing elections. Donald Trump even admitted that was his motivation for compromising his previous stance: “We have to win elections,” he stated.

It’s naïve to think that most Republican politicians, including Donald Trump, are principled social conservatives on moral issues

such as the right to life. They’re pragmatists who see abortion as a losing issue with today’s electorate, but see a better chance of winning if the emphasis is on inflation and the border. With the ramifications of another four years of the Biden administration, there is truth in Trump’s argument that without winning elections, “we will have nothing other than failure, death, and destruction.”

While that may be politically logical, we can’t reduce abortion to just a political issue; it’s not morally neutral. As theologian Albert Mohler stated: **“We cannot possibly use that as justification to hold to a policy position we believe violates our deepest convictions. The threat of not winning an election cannot justify assuming an immoral position.”**

These compromising “conservatives” are taking the position Stephen Douglas took against Abraham Lincoln regarding slavery in their famous pre-civil war debates. Douglas argued that the issue of slavery should be left up to each individual state. In other words, one group could enslave (or kill) another group as long as the majority voted to approve it. However, as John Daniel Davidson writes at the *Federalist*: **“There are some things not even a majority can impose, like slavery.”**

At the moment of conception, a human being is created, and therefore deserving of protection. Their humanity is not defined by location, size, or degree of development. As the Republican’s own party platform states: *“The Constitution’s guarantee that no one can ‘be deprived of life, liberty or property’ deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence’s proclamation that ‘all’ are ‘endowed by their Creator’ with the inalienable right to life. Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment’s protections apply to children before birth.”*

The lives of human beings can’t be left up to the “will of the people.” **The right to life cannot be decided by majority rule.** While President Trump wants to leave the issue where the Supreme Court left it – with

the states – it will ultimately not stay there. Donald Trump says he’s no longer in favor of federal legislation limiting abortion; however, the Democrats are in favor of imposing a nationwide, unlimited “right” to abortion. If the Democrats capture the White House and Congress, you can be sure they will codify into federal law the most extreme abortion legislation.

Albert Mohler summed up the reality of what is before us: *“...at this point, you have an activist pro-abortion administration led by President Joe Biden that will further that agenda at every possible turn. And you have a former President Trump running for election to another term in office, who is not holding to a position that I believe is consistently pro-life ... But at the same time, it will be markedly more pro-life, which is to say markedly less pro-death, than the opposing party. That’s where we stand.”*

Another reality before us is, with the reversal of *Roe* sending the issue back to the states and the people, we are now seeing where the American people truly stand on abortion. And the picture isn’t good. Since *Roe* was overturned, every state ballot proposal passed by voters has expanded, not limited, abortion – even in red states such as Kentucky. The stark truth is that the majority of Americans support abortion. **In 2023, the first full year after the overturning of *Roe*, there were more abortions in the U.S. than at any time in the last decade.** The 1,026,690 murdered babies doesn’t include mothers who received do-it-yourself abortion pills. Worldwide, abortion is the leading cause of death, with over 44 million babies killed in the womb last year.

Abortion is the result of a post-Christian worldview that worships self, rather than God. Our culture sees abortion as necessary for the pursuit of personal pleasure. The task before Christians is far more than a debate about legislation; it’s a mission to change hearts and minds. We can’t be satisfied until the taking of unborn life is unthinkable, just as the idea of slavery is unthinkable today. **We must continue to contend for the protection of every single, fearfully and wonderfully made, unborn human life.**

A Word to Parents

By Puritan writer, William Gurnall



Parents, your children have souls which God expects you to nourish with at least as much care as you lavish on their physical needs. Who will teach them if not you? No one is surprised to hear that a ship put out to sea without a compass has sunk or run aground. Why should we be surprised to see children wander far from God, when they have received no spiritual direction?

We see a pattern set for us by the saints of old. David, busy king that he was, thought it his solemn responsibility to instruct his son in the ways of the Lord: “Know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind” (1 Chronicles 28:9). And what need I tell you of Timothy’s mother and grandmother, who taught him the Scriptures from the time he was a child? I believe a man calls in question his own Christianity if he does not bother to acquaint his child with God and the way that leads to Him. I will even go so far as to say **I have never known a true saint who was not deeply concerned about his child’s relationship with the heavenly Father.**

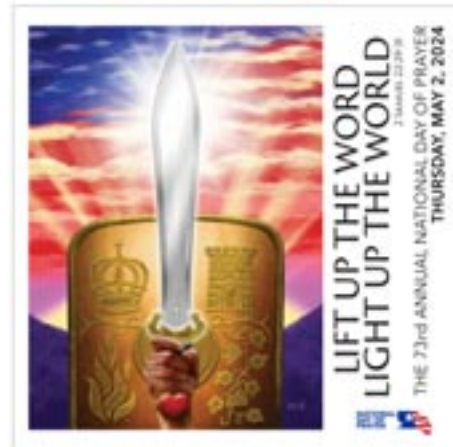
You will give a poor account at the Last Day if all you can say is, “Lord, here are my children, I bred them gentlemen and left them wealthy.” What a mocking witness to your own folly that you would do so much for that which rusts, and nothing for a knowledge of God unto salvation, which endures forever!

A careful study of the principles of God will show how serious this matter is. If we neglect the spiritual training of our children, we fail on many fronts.

You obviously fail your children when you leave them ignorant. Faith and disbelief are fundamentally different, not only by definition but in the way they operate as well.

Faith will not grow without planting, and will die even where it is planted unless it is watered and fertilized with the Word of God.

National Day of Prayer Thursday, May 2, 2024



Our involvement with the National Day of Prayer (NDOP) spans all the way back from 1986 to the present time. Back then there was an amazing sense of tranquility and security in our culture, largely thanks to President Ronald Reagan’s policy of “peace through strength.” Year after year, I saw the deterioration in America from increasing moral confusion on issues such as abortion, homosexuality, pornography, and divorce. The more American television rejected Christian morality, the more it consumed people’s lives and shaped their lifestyles. Then came the advent of the cell phone whereby Americans, young and old alike, had their minds bombarded with messaging, images, innuendo, addictive sexual content and skillful propaganda from near and far.

With each passing year, questions arose in my heart and soul, “How long, oh Lord, before you are going to deal with our increasingly degraded homeland?” 2015: the U.S. Supreme Court passes Obergefell v. Hodges, legally affirming homosexual “marriage.” In 2022, Roe v. Wade was overturned, returning the abortion question to each state jurisdiction. Good news, but since then many states, both red and blue, when given the opportunity to vote for

strong pro-life legislation, voted to protect abortion measures.

Throughout those many years of observing the NDOP events, the most familiar scripture highlighted year after year was 2 Chronicles 7:14. *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”*

I believe then as I do now. Surely God sees. Surely He will judge. But, He has graciously given us year after year to turn from our wicked ways. And, we did not! One now wonders if God will yet grant us another year of His grace and if we may yet have the freedom to gather and to pray openly. Just last year, Christians were arrested for praying in front of abortion clinics. In his proclamations this past Easter, President Biden had more warmth for trans-genders than he did for Christians. Meanwhile, China’s influence on the United States is only growing through their “unrestricted warfare,” and the UN’s “climate agenda” is being imposed on our industries and food supply. We are in deep trouble in so many ways, and the only good explanation for how we’re still here as a nation is God’s grace.

I’m not trying to be dramatic. But, in our state of lethargy are we capable of repenting and turning from our wicked ways?

On Thursday, May 2, 2024 from noon to 1:00 PM we will be hosting a National Day of Prayer event at ADA’s auditorium at 203 E. Main Street, Fremont, MI.

We hope that if you’re in our area you can come join us! If you’re not in our area we encourage you to find an NDOP event happening near you and join us and Christians around the country in prayer, not only to ask for God’s favor, but to repent of our own and our nation’s sins in humble repentance.

