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## CONSEQUENCES OF H.R. 3200

Many people are rightly concerned about the health care bill that was passed by the Energy and Commerce Committee in July. Since it did not have a chance of being quickly passed in the full House of Representatives, many people have had an opportunity to investigate a bill that would be perhaps the law that would have the most effect on you and your life.

While much could be said about the bill from a political, constitutional, and financial viewpoints, that is not the purpose of our teaching. We are here to examine the ramifications of the passage of this bill in light of the scriptures. We will examine the bills in the light of the moral and spiritual principles revealed in God's word.

Last week, I simply addressed the anti-scriptural immorality of the government taking money from some people and giving it to other people in the name of compassion. Someone may argue that the Bible does not regulate the government. **Romans 13:1-7** talks about the purpose for government, and it does not include helping the needy. This does not mean that we have the right not to pay our taxes if the government misuses its funds; I am sure that the taxes that Paul told the saints in Rome to pay were misused by Nero, but they still had to pay them.

Compassion is an *individual* responsibility which we are to exercise as we have opportunity (**Galatians 6:10, James 1:26-27**). This is an excellent way for the Lord to open doors for our individual responsibility to evangelize. Benevolence is not even a church responsibility so that it not be burdened (**1 Timothy 5:16**) or distracted from its true purpose (**Acts 6:3**). Institutionalized government or church benevolence actually robs the individual of the joy of his personal involvement in helping others (the meaning of the word "*visit*" in **James 1:27**).

The only exception to church benevolence is a church or churches helping a needy church to relieve its own members. The pattern we see for this in the New Testament is that brethren gave to the needy churches, and the leadership of the needy churches distributed to its own individual members because they knew the situation of each one (**Acts 11:27-30**).

### ABORTION

Does the new bill authorize payment for abortions? Some simple reasoning will suffice here. It is claimed that abortion is a right in America because of the Supreme Court ruling *Roe v. Wade*. It is also claimed that health care is a right. If the government is taking over the health care system, would they not ensure that anyone who wants an abortion would get one? Anyone on the government insurance program would have the government paying for her abortion.

The president deflects this assertion of the critics of H.R. 3200 by saying that public funds will not be used to fund abortion, just as it is today. If you want to be technical, then you could rightly say that the president is not lying. The funds under the new government health care plan will come from premiums instead of the general fund. Therefore, abortions will be paid for by the premiums collected from everyone in the public system. So, the president is making a distinction without a difference.

Abortion is wrong, according to the teaching of scripture. What God says about the unborn in His plan demonstrates clearly the humanity and value of the unborn. **Judges 13:4-5; Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:13-16** are Old Testament passages that show God's view of the unborn. In **Luke 1:15,36,41-44**, you see John is called a child before he is born, while Paul uses the exact same word in **2 Timothy 3:14** to refer to Timothy when his mother was teaching him the scriptures.

Abortion is terminating a life. It is human life. It is an innocent human life. Putting an innocent human life to death is murder.

"DEATH PANELS"

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Here is what Obama himself said in the same conversation to encourage religious leaders to talk up the health care plan which I mentioned last week. He told 1000 Jewish rabbis, "We are God's partners in matters concerning life and death." That statement alone ought to concern any God-fearing, spiritually-minded person.

What about so-called "death panels?" To be fair, H.R. 3200 nowhere uses the term "death panels," a phrase made famous by Sarah Palin's comments about the bill. The real question should be, "Is the *concept* of death panels in there?" Again, I would say that the bill itself does not necessarily *seek* the death of particular individuals. However, it is written in such a way so that a person who approaches the bill the same way he approaches the Constitution (and many approach the Bible) can imagine authority for a board that would produce that very effect. There is a provision in the bill for a commission to determine guidelines for who receives care, when, and for how much. There is also a provision for funding counseling once every five years for end-of-life decisions. Anyone who does not see the obvious conflict of interest is blind and naïve.

All we have to do is look at [Your Life, Your Choices](#), the government book to counsel veterans concerning end-of-life issues, to see what kind of counseling is intended for all government clients. All patients are to be confronted with questioning whether their lives are worth living, among other issues, in this book for veterans of all ages, injuries, illnesses, and disabilities. This is often at a time when people may feel especially vulnerable.

#### ALLOCATION OF LIMITED RESOURCES

It is claimed that everyone will receive all the health care they want or need. They cannot allow rationing if it is a right as they claim. In reality, it is not a right, and it will be distributed based upon the decisions of a commission (panel). Their decisions to limit care for any individual that denies life-saving care creates, in effect, a "death panel."

One of the driving forces behind government health care advocacy is Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel, brother of Obama's Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel. He advocated rationing of health care (but now he says he has changed his tune). However, Senator Tom Coburn is a medical doctor that continues to practice medicine every week. He says that rationing is in the bill. That fact, combined with the commission that would determine who gets what kind of care for how long and for how much, means there will be situations that would place the government bureaucracy in life-and-death decision-making. Or, as Obama put it, "God's partners in matters of life and death." Christians are salt and light; we must do all we can to stop evil.