

by Wayne Goff

...hear about heroic measures of those selfless men and women who rose to the tragic occasion to help others than themselves. This is one of the few *good* things that might come out of the coverage.

What We Won't Hear

But notice what is *conspicuously* absent from the reporting: no real condemnation of the perpetrator as a “*mass murderer*” whose eternal soul is now in jeopardy before Almighty God. No explanation for why these events have occurred and continue to occur at an alarming rate since God and the Bible have been forced out of the classrooms and the public eye. No understanding that without repentance the murderer will stand before God undone and eternally condemned. No proclamation for the return of Bible virtues and morality in the classroom or the public conscience. No appreciation for the *horrible consequences* of a nation destitute of religious discipline and reasoned restraint.

Am I overstating the case? If you think so, then please let me know what you have heard from the public media regarding any of these things! A nation affirming *atheism* and *agnosticism* has **no solution** for our moral decline! It will only grow worse and worse until we admit our egregious error against Almighty God, our Creator. The media continues to remain at a loss about how to fix the problem. Personally, I am not one bit surprised at all the carnage, given the sad religious state of our public conscience.

Bible History Lessons

In Romans 1, the apostle Paul describes in verses 26-32 the terrible condition of people who have willingly forgotten their God (v. 21). The **results** of such a mindset are truly revealing! They include the common practice of (1) homosexuality, vv. 26-28, (2) fornication, v. 29, (3) covetousness, v. 29, (4) full of malice, envy, murder and strife, v. 29, (5) inventors of evil things, v. 30, and (6) disobedient to parents, v. 30. Yes, there are other evil consequences, but these should raise your eyebrow as you compare them with the newspaper of today! It is a mirror image of our nation at this time. Therefore, as I said, I am not surprised, but I am truly grieved, saddened and frustrated.

In 2 Timothy 3, God revealed the “*perilous times*” that would come when men reject God and the Bible. “*For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*” (vv. 2-4). Sound familiar? It is what we are dealing with today in America, as we stubbornly refuse to admit the problem.

The problem is that we are *made* by God, we have *ignored* the Bible (Owner's Manual), and as a *result* we have lost our way! We are stumbling around in the dark, tripping over ourselves while refusing to admit our own ignorance. Jesus faced the same national decay of His country some two thousand years ago. As He viewed the sad state of affairs, Matthew wrote: “*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd*” (Matt. 9:36). **Within fifty years, that nation was destroyed!**

The Resolution Of The Problem

The problem could be *easily resolved* by a steady diet of teaching (1) we are God's creation and subject to His laws, (2) we are made in God's image and must love our fellow man, (3) we are headed for an eternal hell with endless misery if we commit such evil deeds, (4) we may reach heaven as we turn our hearts to God, cleanse our filthy hands, and humbly submit to God so that He can lift us up, and (5) we must continually learn that life is not about us, but about the God Who made us to “*live, move, and have our being*” in Him, Acts 17:28. It will take **a few decades** of faithful teaching of God's Word to undo the damage done in our country. We truly have a “generation” who does not know God (Judges 2:10). They must be taught again.