

2016 Summer SBC 03

Response to the Orlando Massacre

The Apocrypha

Response to the Orlando Massacre

What we now know through the news media

On Sunday morning, a heavily armed man (Omar Mateen, 29) entered a gay nightclub (Pulse) around 2:00 AM and began shooting. While inside the club he made a 911 call in which he pledged allegiance to ISIS. Police eventually entered the building. The murderer was killed in an exchange of gunfire. He had killed 49 people and injured more than 50 others.

Response to the Orlando Massacre

What is also being reported

The murderer was Muslim from a family with a history of Muslim activism.

The murderer was married and his wife may have been complicit in the attack.

The murderer may have been active in homosexual activities

The murderer had a long history of claiming connections to terrorist organizations.

The murderer was a suspicious character and was repeatedly reported to the FBI by his coworkers and gun-shop owners.

Response to the Orlando Massacre

The nation and the world responds (and gets it wrong)

Both Presidential candidates immediately began tweeting responses designed to further their own political agendas

President Obama declared the massacre an “act of terror and an act of hate” in an apparent attempt to use the event to further the LGBT agenda. His subsequent utterances have all been carefully crafted to spin the event as a gay first, America second tragedy

Congressional democrats began a filibuster to use the tragedy to further their own long-term agenda and to position for power

Republicans, desiring to get in on the action, promised to further the Democrats’ gun-control legislation

Response to the Orlando Massacre

The nations and the world responds (and gets it wrong)

In Florida, much news was made when the Democrat President of the United States made no effort to contact the Republican Governor of Florida in what was seen as a brazen political snub

In Europe, the massacre in Florida was reported as an attack on Gays and further evidence that the LGBT agenda must be advanced

Throughout the week, various news media have portrayed the dead and wounded as heroic in the face of hate *and* heroes in the fight for justice and equality for the LGBT community

Response to the Orlando Massacre

Here, where I minister.

During the past week, I have fielded many questions about the Orlando massacre. Almost all of them have revolved around two issues:

1. The Government's incompetence in preventing this tragedy in light of the multiple investigations against the perpetrator.
2. The efforts of politicians and media leaders to turn the victims into heroes.

Response to the Orlando Massacre

Here, where I minister.

1. The Government's incompetence in preventing this tragedy in light of the multiple investigations against the perpetrator.

My response:

Psalm 146:3 (NASB)

**Do not trust in princes,
In mortal man, in whom there is no salvation.**

It is nothing new that government officials and agencies can not save us – what is new is how obvious this truth has become.

Response to the Orlando Massacre

Here, where I minister.

2. The efforts of politicians and media leaders to turn the victims into heroes.

The victims of this massacre were not heroes in any meaningful sense of that word. The ugly truth is that they were engaged in revelry and debauchery on the Lord's day. They are more akin to the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah or to the Israelites who died in Korah's rebellion than to a hero.

It is **outrageous** for the culture around us (our government and our media) to call evil good, and to make heroes of those who do wickedness. **HOWEVER, this is neither new nor surprising.**

Response to the Orlando Massacre

**So, how should we as Christians think about this
massacre?**

What is a Godly response?

Response to the Orlando Massacre

- What Omar Mateen did in Orlando was a Horrible Crime, which can not be justified or mitigated by any circumstances
- The men and women who were killed and injured in the Pulse nightclub are **VICTIMS** of **a horrible crime** against humanity

Response to the Orlando Massacre

Three Bible passages that provide direction

Response to the Orlando Massacre

Some Bible passages that provide direction
Romans 12:15-19

Rejoice with those who rejoice, **weep with those who weep.** **16** Live in harmony with one another. **Do not be haughty,** but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. **17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.** **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, **never avenge yourselves,** but **leave it to the wrath of God,** for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Response to the Orlando Massacre

Three Bible passages that provide direction
Romans 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— that **I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.** For **I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers**, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

Response to the Orlando Massacre

1. Don't be surprised that the Government and the FBI, etc., fail you
2. Don't be surprised or outraged when the Media lies, just stop listening
3. Turn your heart toward compassion and mourn for all victims (remember the Good Samaritan)
4. Lament the loss of every single soul. Weep before God whenever a fellow American is lost to this world, the flesh or the devil. Truly desire the salvation of all, and never ever "desire the death of any man, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live." (EZ 18:23) This is what God wants.

The Apocrypha

The Apocrypha

The Apocrypha refers to a collection of books most of which were composed in the intertestamental period. (the 400 years between the closing of the Old Testament and the birth of Jesus.)

These books were considered part of the Bible by the early Christians because they were included in the Septuagint (a Greek translation of the Old Testament which was used by Jesus, the Apostles, the New Testament writers and the early church as the primary translation of the Bible.)

For over a thousand years, there was never really any doubt that the Apocrypha was part of the Bible (St. Jerome's objections notwithstanding.)

The Apocrypha

During the Reformation in Europe, many of the Reformers rejected much of the Christian heritage and faith – such as Sacraments, Apostolic ministry of Bishops, priests and deacons, and even books of the bible. (Martin Luther rejected Revelation, Hebrews and James in addition to the Apocrypha.)

Most Continental Reformers eventually agreed to reject the Apocrypha but maintain the New Testament canon.

The Apocrypha

Anglicans

Anglicans formed a much different view of the Apocrypha.

Anglicans retained the Apocrypha as part of the Bible but also established a hermeneutic for the use of these books.

Article VI states, “And the other Books (as *Hierome* saith) the Church doth read for example of life and instruction of manners; but yet doth it not apply them to establish any doctrine”

*Anglicans recognize that all the books of the Bible are God’s word, yet not all are of the same weight or equal import. (Example, the Gospels are the most important, and far more

The Apocrypha

Anglicans

The official Bible for the Anglican Province of America is the Authorized (aka King James) version of the Bible with the Apocrypha

NOTE: the Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha and the English Standard Version with Apocrypha are also official translations of the Bible.

To follow the Lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer, the Apocrypha must be in the Bible.

In Morning Prayer, we learn to sing canticles that are recorded in the Apocrypha (Song of the Three Children)

The Official documents of the the Anglican Tradition use the Apocrypha liberally – not to establish doctrine but to support doctrine established by the Holy Scriptures of the Bible.

The Apocrypha

Therefore, YES the APOCRYPHA is part of the BIBLE for Anglicans.

Fun Facts:

The Apocrypha is also included in the Bibles of the

Roman Catholic Church (largest branch of Christianity)

The Eastern Orthodox Church (second largest and oldest branch)

The Anglican Communion (third largest branch)

Therefore, the overwhelmingly huge, impressively vast majority
of almost all Christians on earth