

An Indispensable Factor in Minimizing Mass Shootings

I appreciate Dr. Jetelina's insightful initial critique¹ of the popular ploy of naming mental illness (**MI**) as the cause of mass shootings (**MS**). She firstly noted that such incidents demand substantial and careful strategizing of a degree not compatible with the capacity of a person debilitated by MI. Further, she offered more plausible causes of MS by stressing such *emotional* drivers as *envy* and *grievance*.

Nevertheless she neglected to consider the "*elephant in the room*" that the Bible calls "sin." While secularists may laugh at my suggestion, it is obviously the case that "scientific" claims have failed to disarm the crisis at hand for the reason that such schemes as just cited, cannot be abated by physical laws and mathematical formulas because the latter's' wiles are instead aspects of human freewill.² And mass-shootings by automatic weapons are never just a *single* murderous act. Every pull of the trigger or shift of the scope onto the next person entails the choice to murder each *additional* victim. Since the concept of "choice" is incompatible with results from physical laws, *scientific* authority has no relevance.

The biblical term "sin" entails both disobedience of the authority of God and/or the moral law that normally exists in every conscience even as it also elevates the rebel to the decider of their pragmatic urges. Is it any wonder then that chaos erupts wherever the will of God is roundly ignored? The analogy of that inevitability is similar to the expected result of a concert when each musician willfully ignores the conductor. Surely only ugly noise can result from the clash. No other outcome is plausible.

In the case of the mass-shooter, he may find fleeting glee in both the trauma he brought about, and the infamy tagged onto himself. Yet there is a further, immeasurably weightier consequence. I confidently declare, there is hell to follow. MS perpetrators apparently assume they will leave behind the fallout of the evils they brought upon the world. But they are wrong. Numerous times the New Testament warns that every person will stand before the judgment seat of Christ and hear the pronouncement either that, through His death and resurrection and consequently His gift of salvation, we who receive Him have everlasting life, OR instead, by refusing to trust Christ, our record of rebellion will render our verdict, "*damnation*." Doubtless some will scoff at this claim. Yet I know of no one who has looked at the evidence favoring the truth of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and who then concluded the evidence is either lacking or weak.³ It is this unassailable fact of history which substantiates the statement in the Apostles' Creed that "*He [Jesus] will come to judge the living and the dead*." The only ones who doubt this either have not considered the evidence; or prefer "*to walk in the darkness rather than the light*" (John 3:19). Either way, scoffers violate the principles of scientific methodology. True scientists follow the science as far as the evidence takes them, and then when that path dead-ends, they yield to realities that *do* have answers (*spiritual*) which, in this case, affirm the reality of sin and its negative consequences, and consequently urges our reception of answers that only Jesus provides; the reality of redemption that follows our confession of sin. Unless we receive Him, we face the prospect of hell. That warning must be everywhere proclaimed, even as law-breakers would be wise to heed it.

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¹ Dr. Katelyn Jetelina (Epidemiology). "Its Hard to Explain (And Fix) Evil." (June 3, 2022), <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGpGKdxRCKwvlPrXwpbzXjWHNGg>

² I reject as absurd the materialist's objection that freewill is an illusion. If that was really so, their own claims must also be rendered illusory.

³ You may immediately access the case for Jesus' resurrection in my essay, "Hoax? Myth? Or Literally True?" at my website:

www.christianityontheoffense.com/articles ** or Lee Strobel. The Case for Christ: Updated and Expanded. (Zondervan, 2016).