

## When Truth is Ignored

Jesus said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. Indeed, those who know and live the truth are set free from sin and its consequences. But many in our world reject God's truth and even reject Him. When that happens, the consequences of sin will reign, in life and in society.

Last week we saw yet another manifestation of rejecting God's truth and the consequences that follow. We saw those who reject Jehovah God, His Son and His truths attack innocent people in Paris, France. Bombs, bullets and grenades, rather than Jesus and His grace. Vengeance and violence rather than love and forgiveness. It's a recipe for continued carnage against the innocent, by those whose heart has been turned cold by the father of lies.

What should be our response? That question requires several answers. First, pray for the victims and their families. Second, pray for those filled with hate to find the love of Jesus and the repentance that follows. Third, pray for the nations of the world. Realize that the scourge of "multi-culturalism" is actually a rejection of God's truths on a broad basis.

We should seek no personal revenge, but we must allow God to use the nations and the authority He has vested in them, to pursue His justice. Consider His words in Romans 12:14-19:

*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.*

Then in Romans 13:3, 4, God continues His instruction to us:

*Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.*

I certainly believe that there are circumstances in which God allows us to respond in self-defense. But in most cases, we must allow God's ordained governments to render the justice of which He speaks in the above passages.

Pray for France, pray for the world. And pray for the world to come to faith in Christ Jesus.

-Ray Wallace