

SERMON NOTES

Saturday/Sunday, January 21/22, 2023 – Pastor Kischnick

THEME: “Four Roses” TEXT: I Cor.1:17-18

INTRO. Title > flicker of interest – No, not preaching about whiskey!

Scripture makes clear: God’s greatest invention, his greatest gift = LIFE! All creation formed to enable & produce LIFE in all its myriad forms. God is the Lord & Giver of LIFE, its Protector & Defender.

TODAY is “LIFE SUNDAY” when we celebrate LIFE and mourn its loss.

Traditionally a single, broken rose is placed on the altar, but I have four.

I. FOR THE ABORTED ONES

ILLUST. We are drawn to those in peril – Baby Jessica, 1987, Midland, TX; lately Damar Hamlin, cardiac arrest > prayers on TV, nation was riveted.

A. 10’s of thousands of innocent lives taken by abortion

1. Precious little ones treated like a malignant tumor or parasite.
2. Removed as a “problem solved”.

B. Lots has happened – SCOTUS – more to come; struggle goes on.

II. FOR THOSE GONE “BEFORE THEIR TIME”

A. Those lost to accidents, violence, drugs, suicide, etc.

B. Scripture says we all have so many days:

1. “Three score and ten, 80 if we have the strength.”
2. These days can be foreshortened.

C. The nation’s woes hit us, too: 6 OD, 3 suicides, 4 accidents. Too soon!

III. FOR THE UKRANIANS (and YOUNG RUSSIANS)

A. “Mr. Putin’s War” – Godless, cruel, terrorism, without reason.

1. 435 children lost – What did they ever do to him?
2. A war that even most Russians never wanted.

B. The world should not forget and hold him accountable.

IV. FOR THE SPIRITUALLY DYING

ILLUST. My weeping cherry tree is dying > a little at a time

A. St. Paul: “...the cross is foolishness to those who are dying...”

1. “those living in the shadow of death”
2. Know nothing else.
3. Little by little, without the life Christ gives, perishing.

B. “But to us who are being saved it is the power of God...” LIFE!

C. GOSPEL > CHRIST > FAITH = LIFE, now and in eternity.

CLOSE: 2010, 33 Chilean miners trapped 2300 ft. down, 69 days. World was intensely interested, celebrated when last one brought out. That’s how it should be – celebrate every human life. And as God’s people we should be moved by those “who are perishing”. We have the antidote, we have the Good News, we have Jesus who gives us LIFE – share him often.