

## 240 Crazy Priorities

British news reports are full of the case of a severely brain-damaged 11-month old boy named Charlie Gard. His parents have sought to extend Charlie's life by any means possible, while the medical advice is that Charlie's life-support systems should be turned off to allow him to "die with dignity", a decision the parents have now finally accepted. Here is a sad case which prompts us to "seek the mind of the Lord" in the light of His Word, the Word that still stands firm as the source of ultimate authority and divine truth for us all.

For a start, though in this particular case this does not affect the issues over their son, we note that the child's parents are not married. These days not an eyebrow is raised over this, yet in England and Wales in 2015 nearly 50% of births were "outside marriage or civil partnership". The assumption has spread that having a baby is a decision for a couple alone whatever their level of commitment to each other, so the role of everyone else, including God, is simply to offer their congratulations on the news of a pregnancy! But if and when difficulties arise, especially over the parents splitting up (as is far more likely in the absence of any formal long-term commitment), then suddenly help is expected from all directions. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife ...." (Genesis 2.24a) – and not merely to his current girlfriend.

Next, this little boy was born severely disabled. Whatever factors may have played a part, we realise that such a sadness is a symptom, among the others, of creation still being under God's curse, this curse being one major consequence of the Fall (see Genesis 3 especially v.17b / and Romans 8.18-22). Now the Fall and this curse are Bad News – of course they are! - but they set the scene for great blessing: they explain why humanity is in such a mess, and point us all on to the One Solution to the mess, the Seed of the woman, Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour (Genesis 3.15 / and Romans 8.23-39 / and the rest of the Bible! ....). How different life would be for Charlie's parents if they "knew the Lord" for themselves, and we can pray that by God's grace and through this trauma, they may come to do so.

We note also how "expert medical opinion" in this case has been loudly challenged by the parents, with the backing of lawyers, social media and television coverage. Here is another case of "The People" insisting that their will is to prevail come what may, but scripturally we are bidden rather to respect, honour and pray for those who carry responsibility in our society (eg., (Matthew 22.21) / Romans 13.1-7 / I Timothy 2.1-6).

Finally we must draw attention to an appalling hypocrisy underlying this whole sad business. Vast amounts of time, money and tears have been expended to prolong the life of one poor little fellow who would have died quietly months ago had he been allowed to do so. And the hypocrisy? As this case has carried on, there have been on average, in England and Wales, over 500 abortions every single day. Apparently since the 1967 Abortion Act there have been over 8 million abortions in Britain, in addition to untold millions more, the victims of so-called "morning-after pills".

Each of these tiny ones is known to God their Father (Psalm 139.13-16 / Matthew 18.10 / Luke 12.6-7), and the blood of each one of them .... MATTERS! God therefore “requires their blood”, for “in the image of God made he man” (Genesis 9.3-6). He has plainly promised, “without shedding of blood there is no remission” (Leviticus 17.11 / Hebrews 9.22), and, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord” (Deuteronomy 32.35 / Romans 12.19 / Hebrews 10.30).

These are seriously solemn truths that God has set before us which are ignored at our peril, yet as with so much else they have been swept aside by the “we-know-best” forces of liberalism, producing the crazy priorities and social shambles we now see all around us. How we must urge our monarch, and the church and political leaders under her, to take a lead in crying out to the Lord once more in national confession and repentance: “Lord have mercy upon this sinful nation; arouse in us deep national repentance and a turning-aside from mass abortion and our other sinful ways; and grant us the forgiveness of our sins by faith in the shed blood of Christ” (eg., II Chronicles 7.14).

Humanly speaking in the current climate such urging of our leaders is “a big ask” but - “with God all things are possible” so we keep urging, and praying (Mark 10.27 / I Thessalonians 5.17 / James 5.16b). Otherwise we know what will happen: in judgement God will indeed repay, as He has promised to do and has every right to do.

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