

## Texas Church Shooting and Our Time to Go

Troy Edwards



We should have known that it would happen. It was not too long after the church mass murder of over 20 people in a church in Sutherland Springs, Texas on November 5, 2017 that a Hollywood celebrity decided to politicize this tragedy by blaming the Republicans. I am sure that this will help to continue their fight for “gun control”.

While those who use these types of tragedies to further their political agenda disturb me, I am more horrified by “Christians” who use it to promote an idea about Go that, in the long run, gives a monstrous depiction of him. While discussing this tragedy on a Christian forum one individual wrote, “This really grabs my heart for these people. We do not understand, but we must be ready at all times if it is our time to go be with Jesus.”

***Time to go to be with Jesus?*** I do not question the heart-felt sympathy of the individual who wrote this. I do not doubt that the person meant well. I only question the statement as it is written since such statements coming from the Christian community has led those outside of it to believe that god plans and orchestrates such tragic events. Whether the person who said this intended it or not, the wording appears to say that Jesus sends crazed murderers to shoot people whose “so-called time to go to be with Him” has arrived.

Again, it is not my intention to target a particular individual but to address a whole ideology that is within the church. Rest assured that sincere (though sincerely *wrong*) ministers in a number of pulpits around the world will attempt to “comfort” their parishioners by reminding them that

“God is sovereign, He is in control, and that He had a reason for this tragedy.” They will tell them “we may not understand God’s purposes for this tragedy in this lifetime but we can take comfort that He is in control of all that happens.”

Teachings of this nature are the seedbeds of atheism. The problem that I have found with many believers is that they give little attention to the fact that there is a war going on in the heavenlies (Daniel 10:10-21; Ephesians 6:10-18; Rev. 12:7-12). So many of the things that are blamed on God’s sovereignty can be better understood in the light of this truth. God has an enemy who is opposed to all that is good. Tragic shootings such as the one that occurred in Sutherland Springs, Texas was not orchestrated by God in any sense. This was the work of the enemy of God and man, the one known as Satan. Scripture says:

*The thief [Satan] 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.* (John 10:10)

*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.* (John 8:44)

*Not as Cain, who was of **that wicked one**, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother’s righteous.* (1 John 3:12)

Jesus is not sitting in Heaven with a Calendar scheduling people’s day of death. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that everyone in that church knew Jesus, which means their death definitely went against His will (Eze. 18:32; 33:11; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9). Such people were at this church but never came to know Christ certainly are not with Him.

When I confronted one of the “God’s timing” believers with some of these Biblical truths, the following question was posed to me:

I’m not sure I understand your reasoning. Are you saying God has absolutely nothing to do with the timing of death for any person? The time and means of your future death is not in God’s hands?

Those who hold such positions simply are ignorant of the Biblical truth that God is not directly responsible for anyone’s death – timing or otherwise. Scripture says, “*The last ENEMY that shall be destroyed is death*” (1 Cor. 15:26). Death is an enemy of God and a product of satanic origin (Heb. 2:14-15). Death came into this world as the result of *sin* and *not* because of a pre-planned timing of God (Rom. 5:12). For one to even claim that deaths are the result of God’s pre-planned timing makes Him responsible for the tragedies of the Sutherland Springs murders no matter how one may choose to spin it. One may as well blame God for suicides and abortions with this logic

(and sadly, many actually do. See my book, “*Untying God’s ‘Nots’*” for proof and refutation of this).

Therefore, the tragic murder and deaths that come as the result of such tragic events as the Sutherland Springs, Texas shooting must never be attributed to God. Satan is the ruler over the evil and darkness in this world and not our Heavenly Father, our Lord Jesus, or the precious Holy Spirit (Acts 26:18; Eph. 6:10-12; Col. 1:12-14).

God is just as hurt over this tragedy as anyone else. He has a plan to end all of this evil one day but until that day comes, we must be vigilant in prayer and stand on His Word while exercising our authority over the satanic forces attacking God’s people.

Teaching coming from Christian circles that makes God the responsible party for tragedies such as the one in Sutherland Springs, Texas has a tendency to produce atheists, haters of God, and fatalistic, fearful “Christians”. None of these are good products. They do not represent the truth about our loving, kind, and benevolent God who desires the salvation of every single human soul.

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For a deeper understanding concerning issues of death, God’s timing, and where His responsibility lies concerning these issues, we highly recommend our book, “*Does God Send Sickness?*”



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