

THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO THE WICKED

By Pastor Greg Hooker

“Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live” (Ezekiel 18:20)?

Many religions today – including some individuals of the Christian faith – seem to relish in the deaths of those who have committed heinous crimes. The mass murderer receives the death penalty. The child molester dies of an apparent heart attack. The rapist commits suicide. After all, we surmise, these ‘malevolent misfits’ of society got their ‘just reward’.

Yet the fact is my friend, when we stand before a holy God in our sinful condition, we all deserve to die! Not a soul has ever lived who could approach God apart from the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ – not one. “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” “There is none righteous, no not one.”

While I cannot argue the fact that these criminal individuals may have received a just sentence for what they did, nevertheless; God has no pleasure “at all in the deaths of the wicked.” On the contrary, the Lord looks down on His fallen creation and weeps over those who commit such crimes. He would much rather have all men to come to the saving knowledge of the gospel and “return from his ways, and live.”

We know the Bible is clear that the Lord rejoices in the deaths of His saints, but those who are without forgiveness are destined for eternal hell; God has no pleasure in seeing them die. When the saints of God depart this life, the Bible teaches they immediately are in the presence of the Lord. Not so with the wicked; for when they die their mortal eyes are lifted in eternal hell.

It’s imperative we understand that Jesus Christ loves all people – from the Hitler’s to the most upstanding citizen. He loved them to the extent of giving His life and dyeing for their sins. So when we see the deaths of the wicked, let us not rejoice; but let us weep for their souls. In doing so, we mimic the Heavenly Father.

Dear Lord, forgive us for rejoicing over the deaths of the wicked. Help us to pray for their souls and weep over their evil deeds.

In Jesus name, your son, Pastor Greg.