

What About Virginia Tech?

Monday Morning Massacre 4/16/07

Once again we are faced with a tragedy in our Nation and the world scrambles for answers. Unless one assume that a follower of Christ claims to have all the answers to the woes of our culture, let me set the record straight by stating clearly, **that is not the case.**

On the other hand, after the 'experts' exhaust all their resources and the media their commentaries have you ever noticed that they are left standing at the same spot where they started. The reason being is that in their search for understanding they overlook the 'Christ' factor.

Look at the 'why' questions a crisis like this proposes.

1. Why would someone randomly kill over 30 people?
2. Why did these innocent students and faculty members have to die?
3. Why did these parents / siblings have to suffer so deeply?
4. Why would a loving God allow such a horrible thing to happen?

This is a tragedy that has affected thousands of people personally in a horrific way as well as indirectly touching the lives of most Americans. Within all this confusion we must be careful not to overlook an invaluable lesson. It is a time for everyone to evaluate their eternal destiny unless this massacre becomes a two-fold tragedy. The murders that occurred at Virginia Tech should serve as a reminder of the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death, and if it does *not* awaken one to this reality, then a greater tragedy as occurred.

Jesus used two tragic examples of his day to teach the living that such news of these events should lead them to repentance before God. Such repentance would prepare them for death as well as provide meaning for their present life. Don't miss the main points of Jesus' words. (1) The people did not die because they were 'worse' sinners than others. (2) Their unfortunate death is a tool to awaken us to the greatest need which is to address our broken relationship with God through sincere repentance. (3) If you ignore this call to repentance, then you will perish despite the fact you had such vivid examples before you.

Luke 13:1-5 There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." NKJV

Virginia Tech has captured our attention, from News Headquarters to the water cooler, people are listening and talking. Thousands of comments and hundreds of opinions are being shared. For the Christian, a great opportunity to reach out is made available once again. (1) We need to extend our prayers to the families and friends of the victims and the VT administration. (2) We need to express concern and compassion for those who have been affected through this tragedy. (3) We need to use this opportunity to challenge our family and friends to repentance thereby **following the example of Jesus Christ in Luke 2.**

Imagine if you were one of the students trapped in a class room with a gun pointed at you, seconds away from being thrust into eternity. Would you be prepared to die? This is *not* some scare tactic of a Christian who is trying to exploit the situation; it is a Christian expressing sincere concern for others. It is facing what most people will never discuss, the reality of death and the afterlife. Those who died this week would want us to use their story to awaken everyone to their greatest need. We cannot nor should not ignore the obvious; we are all going to die. We need to be spiritually prepared for it. The question is; are you prepared for **eternity?**

One of the most brilliant Christian thinkers of our day is Ravi Zacharias. He travels the globe defending the truth claims of Christianity. As an apologist (one who defends his beliefs with reasonable arguments) he appeals to the critics and skeptics with the following issue. Any philosophy or religion should be able to address the **four major questions of life**. (1) **origin** (2) **meaning** (3) **morality** (4) **destiny**

Is there any wonder that so many people wrestle with *meaning and morality* when they have completely skipped over the foundational question of *origin*? This is where Christianity has the ability to step up to the plate and compassionately address the issues that matter most. The Bible clearly addresses origin and destiny, thereby providing great insight into the meaning of life and in the area of morality.

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones was a Medical Doctor who went into the Ministry.

His writings provide some helpful information for this present situation.

The following material is quoted or adapted from *Studies in The Sermon on The Mount*. (1959)

"The sole cause of the troubles of the world at this moment, from the personal to the international level, is nothing but man's estrangement from God. Man has been so made by God that he cannot truly live unless he is in a right relationship to God. He was made by God; he was made for God. And God has placed certain rules in his nature and being and existence, and unless he conforms to them he is bound to go wrong. That is the whole cause of trouble. Every difficulty in the world today can be traced back, in the last analysis, to sin, selfishness and self-seeking. All the quarrels, disputes and misunderstandings, all the jealousy, envy and malice, all these things come back to that and nothing else. So we are the **light of the world** and in a very real sense at this present time; followers of Christ alone have an adequate explanation of the cause of the state of the world. It can all be traced back to the fall; the whole trouble arises from that."

In spite of all the knowledge that has been amassed in the last 200 years since the beginning of the enlightenment half-way through the eighteenth century, fallen man by nature still 'loves darkness rather than light' because his deeds are evil. He has a conscience which warns him before he does anything he knows to be wrong. Nevertheless he does it. He may regret it, but he still does it. **The trouble with man is not in his intellect, it is in his nature – the passions and the lusts.** That is the dominating factor. And though you try to educate and control man, it will avail nothing as long as his nature is sinful and fallen.

The ordinary Christian, though he may never have read any philosophy at all, knows more about life than the greatest expert who is not a Christian. In the midst of all the pain and chaos the believer knows where hope is found, hope for the present life and hope for when this life is over.

The **hope** for mankind is to be rescued and redeemed through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. We need to see our sin for what it truly is, rebellion against God. We need to repent of such rebellion and submit ourselves to **Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.**

A Call for Christians to be the Light of the World (Matthew 5:14)

1. Demonstrate humility with an understanding that we are saved by God's grace and mercy alone
2. Express compassion for all those involved directly and indirectly
3. Extend patience to those who are still in spiritual darkness and struggle with accepting Biblical truth
4. Share the gospel with those who are open to hear, there is no greater news to mankind than the truth that Jesus saves sinners and then satisfies them with the gift of Himself.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. NKJV

John 3:36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." NKJV