

NEWS AND VIEWS
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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Reactions to actions are governed by physical laws when we are talking about physical things. Newton's third law of motion says that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Evaluating actions and reactions are relevant if we are talking about internal combustion engines or nuclear reactors. When an engine's spark plug doesn't ignite, or the fuel tank is empty, a non-reaction can result in a physical system failure. Or consider that a nuclear meltdown can occur when the cooling system malfunctions and causes the core to overheat. Failure to react and overreaction are both problematic responses in physical realities. Both situations can be disastrous and deadly. In these system designs, the warning signs are ignored at great peril. At a minimum, the loss is only physical damage. In the case of nuclear disaster, the loss can be immeasurable and irrecoverable. Non-reactions to dangerous conditions come with a high cost.

The purpose of today's newsletter article is to comment on the danger of non-reaction to the warnings received in the spiritual realm. In a recent newsletter (October 2018), the topic was the underlying agenda to the opposition of a Supreme Court nominee. I believed it was the staking out of the spiritual battleground for the practice of blood sacrifice by the stakeholders of the abortion industry. Once again we see that blood sacrifice is serious business. This industry, or sacrificial system as one may describe it, has operated during my generation with the blessing of the legal, political, medical, economical, and even religious systems of our day. The action of this sacrificial system has been met with far too little reaction from pure and undefiled religion. Make no mistake. There is religious activity going on in the practice of abortion. There is worship on display. Most of our rhetoric has been guarded against offending the offenders and not guided by the truth. We have been lulled into non-reaction, believing the lies of the enemy of God, fleshed out in the cultural justifications and its protections.

In the first church I served as pastor, I participated in several Saturday protests at an abortion clinic in Raleigh. A man in our congregation had been doing this for some time and would hand out literature while standing on the sidewalk. People who were coming in for procedures would mostly drive by and into the parking lot. But some would stop and take some of the literature that was being distributed. The pamphlets outlined different choices concerning life than the choice they were making. In my first experience there I was warned that if I stepped off the sidewalk onto the clinic side I could be arrested for trespassing. Sure enough, shortly after our arrival, a police officer arrived to monitor our activity. I learned that a permit was required for us to legally protest something so morally reprehensible. Protection under the law was afforded to us and the participants of abortion as well, but not the ultimate victim...the child in the womb. A chill went through me as I was watched the result of cultural non-reaction to the taking of life actively bearing fruit. Here was a symbol of authority in a decadent culture revealing something dreadfully out of order. I witnessed that display over twenty years ago.

In recent days we have been subjected to witnessing government officials endorse the practice of late term abortion and even codify this practice into law. Many of our state governments are openly advocating for the practice of infanticide. Child sacrifice. Blood sacrifice. Evil is out of the shadows. This is nothing new. What is new is the national open, defiant, and celebratory attitude of rebellion to the Most High God. The payday of non-reaction to the Lord's spiritual warnings has come with a high cost. Life or death is always the choice God presents.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools...(Romans 1:20-22)

We are being called to a national repentance. We can appeal to the God of Mercy for His forgiveness. The time to pray is upon us. There are those among us who have wrestled with unresolved guilt of having an abortion. This is a burden too big for you to bear. Confess this to the Lord and He is merciful to forgive. We cannot ignore our complacency and apathy to His word and His heart any longer. These things are being revealed to us in these last days so we can react like God's people and have a godly reaction. What will you do about what's being done?

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam