

AND GOD SAYS . . .

Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church

We are all overwhelmed with the shooting that took place at Sandy Hook Elementary school and grieve for those families. In the aftermath of this tragedy, however, the focus of our politicians and media seem to be the gun that killed and how many bullets it could hold.

The idea is that at all cost, we must keep these weapons out of the hands of those who would use them wrongly. The big question is, how do you do that?

I am reminded of a story about a frog and a scorpion that wanted to cross a river. The frog accepted the scorpion's promise that it would not hurt him if he carried him on his back across the river. So the frog agreed. About half way across, the scorpion stung the frog. As the frog was dying, he asked the scorpion why he broke his word and stung him. The scorpion said, just before he drowned, "Because I am a scorpion."

The problem isn't that we have guns. We have had guns since the inception of our nation and have not had these kinds of things happening until relatively recent years. The problem, and this may sound simplistic, is that we have rejected God's influence and values in our lives and therefore are reverting to our true nature—we are scorpions.

God says, "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death... The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so" (Romans 8:5-7).

When God is rejected, killings increase. Cain killed his brother Abel. Lamech killed a man for wounding him and death and killing have continued since Adam and Eve sinned.

But God, who loves us, has mercifully sent His Son to transform us through His Son so that we would have His nature in us. He does this by sending His Holy Spirit to dwell in those who will accept God's gift to us, Jesus Christ His Son. The result is that "the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace" (Romans 8:6). That is what we need. Not more external laws, but the law of God written on our hearts.