

Hate In America

Pastor Jerry addresses the latest shootings.

November 2017

On October 1st, 2017, a Vegas shooting leaves 58 victims dead and 546 wounded. A massacre by a lone gunman killed 32 people at Virginia Tech in 2007. Another killed 27, mostly children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, and another killed 49 people at an Orlando nightclub in 2016.

Since the posting of this, New York City on Tuesday, October 31st, had what the news identifies as a "truck attack" in which a man in a rental intentionally drove onto the sidewalk killing eight and injuring eleven. Another man in Sutherland, Texas killed 26 people during a church service.

No one can make complete sense out of these tragedies, but Scripture does not ignore the reality of them.

What can we learn and what should we learn about these shootings?

- These events confirm the depravity of a man's heart as taught by Jesus Christ. Like it or not, evil and its potential actions rests within the heart of every human being, just as right and good does.
- These events counter the college classrooms that reject moral right and wrong. These acts by Stephen Paddock for example, have been identified as "pure evil," yet many educators denounce any idea of moral absolutes.
- These events communicate the reality that death can occur unexpectedly; therefore, we need to be prepared.

A Biblical worldview addresses these 3 points and calls for both confrontation and compassion from those who identify with Jesus Christ.

- A Biblical worldview calls for confrontation on the fact that certain things are right and certain things are wrong, in spite of the moral relativism that is taught.
- A Biblical worldview calls for confrontation on the fact that true problems in America are within our own hearts. Education and government spending cannot fix what is broken on the inside, and such efforts alone only contribute in producing smarter criminals and greater debt.
- A Biblical worldview calls for confrontation on the fact that death is a reality, and we cannot ignore and should not ignore this reality. We should ask ourselves the question, "What if I was at the concert and a bullet from some 300 feet in the air ended my life? Where would I spend eternity?"

As believers, such confrontation should occur and be clearly communicated with compassion. It is possible to be Biblically accurate and yet personally insensitive. **We cannot express too much compassion for all parties, directly and indirectly, involved in any act of hatred.**

May God help us have the boldness to confront our culture, and may God help us display the compassion that was exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ.

Partial List of Mass Shootings in the United States:

1. Las Vegas Concert: 59 deaths, more than 500 wounded	10.01.2017
2. Orlando Nightclub: 49 deaths, 58 injured	06.12.2016
3. Virginia Tech Shooting: 32 deaths	04.16.2007
4. Sandy Hook Shooting – Newtown, CN: 26 deaths (<i>20 - 1st graders</i>)	12.14.2012
5. First Baptist Church - Sutherland, TX: 26 deaths	11.05.2017
6. Luby's Cafeteria Shooting - Killeen, TX: 23 deaths, 20 injured	10.16.1991
7. McDonald's Massacre - San Diego, CA: 21 deaths, 19 injured	07.18.1984
8. University of Texas – Austin: 16 deaths	08.1.1966
9. U.S. Postal Office - Edmond, OK: 15 death, 6 injured	08.20.1986
10. San Bernardino Holiday Party: 14 deaths, 21 injured	12.02.2015
11. Columbine High – Colorado: 13 deaths, 20 injured	04.20.1999
12. Binghamton, NY: 13 deaths, 4 critically injured	04.3.2009
13. Ft. Hood, TX: 13 deaths	11.05.2009
14. Aurora Theatre (Colorado): 12 deaths, 58 injured	07.20.2012
15. "Truck Attack" – Manhattan: 8 deaths, 11 injured	10.31.2017
16. Oklahoma City Bombing: 168 deaths, 680 injured	04.19.1995

It's easy to read this information as only statistics. However, may we all remember of the thousands of lives who have been drastically affected by these acts of murder.

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