

## Homily Rerun: November 6, 2016 - Fr. Bill

### “The Fool has Said in His Heart”



Today’s 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and Gospel teach that there will be a resurrection to eternal life. The 1<sup>st</sup> Reading indicates that it will be to either Heaven or Hell. Jesus makes the same teaching clear in other places.

Between these two St. Paul tells us: “May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, Who has loved us and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word.” I really do not know what ‘everlasting encouragement’ is but I am certain that it is really good.

If this is God’s gift to us, as well as St. Paul’s prayer for us, and it is both, then why do I so often experience discouragement pointing to despair? Taking out the reference to our Father, St. Paul says: “May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself ... encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word.” Perhaps we don’t really want ‘every good deed and word’ – at least not all the time. Perhaps we really prefer the folly of sin – at least some of the time.

Some things are not all that hard to understand. For example:

1. My friend wants to kill his neighbor for killing his grass. For 13 years the neighbor has backed over ‘that corner’ of grass; my friend has had enough. So I do one of the following:
  - a. I help plan the murder and/or make suggestions on how to carry it out.
  - b. I loan him my gun or my knife for the occasion.
  - c. I give him the money to buy the poison.
  - d. I give him the encouragement he needs to actually do it.

In each of these instances I am helping, empowering, or enabling the killing of the neighbor and I am guilty of the sin of murder. This is easy to see and to understand to the point that it would be folly to imagine otherwise. Voting for a pro-abortion politician empowers that person (to whom we/I have given the power of the state) to enact laws making abortion the law of the land? Why is it not easy “to see and to understand to the point that it would be folly to imagine otherwise” that I am guilty in the same way as the four instances above?

2. Some statements (or positions) sound wise and even noble until we look at them carefully:
  - a. ‘I wouldn’t drink and drive and I am personally opposed to it, but I don’t want to force my morality on others so I support the right of others to drink while driving.’
  - b. ‘I wouldn’t kill someone for driving over the grass and killing it but I support my friend’s right to kill for grass.’
  - c. These statements are obviously foolish and would lead to a treacherous anarchy. Why is it any less foolish and treacherous when this same irrational ‘thinking’ is applied to abortion? In drinking and driving an innocent human being may be killed, unintentionally. In abortion an innocent human being is always (or nearly always) killed, intentionally.
3. What is wrong with single issue voting? NOTHING – some issues demand it!
  - a. Hitler built good roads, invigorated the economy, rebuilt the military and uplifted a defeated nation. Why would anyone think he is (was) unfit to lead a nation just because of the single issue of his “final solution” which was nothing more or less than the extermination of Jews from the world?
  - b. Imagine a politician started out advocating a return to slavery? We would not need to hear anything else because of that one issue.
  - c. It is entirely obvious that some things are important enough (or evil enough) to require single issue voting. Why is it not 100% clear that this is the case with the killing of a child in his/her mother’s womb?

Of course the answer to all the questions raised above is the same rationalization by which we choose any sin. How is it corrected? The first reading shows us the answer. We must live within the will of God which is both His Law and His Love. As Jesus started His public ministry both He and St. John the Baptist preached ‘The Kingdom of God is at hand, repent.’ Neither said ‘The Kingdom of God is at hand, anything goes.’ To embrace the “everlasting encouragement and good hope” that God wills for us we must embrace His will and live within it. God is eager for our repentance so that His “everlasting encouragement,” already granted, will reside in our souls – and HE DESIRES THIS JUST AS EAGERLY for those who have been involved in the sin of abortion in any way.

I conclude with quotes from three great saints:

- ☞ “The greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.” (St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta)
- ☞ “Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights, ... is false and illusory if *the right to life*, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.” (St. Pope John Paul II)
- ☞ “May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.” (St. Paul)