

# Plight of the Children : School Gun Violence! : Part 1

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## Introductory Note From The WordWeaver

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The following series was originally written in May of 1998, and was motivated in part by a series of tragic gun violence related events which began to transpire a month earlier that year. While some of the events that are discussed in this series are now in the past, nevertheless, the primary information and lessons which are shared in this series are still very much valid over thirteen years later today. If anything, the situation in the USA has only grown worse since I first wrote this series, and in my opinion, some of our children are more lost in a spiritual sense than ever before. Please note that this series does not discuss the April 20, 1999 Columbine High School massacre -- in which twelve students and one teacher were killed -- or the April 16, 2007 Virginia Tech massacre -- in which thirty-two people were killed -- simply because they occurred after this series was written. However, these two events were more deadly than anything mentioned in this series.

### The WordWeaver

The Lord never ceases to remind me how important it is that we fill the minds and hearts of our children with the pure Waters of His Word. This point is so important that I cannot repeat it often enough. As the Apostle Paul clearly reminds us in his Epistle to the Ephesians, we are involved in a spiritual battle to the death, as we see here:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."  
Ephesians 6:12, KJV

As I explain in such articles as "The Public School System And School Prayer", as well as in "Dear Teacher: Standing Up For Our Children's Rights", Satan is determined to rob and destroy our children's faith in God; and he will use every

means at his disposal to accomplish this task. By the time they graduate from high school, Satan wants our precious children to become complete atheists who will spout off the lies of the ungodly system he has created with the help of rebellious men. Satan wants our children to become little mindless robots who do as they are told without thinking for themselves. He wants them to place their faith, not in the Lord, but rather in the accomplishments and teachings of man. It is secular humanism through and through.

In my view, high school, and other institutions of so-called "higher learning", are in reality schools of lower learning, because the wisdom they teach does not descend from above; it is not from the Father of Lights; it is not enlightening. In discussing envy, strife and division within the Early Church, the Apostle James wrote the following which could verily easily be applied to our modern educational system:

"This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish."  
James 3:15, KJV

In the previous verse, the word "wisdom" is derived from the Greek word "sophia". Pronounced sof-ee'-ah, it means wisdom or broad and full of intelligence. On the other hand, James also describes for us the characteristics of true Godly Wisdom; and he even goes so far as to tell us exactly how we can obtain this kind of Wisdom. Consider these verses:

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."  
James 3:17, KJV

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."  
James 1:5, KJV

The previous verses goes hand-in-hand with the following ones which also describe how we can receive the Wisdom and the Knowledge of God:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:"  
Matthew 7:7, KJV

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"  
Luke 11:13, KJV

"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;"  
1 Corinthians 12:8, KJV

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."  
John 14:26, KJV

As you can see, both Wisdom and Knowledge are Gifts of the very same Holy Spirit which we receive from God. When the First Disciples received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, they received these Gifts. That is why they were not only able to remember the things Jesus had spoken to them while He was still with them, but they were also better able to understand them as well. I believe that it is this very same Holy Spirit which brings Bible verses to our minds today, and which helps us to better understand them as well.

Thus, we can see that the Holy Ghost -- which is the living Spirit of God -- is actually our Guide to understanding the written Word of God, which is the Spirit of God in black and white. They go hand in hand. Armed with these two important tools, the Spirit and the Word, we can successfully ground our children in the Eternal Truths of God. Through giving them the Word of God, we plant the Seed of Faith in their lives; for as the Apostle Paul wrote in his Epistle to the Roman brethren:

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."  
Romans 10:17, KJV

Once the Seed of Faith has been planted in our children's hearts, the Word and His Spirit continue to nurture that Seed until their lives blossom; and they become mature Christians themselves, who are also able to begin bearing spiritual fruit in their own lives. As Jesus said to His Disciples in the fifteenth chapter of the Gospel of John:

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."  
John 15:16, KJV

I am also reminded of the following verse that is found in the Book of Isaiah, where we are told that God's Word will accomplish the purpose for which He has sent it forth:

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."  
Isaiah 55:11, KJV

When the Lord, either directly, or indirectly through His Earthly servants, plants the little Seed of His Word in people's hearts, it is because He knows that some of it, perhaps not all of it, but some of it, is going to bring forth good fruit. Consider this verse:

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."  
Psalms 126:6, KJV

Surely, if anyone weeps for His wayward children, it is the Lord Himself. In his second Epistle, the Apostle Peter wrote the following concerning the Lord's desire to see all men accept the Salvation that He so freely offers them:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

In the Gospel of Matthew, as He looked out over Jerusalem, realizing what would happen to it only some forty years later in 70 A.D. at the hands of the Romans, Jesus said:

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"

Matthew 23:37, KJV

Thus, he who bears the Word of the Lord is like a farmer who goes forth weeping, hoping that the Seeds of Faith that he plants in the fields of the world, that is, in the hearts of unbelieving men, will result in their Salvation. In the Book of Ecclesiastes, we also find the following verse which discusses casting bread upon the waters:

"Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days."

Ecclesiastes 11:1, KJV

As you may recall, the word "waters" is sometimes used in the Bible to represent the peoples of the world. Consider the following verse that is found in the Book of Revelation:

"And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

Revelation 17:15, KJV

In the verse from Ecclesiastes, the waters can represent our young children; and the bread can represent the Word of God. After all, Jesus very specifically told us that He is the Bread of Life who was born in Bethlehem, which actually means "house of bread". Consider this verse:

"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."

John 6:35, KJV

Not only that, but bread is normally made from wheat, which is grown from a seed; and Jesus spoke all about the wheat and the tares as we will see shortly. So once again, we see that we are dealing with the very same thing. Thus, if we are faithful to cast the bread upon the waters, that is, to plant the Word of God in the hearts and minds of our young children, eventually it is going to bring forth positive fruit in their lives. That is why in Ecclesiastes we are told "thou shalt find it after many days"; and in the Book of Psalms we are told "shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." To confirm these thoughts, only a few verses later in the very same chapter of Ecclesiastes, we read:

"As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."  
Ecclesiastes 11:5-6, KJV

Planting the Seed of the Word will bear good fruit, exactly as Jesus explained in the Parable of the Sower; and if there is fertile ground to be found anywhere, surely it is the young, receptive hearts of our very own children. Allow me to refer you to another article I have written concerning this topic entitled "The Parable Of The Sower: Salvation And Service".

What actually inspired this article was a small incident which occurred a few days ago while my daughter and I were discussing a certain Biblical topic. During the course of the discussion, I used the term "Jesus was" without really giving much thought to the matter. However, in my daughter's mind, this placed Jesus in the past, and she didn't like that. For this reason, as soon as I said "Jesus was", she quickly stopped me and corrected me by saying "But daddy, Jesus said "Before Abraham was, I am."

To say the least, I was simply amazed. Here was this little seven-year-old girl reminding me, her middle-aged dad, and with a Scripture no less, that Jesus is alive now, this very minute! That is how real Jesus is to her. He is not dead and in the past as many secular humanists would have us believe! He is not something we keep out of our minds all year long except for certain days of the year when nominal Christians decide to give Him a little praise and a little honour such as at Christmas time or during Easter. My daughter knows full well that we are to think of Jesus, and of His loving Sacrifice, and of His Resurrection, and of His promises made to us on a daily basis. We are to speak with the Lord and to thank Him on a daily basis through prayer.

The point is, we have a living God, and a living Christ, who ever makes intercession for us before the Throne of His Holy Father. Consider what the Apostle Paul wrote in several of his Epistles:

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."  
Romans 8:34, KJV

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."  
Hebrews 7:25, KJV

Notice that the first verse says "that is risen again"; and the second verse states "He ever liveth". This is precisely what the Angelic Messenger told the two Mary's when they went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with sweet spices that early morning the first day of the week, as we see by these verses:

"In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you."  
Matthew 28:1-7, KJV

Thus, we have a living Christ who is constantly interceding for us before our Heavenly Father. As my daughter basically said, He is the great "I am", and not the faded glory of an "I was". He is the never ending story! He is the Living Word of God!

Sadly, the Roman Catholics -- and many other modern churches as well -- are notorious when it comes to pushing the living Christ into the distant past. They have crucifixes hanging everywhere, from their churches, to their homes, to their rosary beads; as if to say that Jesus is still hanging dead on the Cross, just as He was two thousand years ago. While some people may view this as a constant reminder of Jesus' Sacrifice for our sins, I think that it is rather ghastly to have an agonizing Christ displayed on the Cross. In fact, it makes me wonder if perhaps it is a part of the Roman Catholic strategy to keep their followers under a bit of condemnation so that they will continue to rely upon the so-called "holy mother church" for their Salvation. The Apostle Paul, in his Epistle to the Romans, said the exact opposite, as we see by this verse:

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."  
Romans 8:1, KJV

While we should remember the Lord's suffering, I really fail to see the need to place crucifixes in the church, on the rosary beads, in the Catholic home, in Catholic schools, and in any other place where they are able to display them. In a sense, it seems like just another part of the Roman Catholic system of misguided idol worship, which I discuss in other articles such as "Mary Worship, Christianity And Roman Catholicism".

Make no mistake, and be not deceived. Idol worship can appear in very subtle forms. As I discuss in a few other articles, the ancient Israelites had gone so far astray in worshipping idols, that even the serpent of brass which Moses made was eventually worshipped as an idol. As you may recall, Moses was commanded by God to make the serpent on the pole to heal the Israelites after the Lord had sent the venomous vipers to punish them for their constant complaints. We are told that good King Hezekiah eventually grew so tired of it that he had

the brasen serpent destroyed, as we see here:

"He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan."

2 Kings 18:4, KJV

Thus, if the Israelites idolized the brasen serpent which was ordained of the Lord for their own healing, should we really be surprised if the Roman Catholics today basically idolize the crucifix, just like their many other statues of Mary and the Catholic Saints? In my opinion, we should emphasize the sweet promises of hope which have come to be associated with the Lord's glorious Resurrection. We should not dwell upon a crucified Christ which really carries a spirit of gloom, doom and condemnation. Jesus gave us words to gladden our hearts, and not to sadden them, when He said:

". . . I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:"

John 11:25b, KJV

As you may know, Pope John Paul II carried a walking staff which terminates in a crucifix. Whether or not the current pope, Benedict XVI, carries the same staff, I do not know.

Sadly, the Roman Catholics are by no means alone in their vain traditions. As I point out in other articles, the Protestant world is likewise full of serious compromise.

For example, just yesterday I heard something on our local Christian station which again confirmed how far off-track modern Christianity has gone. As I clearly explain in the series "Our Pagan World: The Easter (Ishtar) Myth Exposed", Easter is nothing short of a Christianized version of an ancient pagan festival to honour Ishtar, the false goddess of love and fertility, and the wife of Baal. She has been known by many different names down through the ages. These include Astarte, Isis, Ashtoreth, Venus and Aphrodite. The Phoenicians, the Hebrews, the Egyptians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Greeks and the Romans all worshipped her.

It may surprise you to know that the practice of Easter egg hunts is directly related to the fact that the female egg represents fertility. Furthermore, in many ancient cultures, having many children was viewed as meaning that a couple was blessed by the goddess Ishtar.

Sadly, despite the fact that they know this is true, certain weak Christians still compromise their faith by choosing to celebrate this holiday. So exactly how do these people resist the conviction of God's Spirit? What I heard on the radio is one sad example. A certain lady was suggesting that instead of hiding Easter eggs, parents could hide nails. Yes, that's right; nails! This woman then went on to explain that when the children found the nails, it would help them to remember Christ's sufferings on the Cross. I couldn't believe it! I was aghast! In my opinion, that is just as bad as the Roman Catholics with their gloomy crucifixes.

In other words, instead of totally forsaking the pagan feast

of Easter -- or Ishtar -- as they know they should, these weak Christian parents compromise their faith, and they try to gloss over the lies and the deception, by attempting to make the festival appear a little more Christian. This they do when they replace Ishtar's eggs with Christ's nails. God help them all!

Other weak Christians will attempt to justify themselves by saying something such as "Well, what matters is that we are worshipping the Lord in our hearts. Even though it has pagan origins, we use Easter to remember the Lord's sufferings and His Resurrection." While on the surface this human reasoning may satisfy one's own conscience, that is, excusing oneself as the Apostle Paul referred to it, the fact of the matter is that the Bible informs us that our God is a jealous God; and He refuses to take second place, or to share His glory with a false goddess like Ishtar. In the Book of Exodus we read the following:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me . . . For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:"  
Exodus 20:3, 34:14, KJV

Another wayward Catholic tradition, which I have personally witnessed and experienced, is that of carrying a statue of baby Jesus door-to-door, so that the Catholic faithful can kiss it. I forget exactly on what holiday they perform this ritual, but it is a once-a-year event.

The last time that they came to my door, I tried to refrain myself, but the Lord's Spirit just swelled up within me and I told them to their faces in an angry voice that what they were doing amounted to blatant idol worship. Of course, the false shepherd who was leading this group of high school teenagers quickly tried to herd his little flock away from my door, acting as if I was just some ignorant Protestant who didn't correctly understand the sanctity of their solemn idol-worshipping ritual. How tragic!

As you may know, in the Gospels, Jesus was quick to expose the hypocrisy of the self-righteous leaders of His own day. Consider the following very pointed example that is found in the Gospel of Matthew:

"Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? . . . Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."  
Matthew 15:2-3, 6b-9, KJV

As we can see, sometimes there is the need to be very direct with the wayward. Sometimes you may only have a few seconds to get in some kind of a witness, and then the opportunity will be lost; so you need to give them something that will remain with them. Immediately after the previous incident,



Satan tried to condemn me by telling me that I should have been more loving to those Catholic teenagers. "After all", he reasoned, "they just do it out of ignorance. They don't really know any better. They are just foolish children who follow the traditions of their parents. You should really feel sorry for them and be easier on them."

While some of these things may indeed be true, we need to recognize that this is precisely one of Satan's favorite tactics. In other words, he will try to reason things out with us. He will try to neutralize us in our minds. This is the very same trick that Satan used with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

This is why, in his Epistle to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul tells us that we must put on the Helmet of Salvation; because our head, or our brain, is the primary battlefield where Satan wages his biggest wars against us. Once Satan persuades us to give up in our minds, we are defeated. In fact, this is so important that the Apostle Paul also tells us that after we have come to the Lord, our brains must be completely rewired by the Spirit and the Word of God so that we have the mind of Christ. This involves an entirely new spiritual and mental outlook on life. Consider these verses:

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"  
Ephesians 6:17, KJV

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."  
Romans 12:2, KJV

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."  
1 Corinthians 2:16, KJV

In this particular case, Satan tried to make me feel like I was the big, bad, mean bully for having been so hard on this sincere group of Catholic kids and their adult group leader. While it is indeed true that we must show love, mercy and patience with the wayward, at the same time, sometimes it is necessary to rebuke them strongly, in the hope that we can awake them out of the spiritual stupor into which they have fallen due to Satan's lies and deceptions.

As you may know, the Prophet Jeremiah has been referred to by some people as the Weeping Prophet because of the fact that he also wrote Lamentations. However, that doesn't mean that he by any means compromised the message of repentance and doom which the Lord had given to him to deliver to the Israelites. If nothing else, perhaps some of those teenagers returned home a little troubled. Perhaps they even began to question their Catholic beliefs and practices. Maybe a few of them even decided to open their Bibles in search of the Truth. I only had a few seconds in which to say something to them which might affect them, so hopefully it was enough.

Concerning these Catholic traditions, if there is one thing of which I am absolutely certain, it is that Jesus is no longer a little baby in a manger. Neither is He any longer

hanging in agony on the Cross. He is currently sat down at the Right Hand of His Father in Heaven! As He said Himself, He has already overcome the world. Please consider these verses:

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."  
John 16:33, KJV

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."  
Romans 8:34, KJV

"Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,"  
Ephesians 1:20, KJV

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

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high . . . But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?"  
Hebrews 1:1-3, 13 KJV

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;"  
Hebrews 8:1, KJV

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;"  
Hebrews 10:12, KJV

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."  
Hebrews 12:2, KJV

"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him."  
1 Peter 3:22, KJV

In short, Jesus is very much alive and well; and He will someday return to this Earth in order to rule and reign over it with great Power and great Glory. At that time, He will eliminate all Earthly opposition, and He will rule with a Rod of Iron.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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Plight of the Children : School Gun Violence! : Part 2

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Jesus Will Come With Great Power And Great Glory, Jesus Rules With A Rod Of Iron, Satan Defeated, God Will Be All In All, Our Children Are Like Sponges, Think On The Good Things, You Should Already Be In The Freezer, Subliminal Ungodly Impact Of Television Programs, "Chicago Hope" And Dead Bodies, Our Children Are Constantly Bombarded With Satanic Influences, Permanently Shaped By The Ways Of The World, America's Evil Spawn, Voice Of Conscience, Seared With A Hot Iron And Past Feeling, Stiffnecked Like The Ancient Jews, Diana-Worshipping Ephesians, A Young Generation Alienated From God, A Rotten Older Generation Who Has Born Bad Fruit, We Reap What We Sow, Jonesboro High School Ambush, Ashamed Parents, Unexplainable Dark Force?, Other American Gun Violence Committed By Young People During The 1990's, Irresponsible Parents Are To Blame

As I concluded in part one, contrary to the picture that has been painted by the Roman Catholic Church, Jesus Christ is very much alive and well. He is no longer a baby in a manger, and neither is He agonizing on a Roman Cross. At this current time, He sits -- as a full-grown adult -- on the Right Hand of God, His Father, and He is the second most powerful Being in the entire Universe. Furthermore, it is clear from the Scriptures, that someday Jesus will return to this Earth, in order to rule and reign over it with great Power and great Glory. The Bible informs us that at that time, He will also eliminate all Earthly opposition, and He will rule with a Rod of Iron. As I point out in articles such as "From Armageddon To The New Earth", the Bible has a number of verses which state this very thing, such as the following ones:

"Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."  
Psalms 2:9, KJV

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."  
Daniel 2:44, KJV

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven:

and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

Matthew 24:30-31, KJV

"Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

Matthew 26:64, KJV

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

Matthew 28:18, KJV

"And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power."

Mark 9:1, KJV

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven."

Mark 13:26-27, KJV

"And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

Mark 14:62, KJV

"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Luke 21:27, KJV

"Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God."

Luke 22:69, KJV

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,"

Ephesians 1:18-22, KJV

"Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with

everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10, KJV

"And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father."

Revelation 2:27, KJV

"And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

Revelation 12:5, KJV

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

Revelation 19:11-15, KJV

Once the Lord has subdued all Earthly rulers and brought the nations under His absolute control, Jesus will then present the Earth to His Father as the spoils of war; for Satan will have been completely defeated once and for all, as we see by the following verses:

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Revelation 20:10, KJV

"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."

1 Corinthians 15:24-28, KJV

Returning to our main topic of discussion, of course, I knew that Jesus Christ is no longer dead, but this incident with my daughter emphasized for me once again how important it is that we watch what we say in front of our children, and how we say it. It also made me realize exactly how much she has filled her mind and heart with the Word of God. My daughter just blurted it right out quite naturally, "But daddy, Jesus

said 'Before Abraham was, I am'."

In other articles I have stressed how our children are like little spiritual sponges, especially while they are in their formative years. They suck up and absorb everything, whether it is good, or whether it is evil. They can be filled with positive good thoughts from God's Word, or else they can be filled with negative thoughts and ideas from the world. One verse which comes to mind is the following:

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."  
Philippians 4:8, KJV

To give you an example of the deep, subliminal impact the world has on our children, consider the following. I suffer from certain health problems which sometimes get the better of me. So I was laying on the bed because I was in no shape to be working on any articles. My daughter, realizing that she had a golden opportunity when daddy wasn't busy at his computer, came over and asked if we could play doctor. I conceded, and she began writing down my personal patient data.

Whenever I am tired and exhausted, I sometimes tend to get a bit silly and foolish; so I was giving all kinds of silly answers to her questions. Upon being asked my age, I stated it as being one hundred and fourteen. Upon hearing this, my daughter immediately said, "Why, you should already be in the freezer!" At the time, it was extremely funny, and we both had a good laugh and kept joking about it for a while. At the same time, I was wondering to myself, "Where did she ever learn that?"

To give you a little background so you can fully understand the significance of my daughter's answer, allow me to inform you that at the time that I originally wrote this series in 1998, it had been four full months since we had last watched television; and it was -- and continues to be thirteen years later -- great! We had a major tropical storm blow through our area which completely devastated the room in which the television set was located, including taking out one window with metal storm shutters on it. The television, the VCR, and even the window air conditioner were all thrown to the floor and broken to varying degrees.

Aside from that, even when our television set was working, I tried to monitor my daughter's viewing as much as possible. That basically meant watching just one educational television channel; and even then, it was still full of Satan's lies and deceptions concerning EVILution. So upon asking my daughter where she had learned about dead bodies in the freezer, she informed me that she had seen it on an American hospital drama called "Chicago Hope".

As far as I can remember, at that time, it had been several years since I had last watched that TV program. I simply no longer have the time for, or the interest in, such things. I am growing old, and time is too short for me to indulge in

such wasteful activities.

To continue, according to my daughter, two years earlier, in 1996, while I was watching "Chicago Hope", she saw a doctor slide out a freezer; and there was a frozen corpse in all of its ghoulish glory. Imagine; this happened two years prior to the time of her funny reply; yet it had obviously left an indelible impression on her memory. This clearly demonstrates how impressionable young children are. It reveals how quick they are to absorb things, whether they are good, or whether they are evil. While "Chicago Hope" seeks to highlight the love, valour and sacrifice of those who try to save lives, at the same time, it contains its share of blood, guts and gore. Perhaps I should thank the Lord that this occurred on a medical program and not on one of those violent cop shows! I am reminded of the following verse:

"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."  
Isaiah 59:7, KJV

Having shared the above incident with you, imagine now how most young American children are constantly bombarded on a daily basis, at school, at home and during playtime, with the wicked lies and evil influences of Satan. Tragically, just as I explained in part one, he is waging a great battle in their minds, and in most cases, I would dare say that he is in fact winning. Stop to consider how much their personalities, their way of viewing the world, their manner of reacting to others, their thoughts concerning God and Truth, their way of dealing with their problems, etc., have already been influenced -- and most likely already permanently shaped -- by the things which they have seen, heard and been taught at such a tender age.

Parents of the world who don't know the Lord, and who have children who don't know the Lord, have a good reason to be alarmed. Because of their rebellion against God and His ways of love and peace, they are breeding a generation of violent little monsters whose consciences have been seared with a hot iron, to the point that some of them no longer even know how to recognize or understand the difference between right and wrong. Personally, it took me a great while to recognize and accept this fact. It just didn't seem possible to me, but it is indeed true.

I am reminded of how the Apostle Paul informs us that even if we were never properly instructed regarding what is right and what is wrong behavior, God has still seen fit to write His Laws upon the tables of our hearts. This is what some people refer to as the voice of our conscience. Paul writes:

"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)"  
Romans 2:14-15, KJV

On the other hand, consider also the sober warning which

Paul issued concerning the spiritual conditions which would exist during the Latter Times, that is, the Endtime:

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

1 Timothy 4:1-3, KJV

In the previous verse, the word "seared" is derived from the Greek word "kauteriazō". Pronounced kow-tay-ree-ad'-zo, it is from this ancient Greek word that we derive our English word "cauterize"; which means to stop a wound from bleeding by applying a hot instrument. As a result of performing this technique, what often happens is that the nerve endings are numbed. In other words, they become deadened so that one can no longer feel anything in that part of their body.

So what the Apostle Paul is actually saying in the previous verses is that in the Endtime -- which is the time in which many Christians believe we are now living -- some people's consciences will become completely numbed to the conviction of God's Spirit speaking to their hearts. They will become so spiritually dead, that they will be like walking zombies. They will become as stiffnecked and resistant to God's Spirit as the unbelieving Jews of two thousand years ago, of whom the martyr Stephen said the following right before those very same people stoned him to death:

"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye."  
Acts 7:51, KJV

In his Epistle to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul made very similar remarks when he warned the Christian brethren there to not be like their spiritually blind, calloused countrymen, who foolishly worshipped the false love goddess, Diana, and who stubbornly resisted the Spirit of God speaking to them, through the preaching of the Christian Gospel. Paul wrote:

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."  
Ephesians 4:17-19, KJV

Sadly, it seems to me that this is exactly what the so-called Christian United States of America is breeding today; that is, a generation of children, many of whom are totally darkened in their understanding of the Lord; who are totally alienated to the life He can offer them; who are totally blinded to His ways of peace and love; and who are totally past feeling when it comes to committing acts of unimaginable violence. Some of these kids have actually said that they didn't know that what they were doing was wrong. As I stated earlier, when I first learned about this, I just couldn't believe it. How can this



possibly be? The answer is shockingly simple. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus said the following:

"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."

Matthew 7:16-20, KJV

The children who commit these terrible acts of gun violence, who don't want to have anything to do with Jesus Christ, are the rotten fruit of a generation of adults who have likewise turned their backs on the Lord. They are the wicked spawn of a generation of adults who, because they do not know the Lord themselves, have not been able to plant the Seed of Faith in their children's hearts and minds. As a result of their own failures, these backslidden parents are losing the spiritual battle. Because they do not know the Lord, and because they have not taught their children about the Lord, and because they have not even given their children the godly discipline that they require, these rebellious, materialistic, ungodly, secular, humanistic parents have now reaped exactly what they have sown. This is a Divine Principle which simply cannot be ignored. Consider the truth of the following verses:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6, KJV

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

Galatians 6:7, KJV

"He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels."

Matthew 13:37-39, KJV

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

2 Corinthians 9:6, KJV

Because these parents have sparingly sown the Seed of the Word of God in the lives of their children, if at all, they are now reaping the negative consequences of their inaction. Some of them have watched in horror as their children have grow up to be both mentally and spiritually unbalanced, even to the point of having a sick fascination for evil, violence and death; and apparently with no respect and little regard for the sanctity of human life.

This tragic development in America is clearly reflected in their attitudes, in their style of dress, in the kinds of music they listen to, in the alarming increase in teenage

suicides, etc. If you think that my view is extreme, then consider the terrible tragedy involving gun violence that occurred at Westside Middle School in Jonesboro, Arkansas, U.S.A. during the last week of March 1998. Following is a short news clip from CNN, the Cable News Network, which is based in the United States Of America:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Two male cousins, 11 and 13, wearing camouflage and hiding in the woods nearby, opened fire on their classmates on Tuesday as they assembled outside during a prank fire alarm. Four girls were killed. One teacher died in the hospital. Eleven others were wounded, including another teacher. Police caught the two suspects as they were running from the scene. Because the suspects are juveniles, they cannot be prosecuted as adults under Arkansas law, officials said. The ATF says it will trace the weapons."

----- End Of Quote -----

When a pre-teenage boy, and another boy who has just become a teenager, are not only able to obtain weapons and live ammunition, but are also able to walk to a public school area, dressed in camouflage, and freely open fire on their fellow classmates in a planned ambush, it is obvious that something is terribly and seriously wrong in America. In the Book of Proverbs we find the following verses:

"The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother."  
Proverbs 10:1, KJV

"Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father."  
Proverbs 28:7, KJV

I have no doubt that the parents of these two boys must be going through a lot of emotional turmoil right now, and must be terribly ashamed by the cold, calculated actions of their children. How are they possibly going to be able to answer to the Lord for their dismal failure to train their children properly? Imagine; the lives of these two young boys are now stained with cold-blooded murder! They and their parents are scarred for life, and the families of their innocent victims are also scarred for life. If I were the parents of one of those two boys, I would probably want to leave town as soon as possible just to avoid the embarrassment!

How did the American president react to this terrible event? While he obviously expressed grief and shock, in another CNN news clip, U.S. President Bill Clinton, who happens to be a Southern Baptist, stated in part that he did not understand the "dark force" that led to the tragedy. Rather than use the incident to shock and wake up America to how far she has gone from the Lord, Mr. Clinton simply said that he did not understand the "dark force" which motivated these kids to do what they did.

What a terrible, man-pleasing compromise! I dare say that there are probably very few true, Bible-believing Christians reading this series who don't realize what that "dark force"

is, or why these tragedies are happening in America. But, as the old saying goes, a country gets the leader that it truly deserves; just as backslidden Israel was given rebellious King Saul when it too turned against and abandoned the Lord.

To further emphasize how dangerous some American teenagers are becoming, and apparently how easy it has become for some of them to obtain lethal weapons, consider the following CNN news report regarding another incident involving gun violence that occurred in the state of Idaho. Can there be any doubt that America is in serious trouble?:

----- Begin Quote -----

"A standoff Thursday at a Pocatello, Idaho, school for troubled youths, begun when a 14-year-old boy pulled a gun on the principal, ended peacefully when the boy surrendered nearly five hours later. The principal escaped unharmed, no one else was hurt and the boy walked out after trading his two handguns for cigarettes, pizza and soft drinks. Police said the boy had fired a shot into a wall or ceiling."

----- End Of Quote -----

Here is another CNN report concerning a high school shooting which occurred in Kentucky in December of 1997. This tragedy involving gun violence also left three girls dead. As with the previous incidents, the shooter was another teenager:

----- Begin Quote -----

"A 16-year-old girl who was the most seriously injured of the survivors in a Paducah, Kentucky, high school shooting rampage has returned home. Missy Jenkins was paralyzed from the waist down in the December 1 attack that left three girls dead. She spent the last seven weeks recovering in a Lexington hospital. Michael Carneal, 14, is charged in the shootings."

----- End Of Quote -----

While one truly hopes that this teenage gun violence would come to an end, such does not appear to be the case. CNN also reported the following shocking incident involving another fourteen-year-old with a gun, which occurred on April 24, 1998. Like previous incidents, this tragedy has left another teacher dead, and two students injured:

----- Begin Quote -----

"A 14-year-old-boy fatally shot a teacher and wounded two students at an eighth-grade dance in northwestern Pennsylvania Friday night, authorities said. After firing the shots, the boy fled the dance hall until the owner caught up with him in a nearby field, police said. The suspect, an eighth grade student at J.W. Parker Middle School, is now in custody and state police are preparing a murder charge against him. "It seems we are now joining a growing list of communities that have had to deal with this type of violence," a police spokesman said."

----- End Of Quote -----

Only two days after the above incident, the Cable News Network released yet another shocking news report; this time involving a four-year-old and a six-year-old. Neighbors say that at the time of the accident, it appeared that the two toddlers were playing toy guns. Sadly, it wasn't a toy gun whatsoever, and one boy was shot dead by the other:

----- Begin Quote -----

"GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP) -- Two boys appeared to be playing their usual game of pretend gunplay when a 4-year-old boy fatally shot his playmate on his sixth birthday.

Carlos Gilmer was shot in the neck Saturday at the home of his godmother, Beulah Lindsay, who took care of him. The younger boy is Lindsay's grandson, who visited her home regularly.

Authorities said the boys found the .38-caliber pistol in a purse in the house."

----- End Of Quote -----

In my view, the blame for such incidents can only be placed on the shoulders of the stupid, irresponsible, negligent parents. How could they possibly have left a loaded handgun in an area which was easily accessible by a four-year-old? Personally, I even find the idea of children playing "play guns" revolting. If it were within my power, I would remove every single toy gun, toy soldier, jet, laser robot and any other violence-oriented toys, completely off of the shelves of American stores. I would make it illegal to manufacture, purchase, sell or possess such demonic inventions. Sadly, we all know that this is never going to happen.

As far as I am concerned, from the manufacturer who is out to make a profit, to the Saturday morning advertisers who unscrupulously brainwash children into wanting to buy their violence-oriented toys, to the stupid parents who actually waste their money by purchasing toy guns, they are all guilty, guilty, guilty! And then they wonder why children grow up and do the things that they do! What insanity!

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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Plight of the Children : School Gun Violence! : Part 3

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More 1990's Incidents Regarding Hand Gun And School Violence, Should Educators Be Armed?, Conditioning People To Accept The Outlawing Of Private Ownership Of Guns, Supreme Court Upholds Second Amendment Right To Keep And Bear Arms, Dissatisfaction With Federal Government And Fringe Militia Groups, A House Divided Cannot Stand, A Man Of Peace Who Abhors All Violence, Guns Or The Lord's Divine Protection?, Violence Begets More Violence, American Society Full Of Violence And Fear, Greed And Selfishness or Love And Godly Reverence, Teach Children Decency And Respect For Their Peers, Time For America To Wake Up, Sow The Wind And Reap The Whirlwind, God Sometimes Uses Natural Disasters As His Instruments Of Divine Chastisement, The Patriarch Job's Afflictions And God's Firm Hand, Judgment Begins At The House Of God, Modern False Prophets, Southern Money-Making Bible Hucksters And Greedy Preachers, Donations Or Fees, Twofold More The Children Of Hell, Responsibilities As Christian Parents, An Invitation To Accept Salvation

Continuing our discussion from part two, believe it or not, only two days after this last incident, on April 28, 1998, CNN reported yet another case of teenage gun violence, in which two boys were killed, and another one was wounded, in Pomona, California, USA:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Two teen-agers were shot and killed and a third was wounded Tuesday afternoon while playing basketball at an elementary school in Pomona, California, police said. The shooting at Philadelphia Elementary School occurred about 5:20 p.m., said police Cpl. William Tucker. The names and exact ages of the victims were not immediately available, he said. No other injuries were reported. Pomona is about 40 miles east of downtown Los Angeles."

----- End Of Quote -----

The month of May, 1998 did not offer any respite from these crimes of gun violence committed by teenagers. Following are additional news clips from the Cable News Network. This first incident was reported on May twentieth:

----- Begin Quote -----

"A football player at a Fayetteville, Tennessee, high school was shot to death on campus Tuesday, allegedly by a teammate, school officials said. High school senior Nicholas Creason, 18, was pronounced dead from multiple gunshot wounds at about 2 p.m. The shooting took place in a school parking lot. Jacob Davis, another 18-year-old senior, was taken into custody following the shooting. He has been charged with first-degree murder and reckless endangerment, according to Fayetteville police."

----- End Of Quote -----

Only two days after the previous report, CNN informed the public of the following two incidents. In the first one, twenty-four students were victimized by a fifteen-year-old

with a gun; resulting in two fatalities thus far:

----- Begin Quote -----

"A 15-year-old Oregon boy is facing murder charges after allegedly opening fire on his classmates with a semiautomatic rifle, killing one student and wounding 23 others. Two bodies believed to be those of his parents were later found at his home. Kipland P. Kinkel, a freshman at Thurston High School, was subdued at the scene by some of his classmates, who are being called "heroes" by police."

A day later, CNN reports:

"Softly answering a judge's questions and betraying no emotion, 15-year-old Kipland Kinkel made his first court appearance Friday afternoon, where he was charged with four counts of aggravated murder. Kinkel is accused of killing his parents, William and Faith Kinkel, at their home and then methodically emptying 51 rounds from a semiautomatic rifle and a handgun at classmates Thursday morning at Thurston High School, killing two students. Another 22 were injured."

The next day, CNN then added:

After he was arrested in a school shooting rampage that left two classmates dead, Kip Kinkel lunged at an officer with a knife that he smuggled into the police station, authorities said Saturday. Kinkel, who is also charged in the shooting deaths of his parents, had a hunting knife taped to his leg that escaped notice when he was arrested following Thursday morning's cafeteria shootings at Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon.

----- End Of Quote -----

Thank the Lord that, according to the CNN news report, more senseless killing by violent teenagers was averted when local authorities discovered an ambush plan before it was actually executed:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Police in St. Charles, Missouri have uncovered a plot by three youths to shoot and kill classmates during a false fire alarm on the last day of school. The plot was discovered after police responded to a fight at Becky Davis Elementary in rural St. Charles County, said Lt. Dave Todd. The three sixth-grade boys modeled their plan on the recent ambush in Jonesboro, Arkansas, that left five dead. Todd said it was unclear what charges would be filed."

----- End Of Quote -----

Tragically, this is still not the end of the gun madness. Exactly how has the legal system responded to these violent acts committed primarily by minors? Consider the following story which originates in the state of Georgia, U.S.A. If school children possessing guns has you worried, consider what might happen if this legislator has his way. If such a law were actually enacted, public schools could literally be

turned into warfare zones as armed teachers try to defend their non-violent students from those students who do carry guns:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Teachers' groups are blasting a proposal from a Georgia legislator who wants educators to carry weapons as a way to deter school violence. State Rep. Mitchell Kaye, a Republican from the Atlanta suburb of Marietta, said Wednesday -- a day before the school shooting in Oregon -- that he planned to introduce legislation next year authorizing teachers to be armed. However, on Thursday, he said his bill might not be necessary, because Georgia law may already allow teachers to carry weapons."

----- End Of Quote -----

At the time that CNN was reporting such a consistent string of incidents involving gun violence in the American public school system, it seemed highly suspicious to me. While I didn't doubt that any of these sad gun-related tragedies had really occurred; nevertheless, it made me pause to consider if perhaps there might possibly be some ulterior motive behind the frequency with which these incidents were being reported. I wondered if it was possible that the American public was being slowly conditioned to accept the day when the private possession of guns would be totally outlawed, even though the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution authorizes them to keep and bear arms for the sake of self protection.

As you may know, in recent years -- 2008 and 2010 -- the US Supreme Court ruled in two cases that the Second Amendment protects a person's right to possess a firearm, unconnected to service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditional lawful purposes, such as self-defense within one's own home.

But at that time thirteen years ago, I wasn't convinced that it was purely coincidental that all of these tragic incidents involving teenage gun violence were being reported by the news media in such rapid succession, similar to an emotional and psychological blitzkrieg. I reasoned that while we could attribute this spike in gun violence news simply to the usual sensationalism and desire for increased readership and profit that news agencies are known for, nevertheless, there still seemed to be another objective behind it all.

Thus, I arrived at the conclusion that there were possibly certain parties which were purposely manipulating public opinion, so that when gun legislation was finally passed in the Congress, which would make it illegal for most American citizens to own handguns, the general public would gladly go along with it, just to stop all of the terrible gun violence that was occurring in the public school system and elsewhere as well.

Well, as I said, thirteen years have passed since I wrote the original version of this series, and American citizens still possess their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, with the support of the U.S. Supreme Court. Regarding exactly what the future may hold, considering the increasing level of

dissatisfaction with the Federal Government, as well as the current mentality of some fringe militia groups which discuss overthrowing the U.S. Government, I honestly do not know. But it is my opinion that the very last thing that we need to see is Americans fighting against and killing other Americans, as in times past, because as Jesus said, a house divided cannot stand:

"But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falleth."  
Luke 11:17, KJV

Before moving on in our discussion, let me just mention here that while I have been discussing the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the right of American citizens to keep and bear arms, as I explain in some of my political articles, personally, I do not like, and have never liked, guns in the least. They make me very nervous, and I have never owned one in my entire life. Furthermore, I don't intend to ever own a gun either. I have always been a man of peace who abhors violence of every kind. I simply trust the Lord to honor my resolve, and to continue to protect my family and I from violence and evil, as He has always done. As we are told in the Book of Psalms:

"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."  
Psalms 34:7, KJV

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."  
Psalms 20:7, KJV

If it comes down to guns or Divine Protection, I will trust in the Lord any day; because as Jesus Himself taught in His doctrine, violence simply begets more violence, as we see by this verse:

"Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."  
Matthew 26:52, KJV

Returning our attention to the issue of troubled teenagers and gun violence in the public school system, as I stated earlier, in my view, the blame still falls primarily on the parents who haven't properly raised their children in the fear of the Lord, and the gun owners who are irresponsible with their weapons. How many serious -- and sometimes fatal -- gun accidents have occurred which involve young children, simply because an irresponsible adult left a firearm in an inappropriate place?

Of course, this by no means excuses the gun violence which has plagued the American school system. It seems that it is at least due in part to the fact that we live in a society that is so full of violence, fear and prejudice, that a lot of people feel the need to buy such firearms for their own protection. Maybe if more people were motivated by Christian love and Godly fear, instead of by selfishness and greed -- which are the root causes of many of today's violent crimes



-- all these guns would not even be necessary. Furthermore, perhaps if more parents taught their children to treat their peers at school with decency and respect, and to not belittle or ridicule them just because they are different in some way, emotionally-distraught kids would not be motivated to resort to taking violent revenge on their classmates.

If there is one thing of which I am certain, it is that it is high time for America to wake up. The internal violence which occurs on a daily basis from shore to shore, and the violence which the American Government and US military mete out to other nations both need to stop. If not, America may someday soon reap what she has sown. As Jesus said, violence reaps more violence, and as the old proverb says, "They that sow the wind, shall reap the whirlwind". This proverb is in fact derived from the following verse that is found in the Book of the Prophet Hosea:

"For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up."  
Hosea 8:7, KJV

I have often wondered if perhaps it is already too late for the United States. Maybe her moral stench and spiritual decay have already reached Heaven, and God has already determined to let His righteous Judgments fall. So is it possible that like ancient Israel, America has already passed the point of no return? As I explain in other articles, there came a time when the Lord simply ran out of patience with the rebellious children of Israel. They had gone so far astray, that at one point He finally told them the following:

". . . Did not I deliver you from the Egyptians, and from the Amorites, from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines? The Zidonians also, and the Amalekites, and the Maonites, did oppress you; and ye cried to me, and I delivered you out of their hand. Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. Go and cry unto the gods which ye have chosen; let them deliver you in the time of your tribulation."  
Judges 10:11b-14, KJV

Considering some of the recent events which have occurred, it seems that America has already begun to experience the Lord's Judgments. We need to understand that it doesn't necessarily require an invasion by a foreign enemy in order to punish a country as often occurred in the days of ancient Israel. The Lord has other means of Divine Chastisement which can be just as effective in dealing with His wayward children.

In addition to an alarming rise in teenage suicides, high school gun violence, drug-related inner city violence and crime, citizens suddenly going berserk in post offices and restaurants, domestic violence, sexual abuse of children, etc., in recent years there has been a noticeable upsurge in natural disasters such as powerful hurricanes, tornadoes and severe storms, mudslides, wide-area floods, droughts, etc., which have wreaked havoc on different population centers of the United States. Some places have even experienced strong earthquakes where they have rarely or never been felt before.

Consider a catastrophe which occurred at the time that I wrote the original version of this series in 1998, which left at least forty-three people dead. Then consider the recent string of deadly tornadoes in the U.S. Southeast, which demonstrates that these types of natural catastrophes continue to this very day, years later. What does it all mean? Is God trying to get our attention? Is He running out of patience with us? The following information is extracted from several CNN news clips:

----- Begin Quotes -----

"The death toll has risen to at least 19 in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia after a line of fierce storms rolled across parts of the Southeast Wednesday night and Thursday morning, carrying violent winds and baseball-sized hail. An apparent tornado caused significant damage in several rural Alabama communities west of Birmingham where most of the deaths occurred, according to emergency management officials. Near Rock Creek, close to Birmingham, crews flashed search lights into the rubble of homes, seeking survivors."

"Vice President Al Gore on Friday will tour the storm-ravaged Southeast, where victims are trying to rebuild their lives in the wake of devastating tornadoes and thunderstorms that swept through the region late Wednesday and early Thursday. The storms killed at least 43 people in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. Nearly 200 people were injured and 2,000 homes and businesses were destroyed or damaged. The worst damage occurred just west of Birmingham, Alabama, where an F-5 twister killed at least 30 people."

----- End Of Quotes -----

While incidents such as the above are indeed tragic, and while we should feel sorry and pray for the victims of these catastrophes, and offer physical and/or spiritual relief if we have the means to do so, as Christians, we also need to learn to look deeper in order to understand why these things happen. I discuss this topic more at length in such articles as "Are Personal Tragedies Due To Sin?", as well as in the series "Hurricane Katrina And Other Natural Disasters".

As I explain in those articles, contrary to carnal, worldly men who attribute such natural catastrophes to geographical location, tectonic plate movement, meteorological conditions such as "El Nino", etc., we must learn to see the Hand of God in everything. If we truly believe that God is all-powerful, then we must also recognize that He could choose to prevent these things from occurring if He so desired. If He doesn't prevent them from happening, then we must ask ourselves why this is.

When God allowed Satan to afflict Job, the Patriarch knew right away that his trials and afflictions were ordained of and permitted by God for a specific reason. While his pride and self-righteous attitude hindered him at first, dear Job eventually learned the lessons that the Lord was trying to teach him.

Sadly, as I explained earlier in this series, it seems that

some people's consciences have become so hardened, and so numb to hearing the Voice of God, that they readily welcome the lies, excuses and scientific reasoning of their fellow companions in sin. I can't help but wonder if it might be significant that some of these events associated with teenage violence and severe storms, are occurring in the southeastern area of the United States.

For my readers who live outside of the United States, allow me to inform you that this area of the USA is often referred to as the "Bible Belt", due to the strong influence of the Southern Baptists and other Christian denominations. These people are very proud of their heritage, and some of them very self-righteously so. In thinking of these disasters, I am reminded of the following verse from the writings of the Apostle Peter:

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"  
1 Peter 4:17, KJV

While the southern USA is noted for its staunch conservative attitudes, its plethora of Gospel singers, its wild fire and brimstone preachers, etc., is it possible that they are in fact guilty of making a lot of noise while their hearts have drifted far from the Lord? Consider the following verses:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."  
1 Corinthians 13:1, KJV

"Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men: Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid."  
Isaiah 29:13-14, KJV

Allow me to share with you a real-life example which will clearly demonstrate what I mean.

About ten days before I wrote the original version of this series in 1998, I was given a ride by a fellow who hails from the American state of Kentucky. Being a former lumberjack, he began to tell me how he had suffered a serious back injury which had forced him to change occupations. As it turns out, this accident was due primarily to his own pride and youthful foolishness. One of the things which really shocked me about this man, is that while he claimed to be a Christian, stating in fact that his father is a Southern minister, as he told me his tale of woe, he cussed just about every other sentence. I am not exaggerating in the least. What is worse, he apparently saw absolutely nothing wrong with his colorful language. I am reminded of what the Lord said in the Gospel of Matthew:

"Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the

draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man."

Matthew 15:17-20, KJV

After relating his tale, this Southern preacher's son then had the gall to tell me that he was working on a book which would explain the truths of the Bible like they have never been explained or understood before. This is precisely the proud, misguided mentality which I expose in such articles as "Elijah: Where Are the True Prophets of God?". These men who claim to be modern prophets of God who are sharing the truth of the Scriptures for the very first time are a dime a dozen on the Internet. I have seen enough of their websites to know. Furthermore, over the years, some of them have also emailed me their work as well, or else their ads to entice me to purchase their books. I never have, and I never will.

When this Southern preacher's son learned that I do not sell my work, rather, that I write and distribute my articles for absolutely free, he then began to mildly berate me, and tell me that I was failing God. What? God expects me to earn lots of money from my work?! You can imagine what came next. He then prescribed his method for making money from my work on the Internet. It was the typical formula: Offer my readers the first few pages for free in order to entice them, and to attract their interest, and then require a "donation" if they want to read the rest of what I have to say.

As I have mentioned before, when Christian writers require a so-called "donation" before we will allow our readers to read our work in its entirety, then it really isn't a donation; it is in fact a fee. We are actually selling our work, plain and simple, just like other worldly merchants. I for one refuse to do that.

At any rate, even though I humbly shared with this Southern preacher's son several times Jesus' own words when He said "Freely ye have received, freely give", he became even more forceful in expressing his opinion, to the point of being quite obnoxious and unbearable. Thank the Lord that I had a pending appointment, and I was able to quickly excuse myself from his presence. This man clearly represents everything I wrote against in "Money-Making Bible Hucksters And Mammon!". I can't help but wonder if his materialistic attitude is one reason why the Lord has begun dealing with Christians in the southern United States.

The fact that this man -- the son of a Southern preacher -- refused to freely share the Gospel of Christ, brings us back to the central theme of our children. What is happening with and to them is but one of many symptoms of a major spiritual problem within the United States of America. She is reaping what she has sown by leading her children down the path of darkness, instead of sharing with them the glorious Light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus accused the ancient Jewish spiritual leadership of withholding the truth from the common people, because many parents of America have failed to teach their children the ways of the Lord, those kids are now

becoming twofold more the children of hell than the parents themselves. As Jesus said to the Scribes and the Pharisees of old:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

Matthew 23:15, KJV

Thankfully, there are still some God-fearing parents left in America who have faithfully planted the Seed of Faith in the hearts and minds of their children. I don't know exactly how many still remain, being as I have not lived there in many years, but it seems that they still greatly outnumber the atheists by a sizable percentage. Rather than bringing grief and heartache to their parents, these wonderful children are growing up in the fear, nurture and admonition of the Lord. I am reminded of the following verses:

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."  
Ephesians 6:4, KJV

"And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."  
Job 28:28, KJV

Clearly then, so much rests on us parents. While our children are still young and malleable, we must take every opportunity to fill their minds and hearts with the Light and Truth of God's Word, and to teach them the ways of peace, and not the ways of confrontation, violence and death. We must teach them that patient diplomacy is better than brute force, and that love, patience and kindness are stronger than prejudice and hate. We must help them to trust us as their parents, and we must make it easy for them to confide in us when something is troubling them, before it grows into an emotional monster which they cannot control. Of course, this all begins with knowing the Lord ourselves, knowing His Word, and having a strong relationship with Him.

If as a parent you have not yet accepted the Lord, then I encourage you to do so now. Just humbly admit to Him that you realize that you have made a lot of mistakes in your life. Tell Him that you are sorry, and that you are now ready to accept His help. Ask Him to forgive you for your rebellion and your unbelief, and then invite the Spirit of the Lord to come to dwell in your heart and in your life. He eagerly waits for you to cry out to Him. He will not force Himself upon anyone. However, once you do seek His face, He tells us:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."  
John 6:37, KJV

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."  
John 10:28, KJV

Once you have accepted Jesus Christ into your life, it is

then your responsibility to teach your children the ways of the Lord as well. Please don't wait another day. Begin by planting the Seed of Faith in their young lives today. As you begin to read and share His wonderful Word together, your faith will grow and blossom. Believe me; someday, you will look back and realize that you made the right choice. With these words, I bring another series to a close. I pray that it has been a blessing in your life.

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