

## Unspeakable Tragedy

---

by Wayne Goff

Another unspeakable tragedy has hit our country. A young man, the son of a school teacher in Newtown, Connecticut, shot and killed his mother, twenty-six others at her school, and then himself. The fact that twenty of the victims were children between the ages of five and ten makes it all the more horrific.

Make no mistake about it. We *grieve* and *pray* for the families whose loved ones have been ripped away from them in **murder**. We do not choose to judge the young man who did this act, for only God knows his true mental state and whether he acted with any *sanity* or *accountability*. He is dead by his own hand as well, and God is the faithful judge of all men, and knows us perfectly well.

Undoubtedly the twenty young children who perished were under the age of accountability and thus were whisked safely into the arms of Jesus. There is great comfort in that knowledge. But the pain and grief on earth is still great.

### Blaming Guns?

Many are rushing to place the blame on someone or something. Typically, there has been a call to limit the sale and use of guns in our country, despite the Second Amendment rights given to us by our founding fathers. Legislating against gun possession would put our society at greater risk because then only the law-abiding citizens would be without them! We would be at the mercy of the crooks and robbers. Jesus did not advocate pacifism, for He told His own apostle on one occasion: “*Put your sword into the sheath*” (Jn. 18:11). Has anyone ever wondered what a disciple of the Lord was doing with a weapon? He was using it in defense of himself and his loved ones. As someone has well said, “Guns don’t kill people. People kill people!” In a perfectly idyllic world, we wouldn’t need guns. But that utopian view is *unrealistic*.

### Blaming Schools?

It isn’t fair to place blame on the public school system either because the schools are only *places for learning* that happen to be an **easy target** for those who are only doing what others have done before them. Yes, twisted minds **do** copy-cat crimes. Every parent who has sent their little ones off to a public or private school have entrusted the lives of their children to responsible adults. Safety measures have been put in place, and once again those measures have failed to resolve the problem. Greater security measures need to be taken, to be sure. God has placed the government and its defenders in a position to do just that (Romans 13). “*For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil*” (v. 4). Law enforcement officials need to be allowed to do their God-given job better.

### Blaming Government?

Our country is *naively passive* about mindless violence. If you think not, stop and count the number of **video games** which are played by children at a very young age which advocate killing, maiming and destroying others! Then add up the number of **violent movies** which society ingests in the name of *entertainment*. Admittedly, *professional sports* can be quite violent as well, as you think of professional football, wrestling, etc.

The news media loves to cover these violent tragedies, and you can get minute details of every aspect of such murder sprees *fairly easily*. Why is this information so readily available? It sells. If we as a country really want to make a difference, then I suggest we begin *legislating morality*!

### Blaming An Atheistic Society?

Purposely, I have not watched, read, and learned every detail of yet another tragedy. I know that we will **not** hear one word about God, eternity, heaven and hell for those who will be held accountable for their deeds, and for their poor victims. If standing before God in the Judgment to give answer for the deeds done in the body were taught and preached more, *perhaps* the crime rate would go down. After all, **it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!** (Heb. 10:31) Our atheistic disposition in the media prevents this from being done, *sadly*.