

Insight for the Issues

Prov. 4:23

NE[→]XT STEPS

“Mass-Shooting Massacres”

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart** with all diligence; for **out of it are the issues of life.**

Review

What are the issues facing us in our day? How is a Christian to be prepared to properly face and respond to the constant bombardment of ideas, philosophies, that affect our lives? Should a believer be expected to have a Scriptural perspective or viewpoint regarding politics, lifestyles, and other various issues? Note the following Scriptural perspective:

1 Chron. 12:32 “...**which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do...**”

Est. 1:13 “...the wise men, **which knew the times...**”

Eccl. 8:5 “...and **a wise man's heart discerneth** both time and judgment.”

Our issue tonight is very controversial – “Mass-Shooting Massacres.”

Within the last week our nation has suffered several “Mass-shooting Massacres.” Political opportunists immediately sought cameras to propagate a narrative. Most of you have heard about the shooting in El Paso, TX and Dayton, OH. Did you hear about the shootings in Chicago?

El Paso, Dayton, Chicago: Media doesn't treat all gun violence the same

Grace Hauck, Aamer Madhani and John Kelly, **USA TODAY** Published 6:34 p.m. ET Aug. 5, 2019 | Updated 9:42 a.m. ET Aug. 7, 2019

When is a mass shooting a mass shooting?

Two of this weekend's incidents in Chicago met the standards for what the group Gun Violence Archive categorizes as a mass shooting: **an incident in which four or more people are shot, whether they were killed or not.**

Other groups that study gun violence define a mass shooting differently. Following the 2012 mass shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, Congress **defined a mass killing as "three or more killings in a single incident."** The Congressional Research Service defines a mass shooting as "a multiple homicide incident in which four or more victims are murdered with firearms, within one event, and in one or more locations in close proximity."

Fifty-nine people were shot in Chicago, including seven fatally, over the weekend in mostly poor, black neighborhoods on the city's South and West sides.

But as the nation grieved over the mass shooting rampages in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, that left 31 dead, the daily tragedy of gun violence in the nation's third largest city – which recorded 42 homicides in the first 28 days of July – made hardly a blip with national news outlets and cable networks.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/08/05/el-paso-shooting-dayton-chicago-gun-violence-reporting-varies/1920237001/>

In Chicago, 1,517 people have been shot this year. That is 129 fewer than 2018.

Data through Saturday, July 27

The Chicago Tribune crime team tracks shooting victims in Chicago. Data represents number of victims, not shooting incidents.

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/data/ct-shooting-victims-map-charts-htmlstory.html>

Instead of bending the news to support a narrative, let's consider this issue from a Scriptural perspective.

I. THE CRUELTY OF FATALITIES

A. A Simplistic Reason

- ❖ The choice of a deadly weapon is secondary.
- ❖ An act of violence is an exhibition of a wicked heart.

Jer. 17:9 **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked:** who can know it?

Mt. 15:19 For **out of the heart proceed** evil thoughts, **murders**, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

❖ A wicked heart is the fruit of a wicked and evil influence.

Jn. 8:44 **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning**, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

1 Jn. 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and **ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.**

B. A Serious Response

Rom. 3:4 “...**yea, let God be true, but every man a liar...**”

- ❖ The cruelty of the fatalities is sorrow of those uncounted “victims” who are the loved ones of the “counted victims.”

Psa. 36:1 **The transgression of the wicked** saith within my heart, *that there is no fear of God before his eyes.*

- ❖ When society abandons the Bible, the consequences are devastating to a nation.

Psa.9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and all the nations that forget God.*

If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a nation gone under.

Ronald Reagan

<https://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/moral-decay.html>

II. THE COMBINATION OF FACTORS

A. The Gradual Decay

The **boiling frog** is a fable describing a **frog** being slowly **boiled** alive. The premise is that if a **frog** is put suddenly into **boiling** water, it will jump out, but if the **frog** is put in tepid water which is then brought to a boil slowly, it will not perceive the danger and will be cooked to death.

“History fails to record a single precedent in which nations subject to moral decay have not passed into political and economic decline. There has been either a spiritual awakening to overcome the moral lapse, or a progressive deterioration leading to ultimate national disaster.”

~ **General Douglas MacArthur**

(1880-1964) WWII Supreme Allied Commander of the Southwest Pacific, Supreme United Nations Commander

<http://libertytree.ca/quotes/Douglas.MacArthur.Quote.4070>

B. The Great Deterioration

❖ Humanistic philosophy has permeated western society:

- There is no god.
- There is no accountability or responsibility for one's actions.
- Evolution propagates the survival of the fittest.
- Life is disposable = abortion and euthanizing.
- Gender confusion...
- Emasculation of males = toxic masculinity.
- Dead-beat Dads (Dad-deprived boys)

❖ The mediating institutions are dying:

- Church influence.
- Boy Scouts
- Boys Club
- Team involvement

III. THE CORRECTION THROUGH FAITHFULNESS

❖ The gradual decay in society is a long-term problem that will require a long-term solution.

A. The Perspective of the Christian

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for **a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**

Jn. 6:33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and **giveth life** unto the world. ...

35 And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life**: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. ...

48 **I am that bread of life**. ...

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words** that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

Jn. 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly**.

Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and **the life**: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Phil. 1:21 For **to me to live is Christ**, and to die *is* gain.

B. The Priorities of the Christian

❖ Christians **MUST** put Christ first.

Mt. 6:33 But **seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;** and all these things shall be added unto you.

Prov. 4:18 But **the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.**

Mt. 5:16 **Let your light so shine before men,** that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

2 Cor. 4:6 For **God**, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, **hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

Summary

- ❖ Mass-shootings are done by murderous people of wicked hearts.
- ❖ New gun-laws will not stop mass-shooting massacres.
- ❖ A long-term problem will require a long-term solution.
- ❖ The long-term solution must include a change in society's philosophy.
- ❖ The influence of Biblical Christianity on a society must include believers who are consistently living a holy life of fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

Col. 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and **your life is hid with Christ in God**.

4 When **Christ, who is our life**, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.