

## “Back To The Basics”



## DECEMBER 2023

FROM THE DESK OF:

GERALD B. COLLINGSWORTH, PASTOR



Pastor & Mrs.  
Collingsworth

### Abortion in the Light of Christmas

**INTRODUCTION:** Life begins at conception, not birth. Yet, there are many lies being promoted to push for acceptance of abortion. Let us examine abortion in light of Christmas. *Luke 1:41: "And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salvation of Mary, the Babe leaped in her womb..."* Examine: *Isaiah 49:1, Jeremiah 1:5, and Psalms 139:13-16.*

#### **FIRST: THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE.**

If every person has a right to choose, then does every teenage boy have a right to rape any girl in his school or neighborhood, if that is his choice? After all, it's his body and neither you nor I have the right to tell him what to do with his body based on this reasoning. He is free to choose and it is none of our business what choice he makes... or is it? Excuse me! I don't think so!

People claim that we have no right to impose our morals upon him. Whether I like the choice or not, he should have the freedom of choice IF we believe the logic of "choice." But you (and I) would say, "The response to this kind of thing would mean that the rape of an innocent teenage girl would ignore her rights! EXACTLY! This is what abortion does to babies. Abortion violates the rights of the little baby that cannot defend itself. Most of America is not pro-choice when it comes to murder, rape, kidnapping, armed robbery, and child abuse, we are not opposing something that is right, but something that is very wrong. To be "pro-choice" about someone's right to kill is to be anti-choice about someone else's right to live.

#### **SECOND: THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY.**

Did you know there is nothing constitutional about the right to privacy, because the right is nowhere found in the Constitution of the United States. It was declared by the Supreme Court in 1973, as a right higher than an unborn child's right to live. Is privacy a right? Yes, but society recognizes that some rights are higher than others. Does one person's right to privacy outweigh another person's right to live? No!

What would you think of a man who tortured his children on the grounds that he was doing it in the privacy of his home and was protected by the Constitution? The truth is abortion is not done in private, but in government promoted clinics.

#### **THIRD: THE DIAGNOSIS OF DEFORMITY.**

Realize the diagnosis could be wrong. Realize also that a blind dog is still a dog, and a handicapped man is still a man.

Illustration: Abortions based on probable handicaps rob the world of unique people who would significantly contribute to society. For example, one day a medical school teacher gave his class a case study to determine whether or not to advise the mother to have an abortion. Here were the facts of the case:

- \* The father had syphilis and the mother had tuberculosis.
- \* Of the four children already born, the first was blind.
- \* The second died.
- \* The third was deaf and dumb.
- \* The fourth child had tuberculosis.

Continued



Dr. Greg Neal

### No Place For Jesus

Luke 2:7

It had been prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. This world was not prepared for the birth of Christ. It had been prophesied that the Messiah would come. Jesus was going to come. The One Who would take away the sins of the world, the future King, was going to come; and yet, we find them unprepared. The fact is that He had to be sent to a stable to be born. Let me add that just as this world was unprepared for His first return, this world is unprepared today for His second return. Just as Jesus came the first time, He is coming a second time. His coming the first time was just as real as His second coming is going to be. He is coming again! We find them unprepared for Him.

The Bible tells us there was no room for Joseph, no room for Mary, no room for the Christ-Child to be born. So, He was in a stable. He was laid in a manger. We sing the Christmas carol "Away in a Manger." That was the birth of our Saviour. The innkeeper said, "I do not have room, but you can stay here. You can stay in this stable. You can stay in this barn. I do not have room here, where you would want to be. I do not have room where everybody else is, but I am willing to give you what I have left. I am willing to allow you to rest your head, the best you can, in the space that I have left over." That is why we read in Luke 2 about our Saviour being born in such circumstances. I think it is tragic that our Saviour entered the world this way, but I believe this is how the Lord would have it. I believe God knew how He would come into this world. This shows Christ's willingness to humble Himself, His willingness to be that servant, to do for us what only He can do. It also shows that this world would reject Him not only then in the manger but also one day on the cross. I think what might be just as tragic, or more tragic today, is that man says, "God, I do not have any room for You. Jesus, I do not have a place for You, but I will give You what I have left over."



### Heritage Highlanders December 2023 Schedule

Saturday December 3 Proverbs 11:30  
Soulwinning  
Saturday December 10 Romans 15:13  
Joy

Saturday December 16  
Giving  
Saturday December 23  
The Christmas Story  
Saturday December 30  
Do Right!

Luke 6:38

Matthew 1:18

Deu. 5:32

### Pictures From "Old-Fashioned" Sunday



Rachel the Hood



The Baker Family



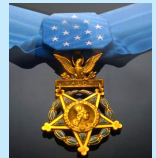
**"HOW MANY PHILOSOPHERS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHTBULB? NONE. THEY'RE NOT REALLY INTO THAT SORT OF THING. IF IT'S THAT DARK, LIGHT A CANDLE."**

### Lest We Forget



1st Lt. Larry Taylor

A graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Larry Taylor was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve in 1966. He completed the armor officers basic course at Fort Knox, KY, before deciding he'd rather fly. Taylor qualified as an aviator in 1967 and was assigned to one of the first Cobra companies in Vietnam.



Serving with D Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, Taylor flew over 2,000 combat missions in UH-1 and Cobra helicopters. According to the Army, his decorations include 43 Air Medals, a Bronze Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses and the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The teacher asked “What counsel are you going to give this mother?” One student gave what seemed was the obvious answer to them: “I would tell the mother to get an abortion.” The teacher responded, “Congratulations... you have just killed Beethoven ”

#### **FOURTH: WHAT ABOUT RAPE?**

Rape is not a key factor for pregnancy in the abortion debate. Fearful young women will sometimes attribute their pregnancies to rape to gain sympathy and avoid the condemnation of immoral behavior. A young woman called “Roe” in the Roe vs. Wade case elicited sympathy in court and in the media by claiming to be raped. In the May 9, 1989, issue of the Oregonian, she admitted she lied and was never raped at all. Killing the baby in a rape case doesn’t solve or cure the problem. Why should you kill the innocent third party? Why should you punish the child for what the father did?

#### **FIFTH: ABORTION ADVANCES THE ROLE OF WOMEN.**

If you ask me, killing babies to advance your cause is no advancement at all. Did you know that early feminists were pro-life, not pro-choice? Susan B. Anthony stood for women when they were not allowed to vote. She referred to abortion as “child murder” and a horrible crime. Alice Paul drafted the original version of the Equal Rights Amendment. She also referred to abortion as the “ultimate exploitation of women” (June 24, 1991, Christianity Today), The hypocrisy or irony of pro-choice feminists is the fact they defend a belief which is killing females across the globe by the millions.

#### **SIXTH: THE UNWANTED CHILD.**

People, there is no such creature as an unwanted child. The demand for babies is so great that a Black Market had developed where babies are sold for as much as \$35,000. Not only a normal baby is desired, children with Down Syndrome are desired too. An unwanted baby is a myth. Adoption agencies have a seven-year waiting list with one and a half million families wanting to adopt. The problem is not children who are unwanted, but un-wanting adults.

#### **SEVENTH: ABORTION REDUCES CHILD ABUSE.**

Legalized abortion has not reduced child abuse. Reports of child abuse and neglect in the United States have more than tripled since the legalization of abortion in 1973, and those stats are continuing to escalate. There were 669,000 abuse and neglect cases in 1976. In 1986, it jumped to 2.1 million cases according to the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. The American Human Society reports that in 2005 it has jumped to 3.3 million cases of abuse or neglect. Abortion cheapens life and a concern for the living.

**CONCLUSION:** Abortion is wrong. Stop believing whatever new philosophy that some modern, spoiled, or so-called educated person tries to shove at you through the media. Study it through yourself.

### **Prayer of Salvation**

If you were to die today, are you 100% sure you would go to Heaven?

If not, would you be willing to pray this prayer with me?

*“Dear Jesus, I'm asking you to come into my heart and forgive me of my sins. I'm trusting you, Jesus, as my Saviour. Thank you for saving me. Amen.” (Romans 10:9 and 10:13)*



### **Prayer of Service**

*“Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:6)*

***THREE YEARS AGO, MY DOCTOR TOLD ME I WAS GOING DEAF. I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE.***

### **Merry Christmas**

***Luke 2:11***



*John R. Rice*

Best wishes for a happy Christmas. May yours be the joy of loved ones about you, of presents that represent loving thoughts. May you have the beautiful Christmas cards from those who are away, and the gifts under the Christmas tree. May the Christmas table be loaded with good things to eat. Yes, we wish you a happy Christmas.

But far more important than these pleasant trappings and customs of Christmas is that you have the Christ of Christmas and His joy. So we wish that the green of the Christmas tree may picture eternal life springing up in your heart. May the lights strung there by loving hands picture Christ, the Light of the world, shining in your heart.

May the joyful message of the angels given at the first Christmas ring in your heart, “...a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord!” Shepherds, wise men, the holy family—you may be as happy as any of them, and I pray that you may be, at this glad season.

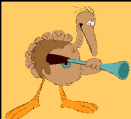
The Christmas joy does not depend on the outward trappings of Christmas. You may be lonely, poor, and cold, neglected by the children, forgotten by your friends, yet may have the glad Christmas joy in your heart as Paul had, shut up in prison cells at Rome! Be sure to open your heart and let the dear Lord Jesus make it a happy Christmas for you.

# Something to “CROW” about!

1. Heritage Baptist Church had someone saved every week for 33 years.
2. Heritage Baptist Church has not closed our Sunday School, Sunday Morning, Sunday Night, or mid-week service in 33 years—including two years of COVID.
3. Heritage Baptist Church will be hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual “Old-Time Religion” Conference on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



## Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye! 2023 Turkey Shoot Champions



Fathers' 1st Place  
Gerald  
Collingsworth



Fathers' 2nd Place  
Jeff Oswald



Sons' 1st Place  
Ethan  
Spencer



Sons' 2nd Place  
Jacob Gregory

### Top guns:

Pastor Collingsworth — 5 First Place and 5 Second Place  
 Ken Watson — 3 First Place and 4 Second Place  
 Jeff Berezne — 3 First Place and 1 Second Place

### *THANKSGIVING IS THE DAY SOME MEN START GETTING IN SHAPE ... TO PLAY SANTA CLAUS.*



#### From our Pastor's Wife... Mrs. Vida Collingsworth Presence or Presents

As the holiday season is upon us we have been emphasizing the need to be thankful for all God has done, and is doing for us. I was discussing with my students about what our focus should be at Christmas. I love the Christmas holiday. I love to decorate, buy presents and enjoy cooking Christmas dinner. Though these things are a byproduct of Christmas, Christmas is truly about celebrating Jesus' birth! Jesus is the only reason for the season. We can get so caught up in the buying and wrapping of presents that we neglect the importance of having His presence in our daily lives.

Can you imagine the joy that Mary, Joseph and the shepherds had just to be in the presence of Jesus, the Saviour!!!!

Though we can share the gift of salvation with a lost and dying world, it must be individually received. And though the Lord's presence is available to every saved person we must individually seek His presence in our daily life. It is my desire that this Christmas season, as I rejoice in remembering Jesus' birth, and as I rejoice in the spirit of giving this Christmas, that I would desire His presence in my life more than any present.

*Psalm 16:11, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*



Wishing You a Merry Christmas. —Pastor

### The Difference One Can Make

Although the apathy of some Christians and the wickedness of society are discouraging, we should pray and remain confident. William Wilberforce was a great Christian philanthropist and vigorous opponent of the slave trade in England during the early 1800s. As he surveyed the terrible moral and spiritual climate of his day, he did not lose hope. He wrote, "My own solid hopes for the well-being of my country depend, not so much on her navies or armies, nor on the wisdom of her rulers, nor on the spirit of her people, as on the persuasion that she still contains many who love and obey the Gospel of Christ. I believe that their prayers may yet prevail." Within a few years after he made that statement, the country he loved experienced one of the greatest revivals in modern times, bringing salvation to thousands and producing widespread social changes.

***DID YOU HEAR THE ONE ABOUT THE PAINTER WHO WAS HIRED TO WHITENESS A CHURCH?  
HE THINNED THE PAINT TOO MUCH, AND IT WASHED AWAY DURING THE FIRST RAIN.  
THE MINISTER CALLED THE PAINTER TO COMPLAIN. "WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT IT? THE PAINTER ASKED.  
"REPAINT," SAID THE MINISTER FIRMLY, "AND THIN NO MORE."***

### Sweet Potatoe Cake

1 tsp. ground cinnamon	2 cups cold mashed sweet potatoes	4 eggs
1/2 tsp. baking soda	1 cup butter, softened	1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. salt	2 cups sugar	3 cups all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg		2 tsp. baking powder

In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla. Combine the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, baking soda, salt and nutmeg; add to creamed mixture alternately with sweet potatoes. Beat just until combined (batter will be stiff).

Pour into a greased and floured 10-in. fluted tube pan. Bake at 350 for 50-60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack to cool completely.

For glaze, in a small bowl, combine the confectioners' sugar, orange peel and enough juice to achieve desired consistency. Drizzle over cake. Yield: 12 servings.

### *Days Gone By*

***MY WIFE SAYS I'M  
GAINING WEIGHT. IN  
MY DEFENSE, I'VE  
HAD A LOT ON MY  
PLATE RECENTLY.***



# Some food for thought ...or... Seed From The Silo!

## INDIANA SCHOOL DISTRICT FIGHTS BACK AFTER COURT BLOCKS RULE SEPARATING BATHROOMS BY BIOLOGICAL SEX

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita has come out in support of a school district that wants to maintain bathrooms based on biological sex.

Metropolitan School District of Martinsville filed an appeal asking the Supreme Court to “preserve the autonomy of school boards to make decisions” after the Seventh Circuit affirmed a lower court’s ruling imposing a restraining order on the district.

Fox News reported that a lower court’s previous ruling decided that Martinsville and the Vigo County School Corporation must allow students to use the bathroom that reflects their gender identity. The decision came after students filed lawsuits in 2021.

*Collin Jones, theblaze.com*

## CHRISTIAN DOCTOR FOUND NOT GUILTY OF SERIOUS MISCONDUCT FOR PRAYING WITH PATIENT

A Christian doctor has won a legal victory in the UK and been found not guilty of “serious misconduct” for praying with his patients.

The doctor received a number of complaints after offering spiritual care to some patients...

Dr. Richard Scott, from Kent, United Kingdom, said Christians need to “stand up and fight” for their beliefs after he came under attack...

The Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service concluded that Dr. Richard Scott “overstepped the boundaries” when he prayed with the patient.

During the consultation, Scott [allegedly] talked about his faith and clasped the man’s hand in prayer before giving him a Bible.

The doctor, who has practiced since 1983, told the tribunal that he engaged in a conversation about faith after receiving the patient’s consent.

What kind of seed are you sowing?



**Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**  
**28th Annual Father & Son  
 Turkey Shoot and Chili Supper**  
**1st and 2nd Place Winners**





1. George Elliott  
"Dad's Chili"

2. Lisa Hagan  
"Game Day Chili"



**Church-Wide  
 Christmas Dinner  
 December 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM  
 Exchange of Christmas Gifts**

*PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY THAT HARD  
 WORK NEVER KILLED ANYBODY. BUT  
 HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF ANYONE  
 RESTING THEMSELVES TO DEATH?*

**Silent Night, Holy Night**



### Honors Given



Clarence &  
Anita Miller



Jarrod & Crystal  
Collingsworth



Byron & Joyce  
Cremeans

For faithful service to our Lord, our Pastor and our church.

# Our Statement of Faith

We accept the Holy Scriptures contained in the Old and New Testaments as being the verbally inspired Word of God and being perfectly preserved in the King James 1611 Bible. We do not believe it can be corrected or improved upon in any way. It is the final rule of faith and practice. **Psalm 12:6-7, I Peter 1:23**

We believe in the triune God, who is eternally in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Matt. 28:19-20**

We believe in the deity of Christ— His virgin birth, His sinless life, His death for the sins of the world, His bodily resurrection, His exaltation at God's right hand, His personal, imminent, and premillennial return.

**I Corinthians 15:3-4, I Timothy 3:16, Acts 1:11**

We believe that all men are sinners and are guilty before God; in need of a Saviour. **Romans 3:23**

We believe that men are born again through faith in Jesus Christ; that they become the children of God, eternally saved; that the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer to guide and help him in his testimony and service.

**Acts 16:30-31, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 1:13, John 10:28**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in Glory, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost in hell. We believe that all believers have a responsibility to get the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ into all the world. **John 5:28-29, Luke 16:22-23, Rev. 20:11-15**

We believe that Baptist churches were the first churches of Christianity and that Jesus founded a Baptist church. **John 1:35-37, Acts 1:22**

## Baptist Beliefs

**B**iblical Authority

**A**utonomy of the Local Church

**P**riesthood of ALL Believers

**T**wo ordinances - Baptism & Communion

**I**mmersed Church Membership

**S**oul-liberty

**T**wo officers - Pastors and Deacons

**S**eparation of Church and State

## Baptist Heritage

- **John the Baptist**, Exalter of Christ
- **Meno Simons** (1496-1561), Dutch Anabaptist leader
- **Roger Williams** (1603-1683), Founded the first Baptist church in America in Providence, Rhode Island in 1638.
- **John Clarke** (1609-1676) was a Baptist preacher, medical doctor, and co-founder of the colony of Rhode Island. He was a driving force to get religious freedom into the charter of Rhode Island.
- **John Bunyan** (1628-1688), Baptist preacher who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*
- **Charles Spurgeon** (1834-1892), might be the greatest Baptist pastor
- **John Franklyn Norris** (1877-1952), founder of World Baptist Fellowship
- **Jack Frasure Hyles** (1926-2001), 10,000 baptisms per year

### Heritage Baptist Church

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