

# **ILLINOIS LUTHERAN CONFERENCE**

## **Topical Bulletin, March 2023**

This month's subject for consideration is indeed timely, in view of many events taking place in our country. We see all sorts of personal violence on the increase; such as, for example: civil unrest, beatings, child abuse, and murders. The president of the United States, in his recent state of the union address, spoke out in favor of legalized abortion as being necessary to restore women's "reproductive health" choices. The president also mentioned his desire for more LGBTQ "rights," specifically speaking about the "need" for such "rights" among so-called "trans-gender" youth. Sadly, many of the people present, during the address, stood-up and applauded the president's encouragement of such heinous sins. Nevertheless, God's Word is quite clear concerning both abortion and gay/queer practices, as has been addressed in previous Topical Bulletins.

However, to briefly review, we read in Ecclesiastes 11:5, "thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all." Hence, the fetus growing in a woman's womb is a CHILD, a living human being, which is NOT to be murdered, since God commands, "Thou shalt not kill." (Exodus 20:13) **THUS, ABORTION IS TRULY A HEINOUS SIN!**

Additionally, God in His Word commands men, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion." (Leviticus 18:22-23) Romans 1:24-27 adds, "Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet." **HENCE, HOMOSEXUALITY, LESBIANISM, AND BESTIALITY ARE ALL HEINOUS SINS!** Furthermore, marriage is to be **ONLY** between one man and one woman, because the Lord Jesus says, in Matthew 19:4-6, "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." **THEREFORE, SO-CALLED "SAME-SEX MARRIAGES" ARE TRULY SINFUL!**

*Accordingly, both abortion advocates and LGBTQ folks, along with all those approving of such behaviors, sin against God! Therefore, the topic we will consider in detail is: **ALL PEOPLE ARE TO FEAR GOD!***

Take it to heart that the God who is to be feared is the LORD GOD, the one true God, the triune God, who says, "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images." (Isaiah 42:8) The phrase "Lord God" is used over 540 times in the Holy Bible! Therefore, in honesty, we should all confess with Jeremiah the prophet of old, "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too

hard for thee: Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name, Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.” (Jeremiah 32:17-19) Yes, my friends, the one true God is the LORD GOD, the triune God – our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier – “For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.” (Romans 11:36) “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” (1 John 5:7) God the Father, God the Son (the Word incarnate), and God the Holy Ghost, are three divine Persons, yet the one true God— **THE GOD WHOM ALL PEOPLE ARE TO FEAR!**

**“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.” (Proverbs 8:13)**

**“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)**

**“Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.” (Acts 13:16)**

*Comment: To FEAR GOD means, according to the original Hebrew and Greek words: to reverence, to venerate, to respect, to honor, to treat with reverential obedience, to stand in awe of, and to tremble before. Fearing God includes hating evil, for God is the ultimate good personified. Real wisdom and understanding are had by those who FEAR GOD, listening to His Holy Word, for, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” (James 1:17) And, the Lord Jesus Christ says, “He that is of God heareth God's words.” (John 8:47) Thus, ALL PEOPLE ARE TO FEAR GOD; “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:4)*

**“Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.” (Psalm 2:10-12)**

*Comment: Note that even civil leaders are to fear God— God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost: ALL PEOPLE ARE TO FEAR GOD!*

**“Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.” (Deuteronomy 6:13)**

**“Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.” (Deuteronomy 10:20)**

**“Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.” (Proverbs 3:7)**

**“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing,**

**whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)**

**“Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.”  
(Isaiah 8:13)**

**“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.” (1 Peter 2:17)**

**“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.” (Revelation 14:6-7)**

*Comment: HOLY SCRIPTURE, THE WORD OF GOD, REPEATEDLY COMMANDS US TO FEAR GOD— honoring Him, serving Him, keeping His commandments, holding Him holy in our heart and mind! Therefore, it is certain, ALL PEOPLE ARE TO FEAR GOD!*

**“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.” (Psalm 19:9)**

*Comment: Observe that the fear of the LORD is clean, a truly good work to be done, a work which has lasting benefits— and includes heeding God’s Word, the Lord’s judgments. ALL PEOPLE ARE TO FEAR GOD!*

**“Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.” (Psalm 33:8)**

**“O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.” (Psalm 96:9)**

*Comment: Note well that EVERY HUMAN BEING IS TO FEAR GOD, by worshiping Him in the beauty of holiness— which can only be done when folks have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, His perfect righteousness being imputed only to true believers, “Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” (Romans 3:22-26) So, IT IS VITAL FOR ALL PEOPLE TO SINCERELY REPENT OF THEIR SINS AND BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, for ALL PEOPLE ARE TO FEAR GOD!*

**“Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.” (Psalm 33:18-19)**

**“O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.” (Psalm 34:9)**

**“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.” (Psalm 89:7)**

*Comment: The Lord watches over those who truly fear Him; that is, the Lord watches over sincere believers who reverently worship Him, for Jesus says, "the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:23-24) Hence, it is necessary for ALL people to sincerely repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, who in truth declares, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6) HEART-DEEP FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS REQUIRED, for ALL PEOPLE ARE TO FEAR GOD!*

**"Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith." (Proverbs 15:16)**

*Comment: NOTE THE GREAT IMPORTANCE AND VALUE IN BEING PEOPLE WHO FEAR GOD!*

**"By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life." (Proverbs 22:4)**

**"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him." (Psalm 103:13)**

**"The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy." (Psalm 147:11)**

**"And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation." (Luke 1:46-50)**

*Comment: TRUE RICHES, BENEFITS AND BLESSINGS, ARE HAD BY ALL PEOPLE WHO FEAR GOD!*

**"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28)**

**"But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him." (Luke 12:5)**

*Comment: Sinful human beings have the ability to harm us in our bodies, even killing us and thereby taking temporal life from us. However, we are NOT to fear fellow human beings who may harm us. Rather, the Lord Jesus Christ emphasizes the fact that we had better FEAR GOD, for He has the power to take our life in this world AND to sentence us to never-ending death in hell, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:44) Therefore, ALL PEOPLE ARE TO FEAR GOD!*

**"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." (Acts 10:34-35)**

*Comment: Jew or Gentile, white or black, or any other color of skin, ALL PEOPLE ARE TO FEAR GOD! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that*

the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:16-18) *So, I repeat, ALL PEOPLE ARE TO FEAR GOD!*

**"Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest." (Revelation 15:4)**

*Comment: Those people who refuse to fear God now in this life – those people who fail to sincerely repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior sent from God the Father – will, on the great day of judgment, finally come to FEAR GOD. But, the time of grace will have passed; so, they will be sentenced to never-ending death in hell, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:46) Yes, "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." (Romans 14:11) "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16) **THEREFORE, IT IS CERTAIN THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE TO FEAR GOD!** Accordingly, let us regularly pray for widespread repentance throughout the world.*

m.e.l.