

WHEN LORD...

This morning, the news of yet another senseless massacre flooded the media.

Three days ago, a brave Firefighter was senselessly murdered and another shot as they entered a danger zone to save others.

The day before, we read of the death of a young boy at the hands of those who were supposed to love and care for him. Another teen's life brutally cut short in a mistaken identity case.

Terror attacks continue; political upheaval; foreign threats of nuclear war.

Indeed, we are witnessing the darkness of night spread across this nation and all over the world.

“We look for light, but there is darkness!

For brightness, but we walk in blackness!”

- Isaiah 59:9

Where is the Light?

Every day I hear of family and friends that have great needs. Physical, financial, emotional and spiritual needs. Relationships that have gone wrong. Cancer appearing in the bodies of those who lived healthy lives. Strife caused by those who choose to be “offended.”

Every day the news is full of accounts of domestic violence, animal abuse, and injustice.

So many are hurting. Many are becoming disillusioned. People don't know where to turn for answers.

Those who look to government to save us are being greatly disappointed. Neither the Democrats or the Republicans, nor Socialism or Capitalism, or any other 'movement', can ever bring lasting justice and peace to our nation.

Those who look to religion to save them are finding only unrighteousness, division and unrest there as well. Neither the Christian "Law of love", the Jewish Mosaic Law, or the Islamic Sharia Law can ever bring True righteousness, peace and joy, security and contentment.

As we look around us, the frequency of mass shootings, severe domestic violence, child abuse, child abduction, animal cruelty, divorce, suicide... is increasing.

Lord God, we ask You –

When will we see every life You began in the womb come forth to have the chance to live, laugh and love?

When will the sexual and physical abuse of young children be no more?

When will the increasing number of graphic murder for pleasure cases end?

When will the cruel mistreatment of animals cease?

When will suicide cease to be an option for our young people?

When will the tearing down of marriage and families be reversed?

When will disappearances of mothers & children end?

When will the growing number of murder/suicides be a thing of the past?

When will all these injustices we see and experience stop?

Heavenly Father, I hear Your response -

When those who claim My Name will cease from their evil ways and selfish desires and learn to do good. When all who claim the Name of My Son will actually deny themselves, pick up the crosses I would have them carry each day, and follow Jesus. When they flee from their lusts, and end their pursuit of money, sex and power. When the Light of Christ shines through them brightly by their works, their words and their behavior.

Then the world will believe. Then all men will give glory and honor to God. Then I will come and heal their land.

Far too many who claim belief in My Son are waiting to fly away from all these troubles and come to live in the realm meant only for spirits... While I am waiting for them to make My enemies My footstool by overcoming evil, turning away from all sin and resisting the devil.

I have made provision. I gave My Son as an atoning sacrifice. I demonstrated My mighty power by the Resurrection. I have made available My Holy Spirit and all things that pertain to Life and Godliness. And I am waiting.

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

If they will walk worthy of the Kingdom. If they will walk worthy of My calling on their lives. If they will walk worthy of My Son. If they will walk worthy before Me.

Then the gates will be opened. Then the rain will come. Only then.

I am waiting...

Dear friends, this is what the Lord has spoken. We will heed His Voice? Will we cry out to Him in true repentance?

*"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened,
That it cannot save;
Nor His ear heavy,
That it cannot hear.
² But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
And your sins have hidden His face from you,*

So that He will not hear.

*³ For your hands are defiled with blood,
And your fingers with iniquity;
Your lips have spoken lies,
Your tongue has muttered perversity.*

*⁴ No one calls for justice,
Nor does any plead for truth.
They trust in empty words and speak lies;
They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.*

*⁵ They hatch vipers' eggs and weave the spider's web;
He who eats of their eggs dies,
And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out.*

*⁶ Their webs will not become garments,
Nor will they cover themselves with their works;
Their works are works of iniquity,
And the act of violence is in their hands.*

*⁷ Their feet run to evil,
And they make haste to shed innocent blood;
Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity;
Wasting and destruction are in their paths.*

*⁸ The way of peace they have not known,
And there is no justice in their ways;
They have made themselves crooked paths;
Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.*

*⁹ Therefore justice is far from us,
Nor does righteousness overtake us;
We look for light, but there is darkness!
For brightness, but we walk in blackness!"*

- Isaiah 59:1-9

God have mercy on us.



After the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in 2012, the question of many was "Why Lord?"

I wrote the following; and sadly it seems every week a new tragedy brings up the same longing in our hearts to know WHY?

Let me respond this way - Why? we ask, does God allow these tragedies? Why would a loving God permit little children to be ruthlessly slain? Why would the Almighty Creator allow hurricanes, earthquakes and typhoons to kill thousands? Why do so many have to die each year from famine and disease? I believe the simple answer actually is found in God's question to us... "Why have you not listened to Me?" God gave us fairly simple instructions on how to live our lives and to avoid calamity, yet mankind has absolutely, stubbornly refused to listen. As a whole, we have decided that we know better how to live life rather than the One who created us. The promise He gave to Israel is an Eternal Kingdom principle that will hold true for any nation that chooses to serve and obey the Living God.

"If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you." - Ex 15:26

If...

As we look around us just here in the USA, we find that in the past few decades we have not only come to ignore God's commandments, but have now come to accept and even legalize behaviors and lifestyles that God abhors and condemns.

Contrary to what even most in the churches seem to believe, God's loving protection and blessings are conditional.

"Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments" - Deut 7:9

Oh, that this nation would love and serve the Lord. Oh, if even those in the churches would turn from the things of this world and obey God and keep His commandments. With our lips we say we love God, but by our disobedient actions and attitudes we prove that we really don't. In fact, we hate many of His commandments because they convict us and expose our sinful hearts. Deuteronomy 7 continues -

"Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers. 13 And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you. 14 You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock. 15 And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you." - Deut 7:12-15

Sickness, disease and pain were brought into this world when Adam & Eve first sinned, and they remain in this world because we continue to sin. We turn our backs on the Holy One of Israel, and chase Him out of our schools, workplaces, homes and churches, and then when terrible things happen we ask Him "Why God?" or pose the question "Where was God?" Dare I say that our 'gods' were there. Rather than saying as did Joshua *"As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."* (Joshua 24:15), we have served the 'gods' of money, lust and violence in this nation. And we are reaping the consequences.

"This is your lot, The portion of your measures from Me," says the Lord, "Because you have forgotten Me And trusted in falsehood." - Jer 13:25

If God were to not allow anything bad to happen, the issue of sin and the worship of our American idols would never be addressed. He wants us to choose the good and reject the evil; to be real Christians who, like Christ *"love righteousness and hate iniquity."* The sad Truth is revealed in Paul's letter to the saints in Rome. Many will choose pleasure over righteousness. God will never stop us from choosing sin. And He will never stop the consequences of our actions apart from our true repentance. If sin is what we want, then God will give us over to sin. As a whole, our nation has chosen the present temporal pleasures of the world, rather than wait for the eternal weight of glory that awaits those who love God.

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

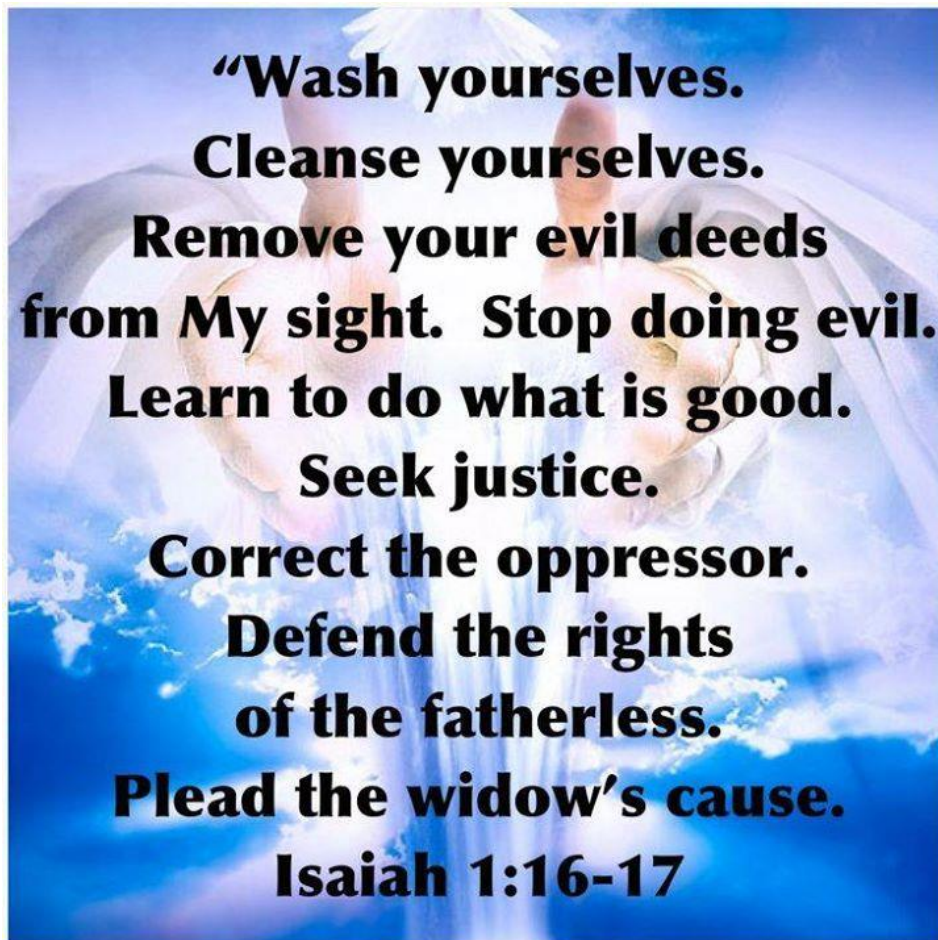
²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."

- Rom 1:18-32

A mentally ill database, stricter gun control legislation or even armed guards or teachers in schools & movie theaters will not prevent these senseless shootings. Only when God's people in this nation choose to repent, turn from their evil selfish ways, and with humble hearts cry out to the living God will anything really change. Only then will those without hope find a meaning and purpose for life. Only then will those who have been let down by the hypocrisy in the churches find something real to grab hold of. Only then will the gods of violence, lust and greed lose their power over this nation.



“You know the times in which we are living. It’s time for you to wake up. Our salvation is nearer now than when we first became believers. ¹² The night is almost over, and the day is near. So we should get rid of the things that belong to the dark and take up the weapons that belong to the light. ¹³ We should live decently, as people who live in the light of day. Wild parties, drunkenness, sexual immorality, promiscuity, rivalry, and jealousy cannot be part of our lives. ¹⁴ Instead, live like the Lord Yeshua Christ did, and forget about satisfying the desires of your corrupt nature.”

– Rom 13:11-14

Amen.
Michael