

Pondering Terrorism Attacks

Terrorist attacks around the world – and here in the United States – are a mounting concern for citizens everywhere. Most recent was a van attack in London early Monday morning when at least one person was killed and 10 other pedestrians injured.

In close proximity to the incident were attorneys Don Howarth and Suzelle Smith, a husband-and-wife team who have assisted Life Care in a variety of legal matters across several years. They are in the United Kingdom lecturing at the University of Oxford. Both are parishioners at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church of Malibu, California. Howarth shared some thoughts about what is happening there in a post in the church's *Weekly Tidings*:

Our Oxford lectures are going well, though everyone here is distracted by the multiple acts of terrorism. It is very sad – young men who do not know what they are doing killing people they don't even know, and dying themselves in the process. Then the reaction is equally sad – cut back on rights, tolerance and liberty. A lose-lose situation.

I was at least hoping to hear or read a sermon from a Christian leader putting it in perspective, but I have not. To me, it says several things clearly to the Christian. First, sin is very much at work in the world. Second, no one is safe in this world. Safety comes only from God.

You can be going about your normal life and some crazy coward who does not even know you can take it from you in a moment. Even if a terrorist does not take a particular life, each one is just as susceptible to being taken by an auto accident, a plane crash or some natural disaster or accident. Therefore, we need to be ready at all times to lay our lives down.

Did those who were killed in one of these rampages think about the frailty of life and what their relationship with God was for all eternity? Have we, now that we have been given time to do so?

Next, if you were not one of those impacted by this violence, there is a reason you were not. You need to examine yourself and ask what that reason was. Do you still need to get right with God? Is He giving you extra time to do that? Or if your life is right with Him, why has He not taken you home, given that all our lives hang by a thread at any moment?



(more)

It has to be because He has something that He wants you to be doing here. We have to examine ourselves and make sure we are in the process of doing the things He wants us to do. But, as I say, I am not hearing this message. I hope Christian leaders somewhere are saying this and that people are acting on it.

Howarth raises some challenging questions. Life is fleeting, and if you have not established a relationship with Jesus, asking Him to be the Lord and Savior of your life, it is time to do so. And if you have – as Howarth points out – be certain you understand His purpose for you.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter