

# **“The Reality of Evil: Remembering the Virginia Tech Atrocity”**

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## **1. The Reality Of Evil Is Clearly Addressed In The Bible**

- A. The Bible chronicles murder since the beginning of time
- B. God, Scripture, the Prophets, Jesus and the Apostles warned us repeatedly about the ongoing reality of violence & murder
- C. Murder is mentioned, described or addressed in the majority of the 39 books of the Old Testament
- D. The book of Judges records specific incidents of unspeakable acts of violence and murder
- E. The first murder occurred when Cain killed Abel (Genesis 4)
- F. Exodus 1 records the mass slaughter of innocent babies by the wicked King of Egypt (vs. 22)
- G. The OT prophets were brutally murdered
- H. The Bible records the mass slaughter of babies by wicked King Herod (Matthew 2:16)
- I. The apostles and early disciples were murdered
- J. Jesus was murdered

## **2. There is an Appropriate Christian Response To This Atrocity: Prayer & Compassion**

- A. Not a cold, calloused, self-righteous indifference....
- B. “there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven...a time to weep...a time to mourn” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4)
- C. “weep with those who weep” (Rom 12:15)
- D. “This is what the LORD says: do what is just and right...do no wrong or violence...and do not shed innocent blood... Do not weep for the dead king or mourn his loss; rather, weep bitterly for him who is exiled...” (Jeremiah 22:3, 10)

## **3. Why Did The Killer Do This?**

- A. because of sin
  - i. This was the result of a willful decision of someone with a wicked heart; it was a deliberate act of sin. The killer acted out on the hatred that came from within his own being.

- ii. Jesus declared that humans do evil deeds because they first have evil in their hearts: He said, “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder...” (Matthew 15:18).
  - iii. People are born sinners; sin entered the world through the Fall of Adam and Eve as a consequence of their disobedience; the natural human heart, left to its own devices, is capable of the worst kinds of evil...
  - iv. “through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all people” (Rom 5:12)
  - v. “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5)
  - vi. “The heart of man is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick” (Jeremiah 17:9).
  - vii. “And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God and longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them” (Romans 1:28-32).
- B. because of Satanic influence
- i. “the whole world lies in the lap of the evil one” (1 Jn 5:19)
  - ii. “Be on the alert! Your enemy the Devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Pet 5:8)
  - iii. “the Prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2)
  - iv. “You are of your father the Devil...he was a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44; cf. Job 1-2)
  - v. “the Devil, having entered into the heart of Judas” (John 13:2; cf. Acts 19:15)

#### 4. Whose Fault Is It? Who Is To Blame?

- A. The murderer is to blame; the Bible clearly teaches that everyone is accountable before God for their own actions; blame-shifting is condemned in the Bible.
- B. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad” (2 Corin 5:10)
- C. “And from each man I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man” (Genesis 9:5-6)
- D. “the murderer shall be put to death” (Numbers 35:16)
- E. “Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the Devil and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil” (1 John 3:12)
- F. “The man who does detestable things, his blood will surely be on his own head...he will not die for his father’s sin...the soul who sins is the one who will die...the father will not share the guilt of the son...the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him...because of the sins he has committed he will die” (Ezek 18; cf. Revelation 20:11)

#### 5. Who Were The Real Victims?

- A. The 32 students and teachers were the innocent victims of this atrocious, hateful, Satanic atrocity.
- B. The killer was not a victim; he shed innocent blood.
- C. “do not put an innocent person to death, for I will not acquit the guilty” (Exodus 23:7)
- D. “Manasseh shed much innocent blood” (2 Kings 21:16)
- E. “the wicked man hunts down the weak...he lies in wait...from ambush he murders the innocent...” (Psalm 10:2, 8)
- F. “I take no pleasure in the death of anyone declares the Sovereign LORD” (Ezekiel 18:32)
- G. “the LORD hates...hands that shed innocent blood” (Proverbs 6:16-17)

#### 6. Why Did God Let The Killer Get Away With This?

- A. God did not let the killer get away with anything. The killer will be judged by God.
- B. “leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the LORD” (Romans 12:19; cf. Hebrews 9:27)
- C. “The LORD...will not leave the guilty unpunished” (Ex 34:7)

#### 7. Where Was God In All This?

- A. God was fully aware of what was going on and in total control of all things for His ultimate glory and purposes.
- B. “I am God and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please” (Isaiah 46:9-10)
- C. “He works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will” (Ephesians 1:11)
- D. “God works all things together for good” (Romans 8:28)
- E. “The LORD gives and the LORD takes away; may the name of the LORD be praised...Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?” (Job 1:21; 2:10)
- F. God warned the killer through his conscience (Rom 2:15)
- G. God had warned the killer through law (Romans 2:12)
- H. God had warned the killer through special revelation
- I. God is present right now, providing peace, comfort, conviction, answered prayers (Matthew 16:16; 1 Tim 4:10)

#### 8. What Should Christians Learn From This Atrocity?

- A. This world is not our home (Philip 3:20)
- B. Be realistic about sin in the world
- C. Ask God to guard your own heart (1 Tim 4:10)
- D. Be prepared because things will not get better as time goes on, but actually worse (2 Tim 3:1-4, 13; Rev 6-18)
- E. Teach and warn your children about the reality and danger of sin, starting with the sin in their own hearts
- F. Warn others about this perverse generation (Philip 2:15)
- G. Remember Jesus Christ is the only solution for a fallen world, sinful humans and Satanic influence (Titus 3:3)