

Monday, May 21, 2018 - If God Was Dead

17 dead. 10 dead. 10 dead. 28 dead. 33 dead.

These numbers represent some of the shooting deaths that have occurred in this country since the turn of the century. While these, and other occurrences like them, are incredibly sad, what is more tragic is that humanity doesn't seem to grasp that we are to blame.

No, this problem has nothing to do with gun control. It has EVERYTHING to do with the constant attacks to remove God from EVERY facet of our existence. Are we familiar with the phrase, "be careful what you wish for?"

To deny God, or to attempt to remove Him from all facets of our existence shows a complete lack of understanding of our true need FOR God! Without God, consider the following:

- 1) If God is dead, there are no moral absolutes and no universal standard to which all men should conform.
- 2) If God is dead, there is no purpose or rational order in life.
- 3) If God is dead, man is independent and totally free to create his own values. The notion that we can safely create our own rules was the lie that the serpent told Eve: "ye shall be as God" (Genesis 3:5, ASV).
- 4) If God is dead, the "real" world (as opposed to a heaven and hell) is man's only concern.

Without God, how do we know love? John tells us, "We love, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19, ASV). The great characteristic of Christianity is love. However, this love is not man's nature, it is in response to God's love for man. If a man loves God, he will love his brother. One can love his brother and not love God; however, one cannot love God and hate his brother. John very plainly says that if one says he loves God and hates his brother, he is a liar. If a person has hatred, malice, envy, anger or jealousy toward his brother, he does not love God. Love is the greatest thing in the world. Each person must examine himself to ensure we emulate this love.

Without God, how do we know how to live? Proverbs 14:12 warns us, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death." In our society, there are so many different philosophies and teachings of men. Mankind loves to gain knowledge; just as the Greeks of Paul's day. We should not allow ourselves to be deceived by the so called wisdom of the intellectually elite and those who are in the religious world. We learn in the scriptures that the wisdom of and knowledge of the world can inflate one with pride. Men get to the

point where they sometimes think that they know better than God or know more than God. Follow ONLY God's Word!

Consider the following:

"It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and to humbly implore His protection and favor."

George Washington October 3, 1789

"Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only Law Book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited... What a paradise would this region be!"

John Adams 1756

Where did our core laws originate? Why do we have a sense of right or wrong? Why do we have a conscience? The teachings of the Word of God!

James 4:17 - To him therefore that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

1 Corinthians 15:33 - Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.

Hebrews 5:14 - But solid food is for fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.

Mankind is NOT self sufficient, self reliant or self sustaining. We NEED GOD! This world is not our home, we are sojourners. Our only purpose in our physical life is to emulate Jesus Christ and deal with each other as we have been commanded:

Matthew 7:12 - "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets." NASB

The Golden Rule is "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." This rule is one of action. It teaches the Christian how he should live with his fellowman. He should treat others the way he would like to be treated. He is to act this way because of who he is. He is to act this way regardless how the other person acts. This is what makes the teachings of Jesus unique. The disciple of Jesus treats the other person kindly and lovingly because he is a Christian regardless how the other person responds. He does this because it is right, not because of what man thinks, but in the sight of God.

God is not and will never be dead! We need to live for Him!