

A Time for Anger: Assigning Blame for the Rise of Violence in America's Culture

By now you have heard of the tragic school shooting in Minneapolis. In a most evil act of demonic hate and irrationality, Robin Westman fired dozens of rounds from a rifle through the windows of a Christian school during their morning worship service. Two children were killed and 14 injured. Three adults were also injured.

The shooter was a transgender who was born Robert Westman and recently had his name changed to Robin Westman. His murder of these children has troubling similarities to the murder of six children in 2023 at a Christian school in Tennessee by a young man who also identified as a woman.

Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!

I confess that I feel angry at the shooter and his contemptuous disregard for the lives of innocent children. I am also angered at the secularist activists and politicians whose anti-Christian policies have created a cultural environment that is conducive to such evil. I also feel angry at myself and a feckless church that has allowed the anti-Christian, secularization of this nation.

The Secularization of American Culture

School shootings and cultural violence have become all too common in America, and it is time to identify the cause and assign blame where it belongs. Ultimate blame, of course, lies with the shooter, for it is clear from Scripture that each of us are accountable to God for our words and actions (Matt. 12:36; 2 Cor. 5:10). His closest associates, such as parents

and friends, also bear responsibility for how they responded to the warning signs they must have observed.

But in this essay, I also want to place blame squarely on the shoulders of every secularist activist and politician who has pushed for the removal of Bibles, prayers, crosses, Ten Commandments and all Christian symbols from the public schools. I will show how these symbols exert a positive moral influence on everyone within their visual range, and that they are more effective than metal detectors and security guards for restraining evil.



Pre-order Jonathan Cahn's Newest Book, The Avatar on !

Tragically, the moral values of the Bible have been replaced with postmodern ideology that says, since there is no God and no absolute morality or truth, we are all free to create our own. If you don't like your parents' moral values, you can create your own. If you don't like being a boy, you can create your own reality and identify as a girl.

According to these "progressive" educators, the Bible is an antiquated book that should have no place in the classroom. In the early 20th century, John Dewey was at the forefront of the fight to secularize America's education system and his ideals are still embraced by modern educators, including those of the National Education Association. Dewey was an atheist who hated Christianity, and he wrote:

The battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public-school classroom . . . between the rotting corpse of Christianity and the new faith of humanism (Hyatt, The Book that Made America Great, 149).

The secularizing of the American classroom with the removal of all biblical statements and symbols, has had devastating consequences. This was made clear in an interview I heard

years ago wherein Charlie Rose interviewed a social scientist who had just led, and completed, a study on the power of religious symbols.

This social scientist laid out their amazing discoveries on the power of religious symbols. One thing he said, I will never forget. He said they discovered that a person, sitting in a room with a Bible in view, is less likely to tell a lie than if there is no Bible in view. They found that the very presence of a Bible exudes a positive moral influence on those present.

The Tragic Consequences of Rejecting the Bible

This means that the removal of the Bible, prayers and Christian symbols from the public schools is a major contributing factor to the violence and hate that has erupted in our society. Without those positive moral constraints, the worst in human nature is free to roam.

It was not always this way. As a teenager in high school in the 1960s, we had never heard of a school shooting. It never crossed our minds that such a thing might happen. We were not angels, but there were not the rampant hatred and violence that is all too common in today's schools and society in general

Could it, perhaps, be partly because there was no problem with a teacher reading a verse from the Bible or having prayer before class? I remember how that at the beginning of every Friday night football game in Temple, Oklahoma, where I attended junior high school, a local pastor or minister would pray. The many hundreds—and maybe thousands—in the stands would all stand and I can still see the hundreds of men removing their hats and caps as the person began to pray.

It all began to change when I was 15 years old and in two

Supreme Court rulings, *Engel v. Vitale* (1962) and *Abington School v. Schempp* (1963) the nation's highest court banned school-sponsored prayer and Bible reading in the public schools of America. This ruling was based on a contorted and novel interpretation of that part of the First Amendment that reads, "Congress shall make no law concerning the establishment of religion or hindering the free exercise thereof."

These rulings opened the floodgates of anti-Christian activism. Since that time, lawsuits filed by atheist and secularist organizations have resulted in the removal of crosses, Ten Commandment displays, and other Christian expressions from public property. Schoolchildren have been told they cannot sing Joy to the World or Hark or The Herald Angels Sing at Christmas because that would be a violation of the First Amendment.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

As part of this crusade to de-Christianize America, the secularists insist on calling a Christmas Tree a Holiday Tree and referring to the Christmas Holiday as The Winter Holiday. Veteran groups and military chaplains have been told they cannot pray in the Name of Jesus. A high school band in Mississippi was ordered by a judge to remove How Great Thou Art from the repertoire of music that they play at football games and other school events.

On April 6, 2009, President Barak Obama announced to a Turkish audience, "America is not a Christian nation." His audacious statement showed the extent to which the crusade to de-Christianize America and remove her from her biblical moorings had come.

We Must Do More than “Sing Louder”

We as Christians must also bear blame for this secularization of the public school system and society in general, for this has all happened on our watch. We have not been the “salt” and “light” that Jesus called us to be in Matthew 5:13-14. In that culture, before refrigeration, salt was used as a preservative to restrain spoilage and corruption in meats and other food. “Light” is used to dispel darkness, which is the absence of light.

When the church is truly “salt” and “light,” the evils of this present world will be restrained and held at bay. But if the salt loses its “saltiness,” as Jesus warned, it is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trodden underfoot by men.

I read a German Christian’s remorseful testimony of how the German church responded to the Holocaust and Hitler. He told how the church he attended was next to a railroad and there were times, during their services, that a train would pass and they would hear the cries and screams of those being taken to the death camps. What was their response? He said, “We sang louder.”

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!

We as American Christians must do more than “sing louder.” To be salt and light we must make our voices heard on our social media platforms, in school board meetings, and in whatever venue the Lord may open for your voice. We must die to self and to the fear of man. We must also support public officials who support positive biblical values in the public schools and in society.

We must also continue to pray for another Great Awakening to roll like a tsunami wave across the land. There are hopeful

indicators that we are the verge of such an Awakening, but we must press in and lay hold of it in faith and prayer. The future of America is in our hands for 2 Chronicles 7:14, which gives the wonderful promise of national healing, begins with the condition, "If My people..."

*This article is derived in part from the books, 1726: The Year that Defined America and The Book that Made America Great by **Dr. Eddie L. Hyatt** and available from Amazon and his website at .*