

Hurricanes, Fires - and Evil

BY DAVID POSEY

The last few months have been a trial for people in different parts of the country. Hurricanes in Houston, Florida and Puerto Rico have caused turmoil in the lives of people, including some of our own brethren. Fires in California, less than 100 miles from Folsom, have destroyed homes and lands that will take years to rebuild and restore. We call these “natural disasters” although, in the case of the fires, it appears there was a human element involved.

Even worse than hurricanes and fires is the seemingly endless acts of abject evil. Terrorists mowing down people on sidewalks or blowing them up, and evil men — for whatever reason — who shoot people, even young children, in a school or during a church service.

It's all hard to fathom and there is no way to understand why some of these things happen. The politicalization of these shooting events makes it even worse. It's not about gun control or primarily mental health concerns. *It's about evil.* If a man has the wherewithal to stockpile weapons and meticulously plan an attack, he is mentally stable enough to be called “evil.”

It's just my opinion, but I feel that, in a way, we've brought this on ourselves. By “we,” I mean the culture that we've created in the United States in the last 30-40 years. There's a passage that is about 2700 years old that says it best. It's found in Isaiah 5:20, *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!*

The things that are evil — revenge, sex outside marriage, abortion, to name a few — have not only become acceptable in our society but are portrayed as what is good, even *best*, in our society. All you have to do is watch a little TV, or become familiar with the themes of many of the movies produced in Hollywood to see the truth that what is good is called evil and what is evil is called good. For example, gratuitous violence is a vice that is routinely glorified in movies today. No one who has ever seen ads or trailers for movies can deny that. But those who criticize these cultural realities are viewed as hopelessly out of touch and “backward.”

People who think they are sophisticated today love to make fun of our black and white past when TV programs reflected a culture that was “good” for the most part. It was a world where fathers were heads of their homes (“Father Knows Best”), where life was simple (“Andy Griffith Show”) and where kids were obedient to parents (“The Donna Reed Show” and “Leave it to Beaver”).

There were a lot of things going on back then that prevents me from honestly saying those were “the good old days” but I can tell you, from experience, that we were not hearing about mass shootings in those days. You felt safe in school, on the sidewalk, or

in a church service. The airplanes we flew on were not as advanced as they are today, but there were no “security” lines at airports.

We get the culture we want. Many in our world are just fine with evil when portrayed on the screen or in music. Evil is entertaining — until it affects you personally. If we give our money and our time to those who produce media that glorifies evil, we’re getting the culture we want.

And Christians are not off the hook; we are partly to blame. We have not been the salt and light that we should be. We have supported with our dollars and time the turning in our culture from good to evil. If I choose to pay \$15 to watch a movie with raw language, gratuitous violence and sex (fornication), then how can I claim that I have not contributed to the decay of our society? If the lights in a house are not on, I don’t blame the house, do you?