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Sermon Notes

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Life is Sacred Right to the End

Isaiah 46:3-4

Every year I preach a sermon on the sanctity of human life around the third Sunday in January. The reason for this is that that today is “Sanctity of Human Life Sunday”, chosen to keep every before us the great tragedy of the Roe v Wade decision of January 22, 1973 in which the Supreme Court of the United States made abortion legal throughout the nation.

Though my focus for sanctity of human life Sunday is usually on abortion, recent events have spurred me to focus this morning on the issue of euthanasia...

This past November, the state of Colorado passed Proposition 106 making physician assisted death legal among patients with a terminal illness, with a diagnosis of 6 months or less to live

They called their Proposition by the name “The End of Life Options Act.” Options??? It is also called the “Death with Dignity” bill; Colorado passed it 65% to 35%, with the law going into effect on December 16.

In taking this dreadful step, Colorado has become the sixth state in the Union with such a law, joining California, Oregon, Montana, Vermont, and Washington

Other countries allow aid in dying under more liberal circumstances. In some European nations, requests can even be based on physical disability or psychiatric distress.

The Netherlands and Belgium have recently both extended their laws to cover terminally ill children as well as adults. Many people

view this as a “slippery slope” and worry it could follow legalization in the U.S.

Most alarming to me as a Pastor:

According to Lifeway Research, 38% of people professing to be evangelical... almost 4 in 10 – agree with the following statement:

“When a person is facing a painful terminal disease, it is morally acceptable to ask for a physician’s aid in taking his or her own life.”

In other words, physician-assisted suicide is okay – at least in *some* circumstances. So how in the *world* is *that* “pro-life”? DEEPLY DISTURBING

How did we get here? Because WE ARE NOT THINKING BIBLICALLY... more and more people are forsaking biblical convictions for a new definition of being LOVING as the world defines it!

We need to turn to God’s Word to stop being swept away by popular false teachings!!

I. No Longer Blown and Tossed by False Doctrine

A. Christian Maturity: Rooted and Established in the Unchanging Word of God

B. Immaturity is Displayed in Being Easily Moved

As we saw in Ephesians 4, God gave the ministry of the WORD, finally through pastors and teachers to bring us to CHRIST-LIKE maturity:

Ephesians 4:14-15 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of

teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.

C. The Word of God Alone Can Give Us ROOTS to Not Be Moved

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Christ never changes... and God's word never changes!! So we need to be ROOTED in that word, no matter what mental weirdness goes on

Our views on the exclusivity of the gospel, the need for repentance and faith in Christ for salvation, the sinfulness of homosexuality, the stability and significance of gender, the nature of marriage... these views are established in the UNCHANGING WORD OF GOD

1 Peter 1:24-25 "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

II. Human Life Sacred from Beginning to End

A. Our Text today:

Isaiah 46:3-4 Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all you who remain of the house of Israel, you whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. ⁴ Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

God promises us his personal involvement in our lives from beginning to end... he is the one who created us, knitting us together in our mother's wombs... from the MOMENT OF CONCEPTION, he has sustained us and UPHELD us. And every day of our lives he upheld our existence by his powerful word. And even to our OLD AGE and GRAY HAIRS, God will sustain us and carry us.

Based on this, we are speaking of the SANCTITY of human life, from conception to death.

B. Sanctity = Sacredness... Set Apart Unto God, because Genesis 1 teaches that all human beings, male and female are CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

C. Human Life Sacred from the Womb

Psalm 139:13-14 You knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made

D. Human Life Sacred to the End of Life

Psalm 139:16 All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Look at Job's reaction to hearing that all his children had died, killed in one stunning moment by a natural disaster, a tornado or hurricane:

Job 1:20-21 At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹ and said... The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

When it comes to life and death: the LORD gives and the LORD takes away!

God alone has the prerogative to take life, just as he alone can give it to begin with

III. Euthanasia and End of Life Ethics

A. Definition and Clarification

Euthanasia comes from the Greek: eu (meaning "good") and "Thanatos" (meaning "death")... a "good death"

Euthanasia is the practice of intentionally ending a life in order to relieve suffering. It is also referred to as "Assisted Suicide".

There are two primary categories of Euthanasia and two secondary categories. The primary category of euthanasia is distinguished as either (i) Active, or (ii) Passive. The secondary category is either (i) Voluntary or (ii) Involuntary. Thus we have four general categories of euthanasia.

1. Active Voluntary Euthanasia:

A person willingly chooses to die and acts to carry out this choice. What distinguishes this from simple suicide is the assistance of another.

2. Active Involuntary Euthanasia:

A person unwilling to have their life taken from them is deliberately terminated by another.

3. Passive Voluntary Euthanasia:

A dying person voluntarily declines medical assistance which would prevent them from dying.

4. Passive Involuntary Euthanasia:

A dying person who could be medically prevented from dying is denied this life-saving treatment.

5. Dr. J.P. Moreland adds two more, based on a distinction between “Involuntary” and “Non-voluntary”:

Involuntary: even though a person refuses, their life is terminated

Non-voluntary: the person has neither refused, nor consented... probably due to incapacity... perhaps Alzheimer’s, perhaps severe brain trauma... and their life is terminated ACTIVELY or allowed to be terminated PASSIVELY

B. Sorting Through the Categories

1. All **DIRECT ACTION** to end an innocent person’s life is SIN... unethical... this is God’s prerogative alone

- a. If a doctor or a person introduces some lethal element—a lethal dose of a drug, a bullet to the brain, whatever—that is the direct taking of an innocent life
 - b. If a person does that to him or herself, it is called SUICIDE; if a person does it to someone else, it is called HOMICIDE
 - c. So all the categories that are called ACTIVE are immoral in the Christian view... even if the person is in GREAT PAIN or would die anyway
2. PASSIVE: The withholding of medical treatment that could extend life is a different matter; many godly families have to make those kinds of decisions... for example, if a person has been in a serious car accident and has massive head trauma and is unresponsive or medically “brain dead,” many Christians believe it is perfectly acceptable to take such a person off a life-support machine and allow death to take its natural course
 3. In a similar way, people with cancer or other terminal illnesses can choose at some point to stop pursuing further medical options that are extremely costly and have a limited chance of success

IV. The Terrifying “Slippery Slope”

Galatians 5:9 "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."

A. Where is that all leading?

1. It could be the definition of euthanasia might be expanded to include those who are suffering from chronic depression, or perhaps just are **tired of living**? Or maybe those no longer productive in society?
2. Perhaps the government will begin deciding who should get what level of care and when, all in the name of the collective good
3. What is to prevent the government from eventually stepping in and determining who needs to be terminated?... deemed by the government as LIVES NOT WORTH LIVING
4. What’s going to stop the slide down this slippery slope?

B. Reasons for Dying??

1. One poll reported on what people considered to be “states worse than death”...

In other words, “I’d RATHER DIE than go through that!”

2. Among those listed

- a. Bladder and bowel incontinence: 55% of respondents said it was “worse than death”
 - b. Relying on a breathing machine to live: 52% said it was “worse than death”
 - c. Cannot get out of bed: 50 % said it was “worse than death”
 - d. Confused all the time: 48% said it was “worse than death”
 - e. Need care all the time: 38% said it was “worse than death”
 - f. Rely on a feeding tube to live: 35% said it was “worse than death”
 - g. Live in a nursing home: 32% said it was “worse than death”
 - h. At home all day: 8%
 - i. Moderate pain all the time: 5%
 - j. In a wheelchair: 2%
3. These factors could add up, one on top of another, and when you think suicide is an option, it preys on your resolve like a worm

C. Denver Gazette Editorial Column, September 26, 2016: arguing against Proposition 106 in Colorado

1. To qualify for assisted suicide, you have to be of sound mind; BUT nothing in the law requires even a cursory psychological evaluation
2. Some people who choose suicide might simply be suffering a minor bout with depression

3. Statistics in Oregon showed that 66 percent of those who chose to end their lives did so because of a **loss of a will to live**, not excessive pain
4. Also the law required a **TERMINAL DIAGNOSIS** within 6 months; **BUT** a Johns Hopkins study showed that doctor mistakes are common

Dr. William Toffler: "It is nearly impossible to predict the course of an illness six months out, and many patients given such prognoses live full, rewarding lives long past six months."

5. A greater concern comes in reference to **PUSHY RELATIVES** with serious **FINANCIAL INCENTIVES** to steer old, ill relatives or business partners toward death
6. The Colorado bill contained **NO OVERSIGHT** to protect individuals from coerced or even forced consumption of suicide pills... and it grants **IMMUNITY** from prosecution for anyone present at the suicide; so a confused, weak person could unwillingly receive a dose of pills from someone with false motives, especially financial: avoiding long-term medical expenses

D. A Reporting System Designed to Hide Abuses

[from Richard M. Doerflinger on noeuthanasia.org.au]

1. The Oregon and Washington laws create a closed system in which all reporting on these cases is done by the doctor who prescribes a lethal overdose of barbiturates to his patient
2. Legally, no one is allowed to question the truthfulness of this account
3. The same doctor certifies the patient as likely to die in six months, decides whether there should be a psychological evaluation to check for depression, and selects the doctor who will give a second opinion on these matters
4. Not surprisingly, all doctors self-report that they are doing a fine job of following the law

5. The doctor may even sign the death certificate; although the doctors are generally not there at the actual time of death
6. Oregon's law allows the doctor to falsify the death certificate, reporting the patient's underlying illness as the cause of death...amazingly, Washington's law **requires** the doctor to falsify!!
7. The system creates the misleading impression that the doctors are amazingly accurate in predicting that these patients would have died within six months
8. Actually, some patients who took the drugs actually received them several YEARS before they took them, showing they were not actually that close to death when diagnosed!!
9. And some who received the drugs but chose not to take them lived much longer than the six months before dying of natural causes
10. The whole system is rigged to hide abuses
11. One woman, Kate Cheney, was found competent to take her life despite her own dementia and the involvement of an adult daughter seen by doctors as "somewhat coercive" in demanding the lethal pills!! This is the danger of this... where pushy relatives who want to SAVE MONEY on the medical costs can push the unwitting person into taking their own life
12. Another man, Michael Freeland, had suffered from suicidal depression for years before ever becoming ill, was nevertheless given the drugs after his terminal diagnosis, though other weapons had been removed from his home to keep him from harming himself
13. When one man admitted he had "assisted" his disabled brother in law, Patrick Metheny, by actually administering the lethal drugs, the Oregon attorney general's office responded that this slide from SUICIDE to HOMICIDE may be necessary to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Acts!!!
14. Advocates of euthanasia point to HORRIBLE PAIN as the general reason for it, but in these states, most do not cite any concern about

current or future pain as their reason for taking the drug... rather, they fear “**becoming a burden**” to their families or friends

15. Why would such a society ever talk anyone out of suicide? Think of all the suicidal people who should be shown HOPE through the GOSPEL OF CHRIST... dying before we get a chance because no one sees suicide as a bad thing, but rather something to be embraced

E. What’s Happening in Europe

1. The Dutch government has decided to expand their euthanasia law to include people who are not even physically or psychologically sick, but who believe that their “life is completed”

Edith Schippers, the Dutch health minister, read a letter to Dutch Parliament in October defending this measure. She said it is needed to address the needs of “older people who do not have the possibility to continue life **in a meaningful way**, who are struggling with the **loss of independence and reduced mobility**, and who have a sense of **loneliness**, partly because of the loss of loved ones, and who are burdened by general **fatigue**, deterioration, and loss of personal dignity.”

2. [Joe Carter, ERLC] Even worse, the Dutch have expanded the scope of protected physician killing to include children! With their parents’ permission, a child between the ages of 12-16 years old may request and receive assisted suicide. Initially, the law allowed children to receive it even if their parents objected, but after domestic and international criticism, the law was changed to require parental consent...
 - a. Even before the law was passed, doctors in the Netherlands took it upon themselves to end the life of infants and others who do not have the ability to agree to end their own lives but whose existence doctors or parents deemed UNFIT
 - b. A Dutch documentary also discussed the case of a woman in remission from anorexia who was concerned her eating disorder would return. To prevent a relapse, she asked her doctor to kill her. He willingly complied with her request. HORRIFYING

- c. Many others in the Netherlands seek death not in any way related to illness or pain, but simply because they are “**suffering from life**” ... there is a group seeking a relaxation from all government strictures about assisted suicide... just for those that are simply tired of living... and they are likely to win the day legally in the Netherlands
 - d. That is how far the SLIPPERY SLOPE has gone in the Netherlands
3. There is a clinic in Switzerland that requires very little paperwork to issue life-ending drugs to people; an elderly Italian woman received assisted suicide because she was in despair over her “loss of beauty” ... the first her family knew that she was dead was when the suicide clinic mailed the family her ashes
 4. In Belgium, between October 2007 and December 2011, 100 people went to a clinic in Belgium’s Dutch-speaking region with depression, or schizophrenia, or even Asperger’s syndrome, seeking euthanasia!! The doctors, satisfied that 48 of these patients were serious and that their conditions were “untreatable” and “unbearable” offered them lethal injection; 35 went through with it!

DEEP CONCERNS about where this all is heading!

V. Waiting on God, Suffering Well, and Honoring Parents

A. It is a Great Sin Not to Wait on God

1. Euthanasia is the final act of humans arrogantly seizing from God what belongs to him
2. By it, we are saying that we will not WAIT ON HIM...we will not submit to his timing, his way of measuring out providence
3. Think of how seriously God dealt with King Saul through Samuel when Saul took matters in his own hands and offered a sacrifice God had not authorized him to make; he refused to WAIT ON THE LORD:

[Samuel said to Saul] 1 Samuel 13:13-14 "You acted foolishly. You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command."

In other words, "Saul, because you wouldn't wait on God, your lineage will not be established in the kingdom."

WOW! That's how important it is to WAIT ON GOD

Psalm 130:5-6 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. ⁶ My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

4. Saul's arrogant SEIZING OF CONTROL over God continued to the end of his life, when in a battle he was severely wounded and asked his armor bearer to kill him...that would have been EUTHANASIA... and when the young man refused, then Saul killed himself; and when the young man saw what his master had done, he followed suit and killed himself as well
5. Saul REFUSED to submit to God, to his word, his ways, his timing
6. Providence is the doctrine of God sovereignly ruling day to day events on earth to achieve his overall plan
7. It is a vast, complex machine... and it is wrong for us as created beings to think we know better than God

Illus. Imagine a child looking at the various electronic components of a complex device and thinking that any of them are irrelevant... imagine him cutting wires or pulling out chips thinking they have no real purpose because they are so small

8. That's what we are like when we fight against God's providence... when we resist his grand, overarching plan and all its tiny details

Matthew 10:29-31 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. ³⁰

And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

B. Part of God's Providence: God Chooses How We Will Go Out of this World

Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

1. Some of his saints go out as martyrs, courageously standing firm in the face of astonishing pain... William Tyndale was burned at the stake, as was Jan Huss... they both died in agony, but held fast to their confession

61 years ago last Sunday, January 8, 1956, Jim Elliot laid down his life as a martyr to save the Huaorani people of Ecuador

Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

2. Others die in agony from natural causes... I am thinking of the missionary David Brainerd, who died from tuberculosis...

*“Thursday, Sept. 24, 1747: About two I went to bed, being weak and much disordered, and lay in a burning fever till night, without any proper rest. In the evening I got up, having lain down in some of my clothes; but was in the greatest distress that ever I endured, having an uncommon kind of [coughing spasm]; which either strangled me, or threw me into a straining to vomit; and at the same time was distressed with griping pains. Oh, the distress of this evening! I had little expectation of my living the night through, nor indeed had any about me: and **I longed for the finishing moment!** I was obliged to go to bed by six o'clock; and through mercy enjoyed some rest; but was grievously distressed at various times with the [coughing spasms]. My soul breathed after God, 'When shall I come to God, even to God, my exceeding joy?' Oh for his blessed likeness!*

He still had TWO WEEKS to go!

THREE DAYS LATER...

“Lord’s day, Sept. 27...Early this morning, as one of the family came into the room, he expressed himself thus: “I have had more pleasure this morning, than all the drunkards in the world enjoy.” So much did he esteem the joy of faith above the pleasures of sin. He felt that morning an unusual appetite to food, with which his mind seemed to be exhilarated, looking on it as a sign of the very near approach of death. ... I long for the time. Oh, ‘why is his chariot so long in coming? Why do the wheels of his chariots delay so long?’ I am very willing to part with all this world and be with Christ!”

Afterwards, the same morning, being asked, how he did? he answered, “I am almost in eternity. I long to be there. My work is done: I have done with all my friends: all the world is nothing to me. I long to be in heaven, praising and glorifying God with the holy angels. All my desire is to glorify God.”

ONE WEEK LATER:

Lord’s day, Oct. 4, Brainerd was seized with such violent coughing spasms that his agony was unutterable... all there thought he was about to die

He still had four days to go!

TWO DAYS LATER:

On *Thursday, Oct. 6*, he lay for a considerable time as if he were dying. At which time he was heard to utter, in broken whispers, such expressions as these; “He will come, he will not tarry. I shall soon be in glory. I shall soon glorify God with the angels.”

FINALLY, two MORE DAYS passed...

Thursday, Oct. 8, he was in great distress and agonies of body; and for the greater part of the day, was much disordered as to the exercise of his reason. In the evening he was more composed, and had the use of his reason well; but the pain of his body continued and increased. He told me, it was impossible for any

to conceive of the distress he felt in his breast. He manifested much concern lest he should dishonor God by impatience, under his extreme agony; which was such, that he said, the thought of enduring it one minute longer was almost insupportable. He desired that others would be much in lifting up their hearts continually to God for him, that God would support him, and give him patience. He signified, that he expected to die that night; but seemed to fear a longer delay

He spoke these remarkable words: **“It is another thing than men suppose it is to die!”**

One might think that God would spare such a faithful servant from such agonies... but He didn't... what He did do was to support David Brainerd constantly with thoughts of heaven

At last, after two weeks of unspeakable agonies, David Brainerd, one of the godliest men of history, at last departed this world.

It is hard for me to imagine a more agonizing last two weeks on earth; and it is hard for me to imagine it happening to a man more pious, godly, and devoted to Christ's Kingdom... and yet, through it all, Christ sustained David Brainerd with the consolations of heaven

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, I heard of the death of Walter Martin, a Christian speaker and apologist, who used to have a program I listened to called “The Bible Answer Man”... early one morning, his wife Darlene found him kneeling in prayer; she asked him to say “Amen” and come back to bed... but when she touched him, she realized he was gone. That's as peaceful a death as I've ever heard of... slipping away while kneeling in prayer!
4. God chooses the timing and manner of our death... it is for us to submit to his will and leave a legacy of faith for those that follow us

C. How Shall We Suffer, How Shall We Die?

1. Euthanasia forgets the role of suffering in the Christian life...
2. God wants us to accept SUFFERING as a major part of the advance of his Kingdom
3. In Gethsemane, Jesus taught us all to drink the cup of suffering God has for us

Matthew 26:39 he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

4. He taught James and John that willingness to suffer was essential to sitting at his right and his left in his Kingdom:

Mark 10:37-38 "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." ³⁸ "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"

5. Other than Jesus, no one suffered as much as and well for the Kingdom as did the Apostle Paul
6. From the very beginning of his ministry, this was said of him:

Acts 9:16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.

7. Paul yearned to JOIN CHRIST in his sufferings...

Philippians 3:10-11 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

8. Paul suffered much in persecution and in other afflictions for the spread of the gospel
 - a. In 2 Corinthians 11 he lists his many sufferings for Christ, including BOTH attacks from unbelievers AND trials from weather

2 Corinthians 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,

- b. Suffering was woven into the very fabric of his Christian life and ministry
- c. God gave him a THORN IN THE FLESH, a messenger of Satan to TORTURE him... he sought relief, not death

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

- d. God's grace is put on display when his saints SUFFER WELL and DIE WELL... filled with faith in Christ, submissive to his will
- e. Older saints serve the younger ones well when, instead of seeking escape by euthanasia, they submit to God's plan and SUFFER WELL, dying in FAITH

Hebrews 11:13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

- 9. When a dying saint suffers even extreme pain through cancer or some other fatal illness, and runs his race with faith right to the end, he may be preparing a future MARTYR—a son or daughter, a grandson or granddaughter—to lay down their lives for the gospel in some Muslim country

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

D. Paul Gives the Healthiest View of Life and Death

Philippians 1:21-24 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the

two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

Like Paul, we should YEARN to live and YEARN to die... yearning to stay alive for the benefit of others and the spread of the kingdom; yearning to depart and be with Christ... that is HEALTHY!! To be TORN BETWEEN THE TWO

But it is our place to allow God to make the decision... it is HIS GLORY to choose, and I have no right to seize that glory from him

E. A Final Word on Honoring Parents

1. We are called on to care for our elderly until they die, especially our parents
2. That is the primary role of families... especially of children, to honor their mother and father right to the end of their lives
3. Though the ethics of end of life issues are challenging, and different families will address those issues in different ways, we know that God calls on us to care for our elderly parents for his glory
4. Jesus strongly accused the Pharisees on this issue

Matthew 15:4-6 God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' ⁵ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' ⁶ he is not to 'honor his father 'with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

5. We need to provide for our widowed mothers or aging fathers

1 Timothy 5:8 f anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

May God strengthen us to SPEAK FOR LIFE in this depraved generation

May God strengthen us to care for the sick and dying with self-sacrificial love

May God strengthen those in pain to suffer well and leave a powerful example and heritage of people who ran their race right to the end, who suffered well, for the glory of God