

The Horror in Olney: What Is God Doing?

Our neighborhood has been confronted by horrific events on Chew Avenue. How do we make sense of this terrible news?

The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news that speaks into bad news. What is God doing?

***Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.*** Isaiah 53:4

The Bible says that Jesus, the Son of God, has taken our griefs and sorrows upon Himself. God is not distant and uncaring. God stepped into our horror.

***[Jesus] partook of [flesh and blood], that through death
he might destroy the one who has the power of death,
that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear
of death were subject to lifelong slavery.***
Hebrews 2:14–15

The gospel is not a pretty “Sunday school story” that stays away from the horrors in this world. It meets them head-on. Jesus, the Son of God, was deserted by His friends, mocked, beaten, and killed in the most painful way the Romans knew. He did this to destroy the devil and the power of death. And He rose to life again after three days, breaking the power of sin and death.

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***But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*** Isaiah 53:5–6

Jesus dealt with more than death. Death is just a symptom. *Jesus dealt with the disease: sin in our hearts.* When Jesus died, He died for *sinners*—thieves, drunkards, adulterers, murderers—who want nothing to do with Him.

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Jesus, the Son of God, dealt with sin and death because God loves sinners who do not deserve His love at all.

In the face of horror, our hearts cry out for justice. Praise God! On the cross, Jesus did not do away with justice. Instead, He satisfied justice. He took God’s righteous wrath and condemnation upon Himself once and for all. He cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46) *He did this so that sinners who repent and trust Him may never be forsaken.*

***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have
eternal life.*** John 3:16



God is not distant from the horrors in this world. A God who has done this for sinners is a God you should seek. To read more, follow the QR code.

<https://olneybaptist.org/god-has-stepped-into-our-horror/>