

9-11
September 11, 2011

What you believe about God and who He is determines the way you will live your life.

The people who flew the planes into the WTC and the Pentagon did so because of what they believed about God. Our nation responded with self defense, as seems proper to most all Americans (myself included).

But how we respond as individuals will depend on our view of God also. How we respond to all of life displays our philosophy of life and our view of God, no matter how detailed that view is, nor how shallow.

So then, how should we respond to what happened? Here are some passages from the Bible to give us three ways we should respond:

I. Mourn and then Forgive

Matthew 5:43-46 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

It hurts to have an enemy but that sorrow and forgiveness are the response God requires. Jesus Himself proved this in how He responded to the sins of the world. "He was a man of sorrow, acquainted with grief." But He uttered, "forgive them; they know not what they do." So should we.

Bitterness and hate must go. Mourning and forgiveness are the ways our God requires us to respond to sins against us.

II. Examine yourself

Luke 13:1-9 There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." 6 And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' 8 And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Death came on 9-11 in a sudden way, but it is always sudden and that those who died would have died in another way if the terrorists hadn't attacked, eventually. We will likewise die. We must be ready.

Death is not unique to the victims of 9-11. It comes to us all. We must be ready.

III. Bring the Gospel to the Muslims

When Jesus returns in Glory, the Bible says that He will be worshiped by people from "every tribe, tongue, and nation." **Although some Muslims wrongly thought they were serving God to kill Americans, bringing life to the Muslims is a mandate from our God to us.**

A. they need to know for the sake of His Name

1 Chronicles 16:23-26 23 Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. 24 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! 25 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and he is to be held in awe above all gods. 26 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

B. they need to know because He desires to rescue the perishing

John 10:14-16 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

C. they need to know so that we can imitate God on earth

No one on earth has less reason to love those who are trapped in Islam than American Christians. They call us "Great Satan" though we mean them no harm. They kill our innocent fathers and mothers, children and brothers. They declare themselves our mortal enemies.

Enemies like this give us the opportunity to imitate God on earth. We can love those who hate us.

Romans 5:6-8 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die-- 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.