

Why London Proves Theology Has Profound Effects

The hideous attack in London earlier this week is a stark reminder that one's theology has profound effects, not only for the adherent but for others. Make no mistake. This evil act was more theologically motivated than politically motivated.

The British people and their leaders are to be commended for calling this barbarism what it is, and for their solidarity and resolve not to cower to such acts of anarchy.

Mere religion that is devoid of the love of God will always ultimately turn brutal. Ideologies that are weak at their core often resort to violence for their propagation. May God grant revelation for people to see the obvious. The terrorist's message ends in death and destruction. The gospel message brings life and peace. "I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live" (Deut. 30:19).

Such terrorists are in collusion with the devil himself. Referring to the evil one, Jesus said, "The thief does not come, except to steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:10a). But in glorious juxtaposition, our Lord Jesus immediately said, "I came that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10b). Religion minus God's love is dark and deadly. But the gospel bursts with light and life.

In our sin-drenched world, everything we hold dear in this life we can only hold lightly. Life here on earth is tenuous and short. James called it a "vapor" (James 4:14). But followers of Jesus are comforted to know life doesn't end here. Life goes on—better life, eternal life. We are people with an anchor when everything around us seems unhinged. We

are anchored in the gospel, and we are anchored upward. {eoa}

David Shibley is the founder of Global Advance.