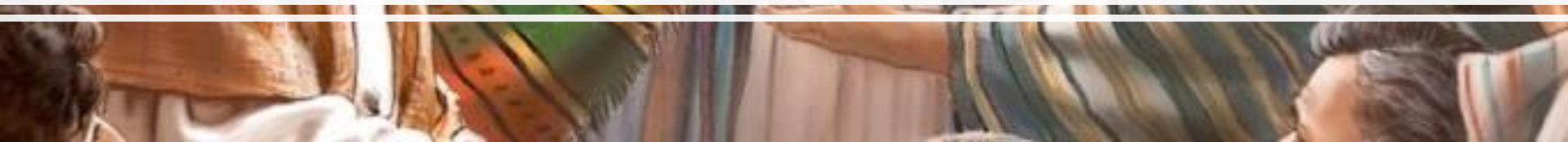




"Then they came to Him bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men." – Mark 2:3

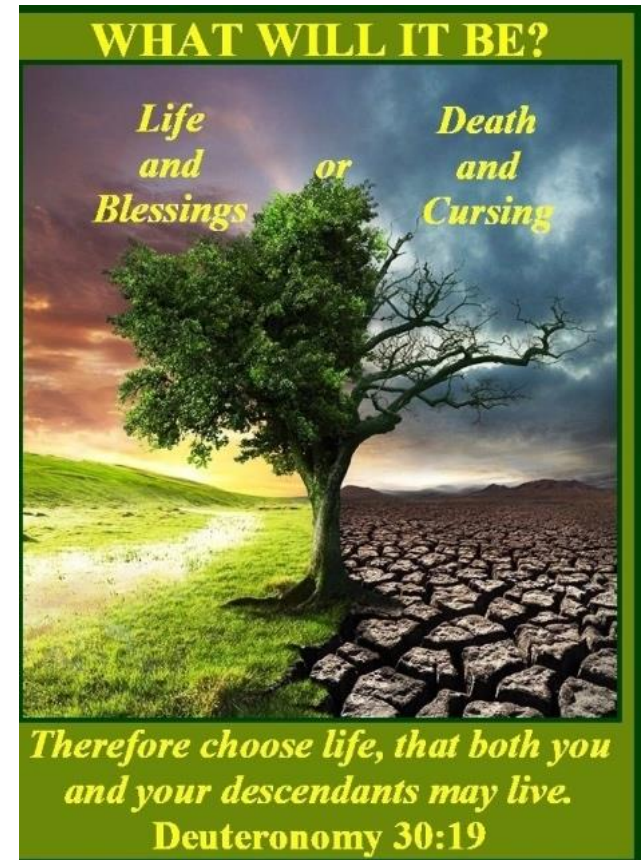


ANSWERING THE ADVOCATES

Part 2

1. Choice

- Advocates argue for a woman's right to choose.
- Some choices, particularly those resulting in loss of life, must be restricted for the greater good.
- "For by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned." – Matthew 12:37
- "Choose life that both you and your descendants may live." – Deuteronomy 30:19
- "We must not ignore the sanctity of life in the face of personal choice." – St. John Chrysostom



2. Personhood

- Some claim that a fetus is not a person and lacks rights.
- Personhood is determined by the inherent value placed upon every individual by God.
- "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you." – Jer. 1:5
- "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb." – Psalm 139:13



3. Making the Exception the Rule

- Abortion should be permissible in cases of rape or incest.
- Tragic situations should not devalue all life.
- "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin." – Deuteronomy 24:16
- Spiritual Principle:
- "And on some have compassion making a distinction; but others save with fear pulling them out of the fire hating even the garment defiled by the flesh." – Jude 1:22-23
- "...every life is a gift from God even in the most difficult of circumstances." – St. Basil the Great

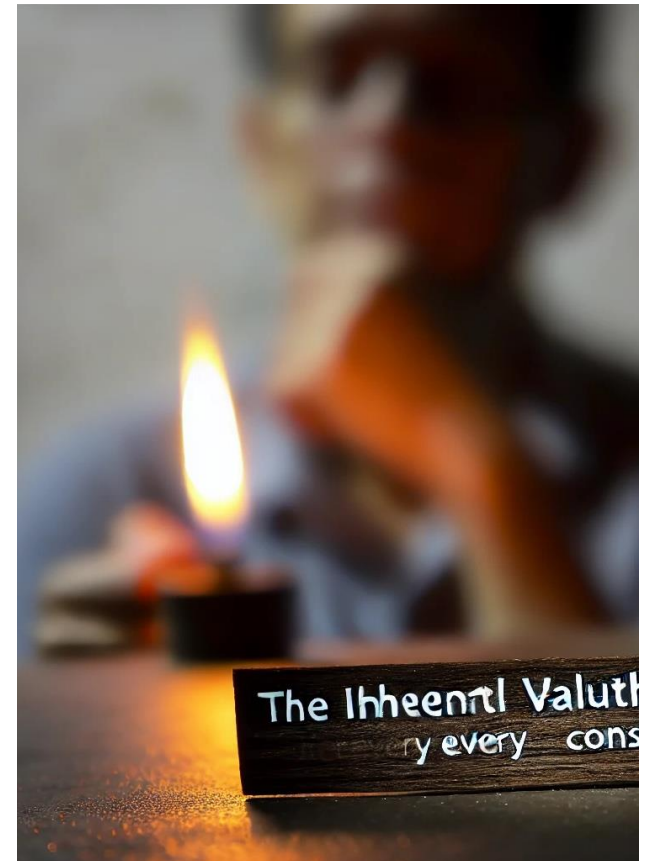
4. Body Autonomy

- Argument: Advocates assert that a woman has the right to control her body.
- While body autonomy is important, the child is a separate entity deserving of protection.
- "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit?" (1 Cor. 6:19)
- True autonomy involves recognizing our responsibilities to others, especially the most vulnerable.



5. Consciousness

- A fetus is not conscious and thus not a person.
- Consciousness is not a requirement for personhood.
- *“We must recognize the dignity of each life irrespective of its current state of awareness.”* (St. Augustine)





Conclusion

- The four friends' determination brought healing to their paralytic friend.
- Every unborn child is a potential saint and instrument in the hand of God.
- Every human life is valuable and worth protecting and nurturing.